

33RFP Education Research Funding Programme (ERFP) Grant Call Briefing

A/P Rita Elaine Silver, Director, ERFPO

A/P Tan Kim Chwee Daniel, Deputy Director (Academic, Research Management), ERFPO

4 March 2025

Housekeeping

- Please note that the session will be recorded. For those who would not like to be included in the recording, please mute your microphone and disable your video.
- Please let us know via the Zoom chat function if you are facing any technical difficulties, and we will do our best to assist you.
- If you have questions you would like to ask, please type them in the chat box or ask during the Q&A session.

ERFP Grant Call Information

Timeline 33RFP Grant Call – for PI Submission

Timeline	Details
18 February 2025	33rd Request for Proposals
*^ 27 March 2025 (5pm)	Expression of Interest (EOI) Deadline
^ 10 April 2025 (5pm)	Submission Deadline
17 April 2025	Endorsement by Reporting Officer / Director of Research (DoR)

*EOI must be submitted if the PI intends to submit a proposal.

^ERFPO will not accept late submissions of EOI or of full proposals after the respective deadlines above.

Applicants are strongly advised to submit the EOI and the proposal documents as early as possible so that there is time to resolve any issues that may arise.

Timeline 33RFP Grant Call – For Information

Timeline	Details
28 April 2025	Initial Screening
2 May 2025 to 5 June 2025	Peer Review of Proposals
2 July 2025 to 4 July 2025	ERFP Expert Panel Meeting
17 July 2025 to 18 July 2025	ERFP Recommending Panel Meeting
8 September 2025	ERFP Tier 1 and Tier 2 Approval Panel (T1T2AP) Meeting
Nov 2025 (EST)	Award of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Projects
Feb 2026 (EST)	ERFP Tier 3 Approval Panel (T3AP) Meeting
Feb/Mar 2026 (EST)	MOE Education Research Steering Committee (ERSC) Meeting
Apr/May (EST)	Award of Tier 3 and Programmatic Projects

PIs should note this timeline for planning their start date and Gantt chart (project activities).

About ERF

- The Education Research Funding Programme (ERFP) is a research fund supported by the Ministry of Education (MOE), Singapore and administered by ERF Office (ERFPO) for all eligible education researchers in Institutes of Higher Learning (IHL).
- The 5th tranche of ERF (FY2023-FY2027) will continue to build on the work that has been undertaken in the previous cycles of education funding by strengthening the foundation (in terms of knowledge, capability, and structure) for education research, development and innovation in existing and emerging research areas.
- ERFPO will encourage efforts to design, develop and implement strategic, evidence-based, collaborative, scientifically-rigorous and outcomes-focused innovations in schools and classrooms. The primary aims are to improve classroom practice, enhance student outcomes, and build organizational and teacher capacities.

List of IHLs for Eligible Principal Investigators

1. Institute of Technical Education (ITE)
2. Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP)
3. Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
4. National Institute of Education (NIE)
5. National University of Singapore (NUS)
6. Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP)
7. Republic Polytechnic (RP)
8. Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT)
9. Singapore Management University (SMU)
10. Singapore Polytechnic (SP)
11. Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
12. Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
13. Temasek Polytechnic (TP)

Example Awarded Projects

Below are a few examples of projects by successful PIs:

Project Title	Principal Investigator	Institution	Project Number
Cultivating Resilience In Everyday Context By Promoting Strength-Focused Mindsets In Secondary Schools.	Asst Prof Hae Yeon LEE	NUS	ERFP 08/23 LYH
Design-centric Interdisciplinary Creative Problem Solving (ICPS-D): Developing Critical and Creative Skills in Teachers	Professor Lay Kee, Ricky Ang	SUTD	ERFP 21/23 RA
Designing for the use of wearables to investigate the role that school microclimate has on student engagement and thermal comfort	Dr LIM Yang Teck, Kenneth	NIE	ERFP 04/24 LYTK
Understanding Adolescents' Perspectives of factors influencing their Health and Well-being: an exploratory study of Contemporary Health Risk Behaviours among Secondary school students	Associate Prof Foong-Fong, Mary CHONG	NUS	ERFP 07/24 MCFF

