



# VICE CHANCELLORS' SEED FUNDING INITIATIVE DOW UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

### Overview:

The success of the University's strategic plan is predicated upon engagement across the University. One of the focused efforts directed toward this engagement is the annual opportunity for faculty and master's and doctoral students to submit ideas for transformative research projects that are directed towards supporting one or more of the goals and associated strategies within the DUHS Master Strategic Plan 2024-2030 entitled *"Pioneering Excellence ♦ Inspiring Innovation."*<sup>1</sup>

### What is the Vice Chancellors' Seed Funding Initiative?

Vice Chancellors' Seed Funding Initiative (VCSFI) is a well-defined action that will play an instrumental role in transforming Dow University of Health Sciences (DUHS) and enhancing its research capacity and improving its ranking both regionally and globally. Proposed projects can include a range of activities related to cutting-edge research that result in subsequent competitive extramural funding and generation of new knowledge in the form of manuscripts (published in high-impact journals), podium and poster presentations in national and international discipline-specific meetings.

### Funding:

Annually, the Vice Chancellor's Office will invest funds to support the VCSFI. **Faculty can request up to PKR 750,000 per year for three years. Master's and Doctoral students can request a one-time award up to PKR 400,000**

### Eligibility:

All faculty and master and doctoral students at DUHS are eligible to apply for funding. Faculty may serve as a Principal Investigator on only one project; however, they may serve as collaborators on multiple projects. Students cannot serve as Principal Investigator; they will serve as collaborators with their respective supervisors.

Note: Supervisors who serve as Principal Investigators of their students' proposals will be able to submit their application as Principal Investigators.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.duhs.edu.pk/duhs-strategic-plan-2024-2030/>

# Application Submission:

Completed applications with all supporting materials are due by **Saturday, July 12, 2025**

## Format Requirements

- Concept Overview with hypothesis (500 words max.)
- Specific Aims
- Methodology (250 words max.)
- Results (250 words max.)
- Outcome (250 words max.)
- Required Resources (250 words max.)
- Sustainability and future funding potential (250 words max.)
- Budget: Must include a line item for each activity (e.g., personnel, supplies, equipment, animal purchase, etc.)
- CV, Biosketch, or Resume of PI/Student

## Review Criteria & Selection:

The proposal will be reviewed and scored based on the following criteria:

- **Significance/Transformational** – Proposals must clearly articulate the anticipated results/outputs/outcomes of the proposed actions in measurable terms, and they must:
  - Be in the following Signature programs:
    - Cancer
    - Infectious Diseases, Immunity & Inflammation
    - Precision Medicine, Genomics, and Informatics
    - Cardiovascular and Metabolic (such as Diabetes, Obesity, etc.) Diseases
    - Neurosciences
    - Genomics and Genetics
    - Regenerative Medicine, Stem Cells, and Transplants
    - Biotechnology
    - Applied Public Health
    - Data Sciences
  - Address a serious health problem in our community
  - Have the potential impact on the health of our community by applying its findings in the near term or the future
  - Have potential for future competitive extramural funding from national and international funding agencies
  - Have potential for generation of new knowledge and successful publication(s) in high-impact national and international journals
- **Impact of Research Plan** – Proposals should clearly articulate the anticipated results/outputs/outcomes of the proposed actions in measurable terms. It must include:
  - Originality of research hypotheses and their potential scientific merit
  - Clarity and feasibility of research objectives

- **Interdisciplinary** – Applicants are **required** to reach across multiple academic units when developing a proposal. In addition, external partnerships with national and international investigators and involvement of postgraduate students will be favorably reviewed.
- **Clinical Research** – Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that address a burgeoning clinical condition that is a chronic disease burden in our community.
- **Plan for Alignment with DUHS Strategic Plan** – Proposals should support one or more goals/strategies within the University’s strategic plan. Proposals that support multiple goals/strategies are encouraged.

A distinct advantage will be given to proposals that can demonstrate long-term sustainability and future successful funding from extramural sources.

## Post-Award Requirements:

All VCSFI awardees are required to:

- Ensure that resources are utilized according to what is outlined in the grant application.
- Submit year-end reports indicating progress. For multi-year awards, continuation of funding will be dependent on submission of a satisfactory progress report.
- Submit outcome metrics on an annual basis for a minimum of three years post-implementation.

## Important Dates

Timeline	Dates
Competition Opens:	Monday, June 02, 2025
Completed Application with Supporting Documents Due:	Saturday, July 12, 2025
Funded Projects Announcement:	Saturday, August 09, 2025
Funding Start Date:	Monday, September 01, 2025

## Contact

If you have any questions, please e-mail [VCSFI@duhs.edu.pk](mailto:VCSFI@duhs.edu.pk)

## Submission of Proposals:

Please e-mail completed proposals to: [VCSFI@duhs.edu.pk](mailto:VCSFI@duhs.edu.pk)