# Scope of Support
# Skill Development Grant for Research Competency Enhancement
# (Early-Career and Mid-Career Researchers)
# Fiscal Year 2027

## Rationale

King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi (KMUTT) is committed to continuously advancing research excellence by strengthening the capabilities of its research personnel. Particular emphasis is placed on developing specialized expertise and acquiring advanced research tools and methodologies that are essential for conducting high-quality research and supporting the University's research directions and policies.

To this end, the University encourages research personnel to acquire knowledge, technologies, and specialized expertise from leading institutions abroad. Such opportunities will enable researchers to enhance their competencies and apply newly acquired knowledge to achieve research excellence. The program also aims to equip researchers with new capabilities in areas where technical limitations currently exist, while further strengthening and updating their existing knowledge and skills to keep pace with global advancements.

## Objectives

1. To enhance the scientific knowledge, technical expertise, and research tools/methodologies of research personnel, enabling them to conduct research and development activities effectively and in line with international standards.
2. To strengthen research competencies that help fill existing research gaps or develop research skills that are currently unavailable in Thailand, with a focus on extending the applicant's existing expertise to support research directions and strategic priorities of the University.

## Eligibility Criteria

| Early-Career Track | Mid-Career Track |
|---|---|
| Applicants must be early-career research personnel who obtained their doctoral degree within the past five years and have been employed for at least one year. | Applicants must be mid-career research personnel who have completed their highest academic degree and have a length of service of at least five years but not exceeding fifteen years, calculated from the date of appointment. |
| Applicants are eligible to receive support under the Early-Career Track only once. | Applicants may receive support under this category a maximum of two times, with an interval of at least five years between awards. |

| Early-Career Track | Mid-Career Track |
|---|---|
| Applicants must be mid-career research personnel who have completed their highest academic degree and have a length of service of at least five years but not exceeding fifteen years, calculated from the date of appointment. | |
| During the grant period, applicants must not be on study leave or leave for academic development activities, either domestically or internationally. | |

**Required Application Documents**

1. A project proposal describing:
   - The scientific expertise, research tools, or research methodologies to be developed that are currently unavailable in Thailand, together with a clear justification for such development.
   - A detailed work plan outlining activities to acquire the proposed expertise, as well as plans for applying the acquired knowledge and skills to future research and development.
   - The relevance of the proposed activities to the University's Strategic Research Themes*.
   - The proposed budget and implementation period (not exceeding three months).
2. A Letter of Intent from the host institution where the applicant will undertake the training, skill development program, short course, or workshop. The letter must specify the activity dates and demonstrate the host institution's commitment to supporting the proposed skill development objectives.
3. Endorsement letters from the Head of Department and Dean/Director addressing:
   - The necessity of the proposed expertise for the applicant's unit.
   - Future support plans for utilizing the newly acquired skills and knowledge after the applicant returns to work.

   (These documents will be considered as part of the evaluation process.)
4. Curriculum Vitae (CV) of the Applicant, including educational qualifications, employment history, research expertise, publications, research grants, awards, and other relevant academic achievements to support the evaluation of the application.
5. A copy of the applicant's appointment order as a government official, university employee, or university staff member.

**Duration** The support period shall not exceed three (3) months.

**Funding** The maximum grant amount is THB 250,000 per award.

Funding will be determined based on the duration of the applicant's stay abroad:

- For overseas stays of **29 days or less**, expenses will be reimbursed according to KMUTT regulations on overseas travel.

- For overseas stays of **more than 29 days**, expenses will be provided according to the rates applicable to Office of the Civil Service Commission (OCSC) doctoral scholarship recipients.

**Eligible Expenses**

**1. Daily Allowance / Living Expenses**

- Under KMUTT regulations, applicants will receive a daily subsistence allowance in accordance with the University's regulations on overseas official travel expenses.
- Under OCSC regulations, applicants will receive a monthly allowance determined by the destination country. This allowance covers accommodation, meals, daily expenses, transportation, and other related expenses.
  (For country-specific rates, please visit: https://www.ocsc.go.th/scholarships/cost/)

**2. Accommodation Expenses**

- For stays under KMUTT regulations, accommodation expenses will be reimbursed according to the University's overseas travel regulations.
- For stays under OCSC regulations, accommodation costs are included in the monthly country-specific allowance.

**3. International Airfare**

Round-trip economy-class airfare, reimbursed based on actual expenses.

**4. Visa Fees**

Visa fees will be reimbursed based on actual expenses incurred.

**5. Registration Fees**

Registration fees for short courses, training programs, or workshops.

**6. Travel Insurance**

Travel insurance expenses will be reimbursed based on the duration of travel, in accordance with KMUTT regulations regarding overseas travel insurance.

**7. Bench Fees**

Research bench fees or laboratory/facility usage fees may be supported up to THB 50,000 per month.

**The grant does not support the purchase of equipment, books, documents, souvenirs, or gifts. Final funding decisions shall be made by the Selection Committee.**

**Proposal Submission**

Applications must be submitted through the **KMUTT Integrated System for Research and Innovation Management (KIRIM)**: https://kirim.kmutt.ac.th

**Important Dates**

| Activity | Date |
|---|---|
| Proposal Submission Deadline | 18 December 2026 (by 4:30 p.m.) |
| Announcement of Results | January–February 2027 |
| Latest Date for Travel Completion | 30 September 2027 |

**Reporting Requirements**

Grant recipients must submit:

- An activity report and competency development report; and
- A financial report,

using the University's prescribed forms within **30 days after completion of the activity**.

All grant expenditures must be completed within Fiscal Year 2027.

Reports should include the following performance indicators:

**Output Indicators**

Examples:

- Faculty members, researchers, or research assistants acquire new expertise and competencies.

**Outcome Indicators**

Examples:

- Development of research projects or proposals utilizing the newly acquired expertise.

**Impact Indicators**

Examples:

- Improved capability to conduct research or solve research problems using newly acquired knowledge, methodologies, or technologies.
- Enhanced research quality or the ability to conduct research previously limited by technical constraints, as evidenced by publication quality or improved research outcomes.

The Research, Innovation and Partnerships Office (RIPO) will conduct periodic follow-up assessments of funded projects.

**Related Regulations and Documents**

1. KMUTT Regulations on Study, Training, Study Visits, and Research Activities (B.E. 2542), administered by the Human Resources Development Office.
2. Guidelines for Approval of Overseas Travel, administered by the Human Resources Development Office.

3. Personnel Approval Documents for Overseas Travel using Form HR-DT-S-F04-00-01-TH, together with evidence of grant approval.
4. Agreement for Study, Training, Study Visits, and Research Activities Abroad, including leave and guarantor forms, administered by the Legal Affairs Office and Human Resources Office.
5. Return-to-Work Reporting Form (for university employees and government officials), Form HR-DT-S-F04-R01-TH.
6. Report on Study, Training, Study Visits, Conferences/Seminars, Research Activities, and International Organizational Assignments using Form HR-DT-S-F04-00-03-R01-TH.

**Note**

*Strategic Research Themes* refer to KMUTT's eight interdisciplinary research themes that promote collaborative research, reflect the University's research strengths, align with national priorities, and create broad societal impact. Further information is available at https://ripo.kmutt.ac.th.

The eight Strategic Research Themes are:

1. Sustainable Energy and Environment
2. Sustainable Bioeconomy
3. Smart Healthcare
4. Sustainable Mobility
5. Creative Learning Society
6. Digital Transformation
7. Innovative Materials, Manufacturing and Construction
8. Inclusive and Sustainable Research: Area-Based Development for Community, Societal, and Environmental Impact