See the list of successful projects at [Projects – Education Research Funding Programme](#)

Scope of projects

Projects should fall within the following scope:

- a) Early childhood, primary, secondary and/or junior college/centralised institute education-related.
- b) Studies on other parts of the education system that link to the emphasis of ERFP might be considered if those links are clearly articulated.
- c) May involve formal or informal learning linked to (a).
- d) Teacher education and teacher professional learning for Singapore's education system.
- e) Studies of pathways of education and/or lifelong learning which are based in or include participants from higher education are allowed (bearing in mind (b)). Projects that are limited to benefits for higher education not related to (a) are excluded.
- f) Meta-analysis/meta-synthesis studies can be submitted for funding if the studies meet all of the ERFP requirements. This includes ensuring that the scope of the synthesis is well-defined, and the proposed budget and methodology are clearly articulated in line with the intended scope. Traditional literature reviews are not within the funding scope.
- g) International comparisons are allowed on a case-by-case basis. Funds cannot be sent overseas. Please see funding guidelines.

Topics of Interest

Each call highlights a few areas (i.e. MOE priorities) as topics of specific interest at this call.

Proposals can be submitted on any MOE priority area, not limited to the specific priority areas of this call.

In addition, proposals are not limited to MOE priority areas. Proposals can be submitted on any area relevant to the ERFPO scope.

ERFPO welcomes proposals on a wide variety of topics.

Funding Quantum

TIER	QUANTUM
1	< S\$200K
2	S\$200K to < S\$450K
3 / Programmatic Proposal	≥ S\$450K

Quantum

The quantum accommodates the 30% indirect cost.

The quantum also impacts the review process (slide 22).

Grant Categories

‘Research’ grants

- Produce new knowledge or addressing a theoretical issue/problem which may lead to
 - improvements in classroom practice
 - enhanced student outcomes
 - building organizational and teacher capacities.
- They should be situated within a broader international understanding but have clear, local relevance.

‘Development’ grants

- Focus on developing, implementing and evaluating deliverables which are generally usable ‘products’
 - e.g. new curriculum, educational tools, databases, etc.
- These might be translation projects that build on and evaluate an implementation from a previous grant.
- Development grants should recognize relevant international work but the focus is on local deliverables/outputs.

Research Types

Each application should also indicate a 'research type'. There should be only one 'type' for each proposal. This has implications for potential follow up, scalability and sustainability (from the study findings).

Foundational/Baseline/Exploratory:

- Contribute to core/basic knowledge in education including understanding teaching/learning, components and processes in learning and instruction; education systems and models.
 - test, develop or refine theories
 - develop innovations in methodologies or technologies
 - examine relationships among constructs
- Establish logical connections for future interventions or potential strategies to improve education outcomes.

Design and development:

- Draw on existing theory and evidence to design and develop interventions or strategies to improve educational outcomes
 - pilot tests and subsequent evaluations of fully developed interventions to determine achievement of outcomes under various conditions
- Results from these studies could lead to additional work to understand foundational theory or indicate subsequent interventions for more advanced testing or lead to translations (if warranted).

Research Types

Efficacy

- These studies estimate impact under 'ideal' circumstances.
 - a higher level of support or developer/researcher involvement than would be the case under normal circumstances.

Effectiveness

- These studies examine the effectiveness of strategies under typical (or near typical) conditions in the target context.
 - more involvement of policy makers/practitioners and more use of 'normal' supports offered in the system.

Scale-up

- These studies examine effectiveness in a wide range of circumstances (e.g., populations, conditions, contexts).
 - developers/researchers are usually involved in the planning and evaluation of scale-up research
 - the day-to-day implementation will extensively involve the policy makers/practitioners.

See examples @ <https://www.nsf.gov/pubs/2013/nsf13126/nsf13126.pdf>

Intervention Projects

ERFP projects which include intervention as one of the core components are important as ERFP is an education research grant with a focus on generating research findings to improve teaching and learning.

Intervention projects include a tangible tool, resource or framework, which can be newly developed or an improvement of existing interventions and their pedagogical use.

- ICT/AI innovation, support programmes, teaching tools and curricular resources, changes in pedagogical practice and framework, or spatial/environmental design

Intervention projects can be categorized as 'Research' or 'Development' types. They are typically not Foundation/Baseline/Exploratory, though these types of projects might have small-scale intervention components.

An intervention project must include an evaluation component, which examines the efficacy and effectiveness of the intervention, as one part of the overall effort to study the development or scaling of the intervention, in order to inform future system-wide implementation.

Please note the distinctions between, e.g. Design & Development vs Effectiveness as this impacts the expectations for the intervention.

ICT/AI-based Proposals

ICT/AI-based proposals

- All proposals focusing on ICT/AI-based innovations need to explicitly highlight links to teaching and learning. Proposals must clearly state the problems/issues/gaps in teaching and learning that the ICT/AI-based innovations are intended to address.
- Applicants who are thinking of putting up proposals with ICT/AI-based innovations/interventions should consider requirements for system-wide incorporation and implementation at the outset (i.e. as part of grant planning). This includes considering the existing social, technical (i.e., 'know-how'), and technological infrastructure and practices of local schools and the education system. Thus, applicants should engage MOE as early as possible.
- Some special considerations for ICT/AI innovation tools can be found at Annex A in the 33RFP ERFPO Administrative Guidelines and Terms and Conditions for Applicants: Considerations for ICT/AI innovation proposals.
- For more information or any queries, you may email Darren (CRO) at DARREN_LAI@MOE.GOV.SG or Hong Lim (ETD) at SOON_HONG_LIM@MOE.GOV.SG.

MOE Co-PIs and Collaborators

- A key purpose for involvement of MOE practitioners in ERF-funded projects is to optimise utility for MOE policies/programmes/practice.
- MOE practitioners can participate as Co-PI or Collaborator, depending on the extent of involvement in the project
- Role of MOE Co-PI or Collaborator
 - Bring specialised and contextual knowledge (e.g., local school system, curriculum, MOE needs and priorities) to bear on the research project
 - Work with the PI and research team to
 - assess the potential/enacted utility of preliminary and final findings
 - distil and communicate insights from the findings
 - conceptualise follow-up projects (including designing or refining interventions), track the impact of interventions (if applicable) or lead in system-wide implementation (including through MOE systems)

Project Collaborations

Collaborations

Tier 3 and Programmatic Proposals are required to include Co-PIs or Collaborators from MOE (that is MOEHQ officers, Senior Specialists and Master Teachers)

If you are interested in meeting MOE Senior Specialists with similar interest, contact ERFPO grants@erfp.edu.sg and we will help you make connections.

Cross-institution collaborations are strongly encouraged to maximise research expertise (content expertise, pedagogical expertise, expertise in the workings of the local education system).

Programmatic Research

A specific type of Tier 3 research is 'Programmatic Research'

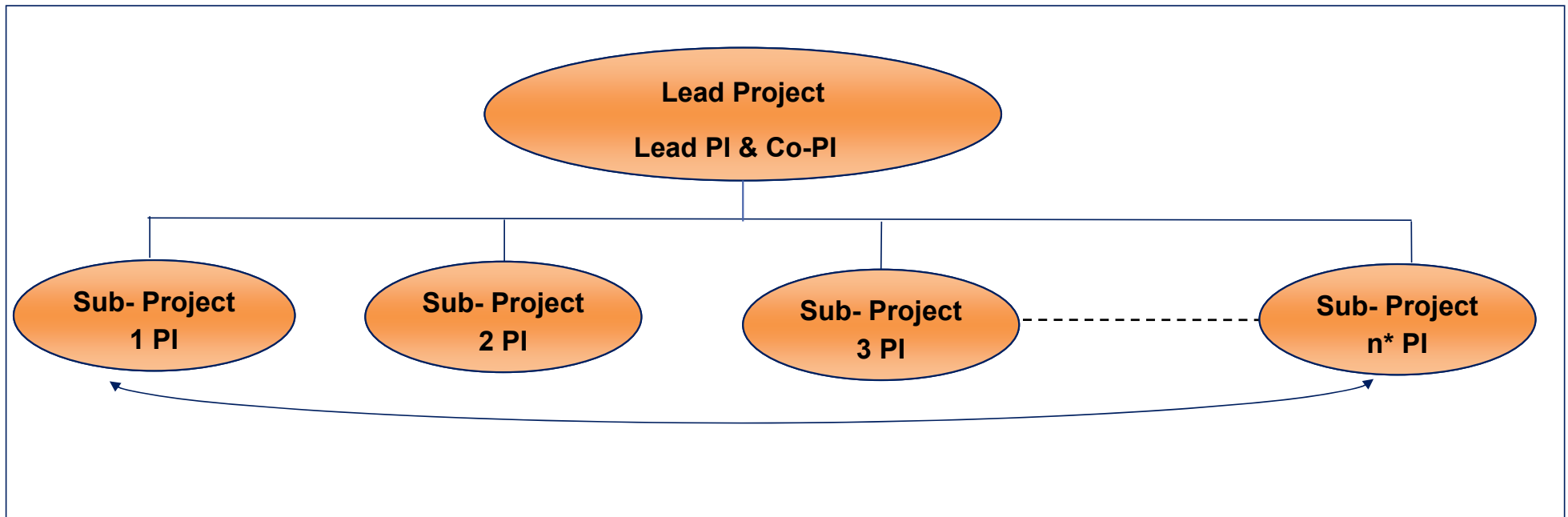
Programmatic research

- an over-arching research theme which focuses on a key educational issue, problem, phenomena or outcome, along with a number of interlinked sub-themes.
- sub-themes are investigated through specific research studies (i.e., 'projects') that address important aspects or components of the over-arching issue, problem, phenomena or outcome.

Thus, programmatic research has a common strand or focus, supported by a common theoretical framework, and undertakes a coherent, comprehensive, multi-faceted approach to understanding and addressing the issue, problem, phenomena or outcome.

Programmatic research is a specific category of proposals which have a funding quantum of a Tier 3 proposal. Programmatic research is not applicable to Tier 1 and Tier 2 proposals.

Programmatic Research - Project Structure



Programmatic Research - Budget Structure

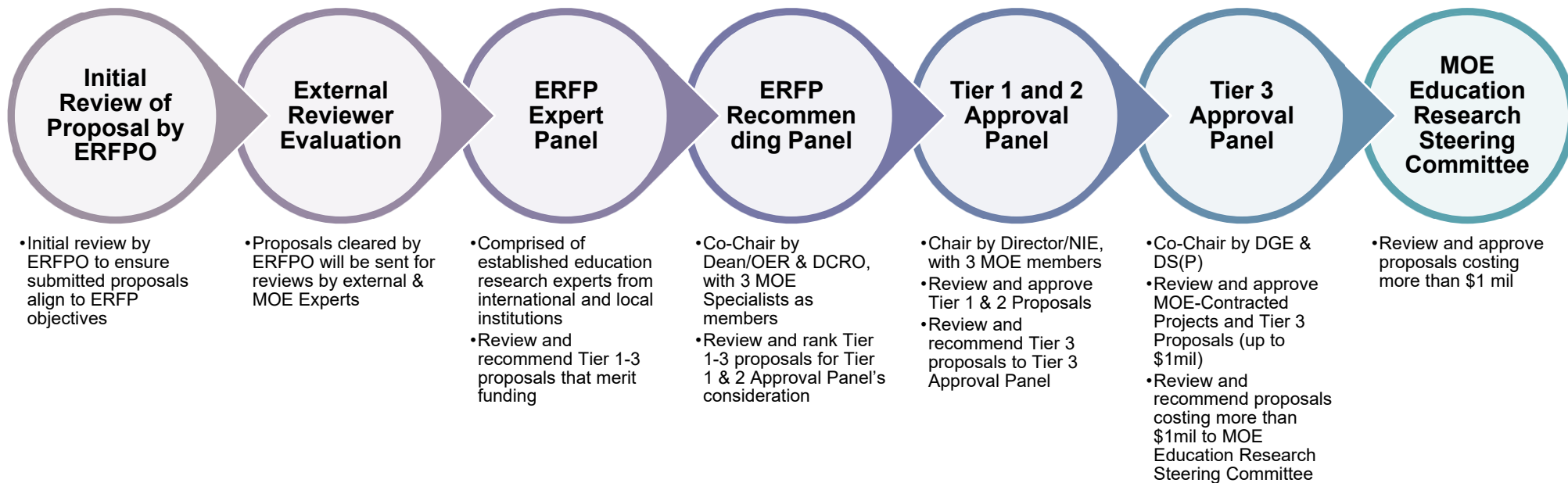


Programmatic research may have team members from different institutions.

For further information on Programmatic Research, please refer to the 33RFP ERFPO Administrative Guidelines

Grant Application Review Process

The Approval Panel Meetings convene twice a year in tandem with the grant call cycle.



Timeline 33RFP Grant Call

Timeline	Details
28 April 2025	Initial Screening
2 May 2025 to 5 June 2025	Peer Review of Proposals
2 July 2025 to 4 July 2025	ERFP Expert Panel Meeting
17 July 2025 to 18 July 2025	ERFP Recommending Panel Meeting
1 August 2025 to 14 August 2025	PI to respond to RP NOMS
8 September 2025	ERFP Tier 1 and Tier 2 Approval Panel (T1T2AP) Meeting
Week of 25 September 2025	PI to respond to T1T2AP NOMS and budget queries (iterative)
27 October 2025	ERFP Tier 3 Approval Panel (T3AP) Meeting
November 2025 (EST)	Award of Tier 1 and Tier 2 Projects
Mid November 2025 (EST)	PI to respond to T3AP NOMS and budget queries (iterative)
February/March 2026 (EST)	MOE Education Research Steering Committee (ERSC) Meeting
Mid March 2026 (EST)	PI respond to ERSC NOMS and budget queries (iterative)
April/May 2026(EST)	Award of Tier 3 and Programmatic Projects

PIs may be required to respond to questions from the various panels, provide clarifications or make revisions. PIs usually have **10 working days** to respond.

Important considerations

- If the proposal is approved, the final version of the application documents is **binding** in that the PI cannot deviate from what is stated in the approved documents (e.g. research questions, deliverables, methodology, sample size).
- If the PI needs to deviate from what is stated in the documents due to changing circumstances, an **amendment request (RC5)** must be submitted to ERFPO for approval prior to enacting any changes.
- ERFPO has the right to reject any amendment requests.
- The inclusion of a Co-PI from the same institution as the PI is mandatory for all proposals so as to ensure continuity of the project should the PI be unable to continue.

Sharing on MOE Research Priorities

Please see [ERFP 5th Tranche MOE Research Priorities](#) & [ERFP 5th Tranche Research Priorities Annex \(Descriptions of research agendas\)](#)

Data Sharing

Data sharing with MOE

All PIs who are awarded ERFPO grants are required to share data, including personal data (i.e. data which potentially makes participants identifiable), with the Grantor (i.e. MOE) upon request. These data are to be made available to MOE for research purposes, including aggregated analyses, or other such purposes as permitted by law. The PI is responsible for including information about data sharing in the participant information and consent forms, with clearance from the relevant ethics approval authority at the PI's institution. Specific wording must be agreed by MOE and the institution(s) of the research team.

Data collection in MOE schools

PIs are required to obtain permission for data collection in MOE schools. (See Administrative Guidelines, section 8).

Data sharing with others

Data from MOE schools can only be used for the purpose stated and approved. This may preclude data sharing for other research. Details are included in the school data collection approval.

If your institution requires sharing of data, funding guidelines take precedence.

Please check with ERFPO or your institution's ethics review authority for details.

Grant Call Submission Details – ERFPO Tier 1 - 3 & Programmatic Proposal Applications

Expressions of Interest (EOI) – 27 March 2025, 5pm

- EOIs are required to be submitted for all Tier 1 to 3 and Programmatic Proposals to ERFPO via ROMS.
- IHL POCs will be required to collate the names of researchers who are interested to submit an EOI and send them to ERFPO Office via email at grants@erfp.edu.sg by 25 February 2025.
- ERFPO will liaise with POCs who have submitted the collated names of researchers about gaining access to the [Research Operation Management System \(ROMS\)](#) account. ROMS accounts will be provided for the respective applicants as well as the Director of Research (DoR) within your institution.

Full Proposal Submission Details – ERF Tier 1 - 3 & Programmatic Proposal Applications

Full Proposal Submission: 10 April 2025, 5pm

- All applications for ERF (Tier 1 to 3) as well as Programmatic Proposals are submitted directly by applicants **online via ROMS before 5pm, 10 April 2025**. Only applicants who have submitted EOIs will be able to submit their full application via ROMS.
- The submission deadline of all applications is **by 5pm, 10 April 2025**. ERFPO **will not** accept late or incomplete submissions after this deadline. Directors of Research (DoR) are required to endorse applications **by 5pm, 17 April 2025**.

Budgeting Guidelines for HR Votes

Human Resources Vote:

- PI to contact their IHL PoC to get the latest salary computation table to tabulate the Full-Time (FT) cost.
- PIs to note that Budget (Total Cost = A) should include Basic Salary, all associated costs required to hire the FT staff such as CPF, SDF, Merit Increment, Flexible Benefits, Insurance, Performance Bonus, Annual Wage Supplement, other relevant Bonus, other HR-related allowances etc. if applicable over the duration (in months) of employment per full-time staff, etc. PI would need to provide the breakdown of the budget. Salary computation table from the Institution would need to be submitted as HR supporting document. Under justification, PI should clearly explain the tasks to be undertaken by the FT staff.
- Once the Total Cost (A) is derived, to divide the Duration in months (B) to get the Average Monthly Cost (C).
- As per the screenshot, to enter the figures in ROMS, PI will need to enter in this sequence: Average Monthly Cost (C) → Duration in months (B) and Total Cost (A) would be auto-calculated.
- Principal Investigators (PIs) to note that once in-principle approval has been granted, PIs are required to work within their approved budgets. No changes in budget is allowed. Hence, is important for PI to contact their IHL PoC to get the latest salary computation table to tabulate the Full Time cost.

Table 2: Human Resources Cost

Full-Time Resource (Total 0 Entry)

Average Monthly Cost refers to the sum of Basic Salary, CPF, SDF, MI, Benefits, Insurance, Performance Bonus and other relevant HR-related allowances averaged over the duration (by months) of employment per full-time staff. PIs are to justify their choice of staff designation, with the brief job description and the employment grade and provide a breakdown of the salary in the attachment.

Seq	*Resource Type/Manpower/Appointment	*Average Monthly Co:	*Duration in months	Total Cost (\$\$)	*Justification
No Entries.					

Export to Excel

Page 1 of 1

Show 5 Each Page

Budgeting Guidelines for Equipment Votes

Equipment Vote:

- PI should contact their IHL PoC to check the recommended cost for each equipment if applicable.
- Items should be budgeted under the correct vote. For example, PI should avoid budgeting IT accessories under the Equipment vote.
- Costs for common office items such as furniture, fittings, office software, photocopiers, scanners, and office supplies are not allowed.
- For each equipment item, preliminary evidence of prices (e.g., quotations) must be provided to support the budget. All quotes must be included in the supporting documents; otherwise, the proposal may be rejected.
- The budget or quotation should account for other applicable costs, such as GST and delivery charges, ensuring the full cost is accurately reflected in ROMS.

Additional Information

ERFPO aims to provide support to PIs and learn together to improve processes as we progress.

Contact Information

- For general grants queries, please email ERFPO grants@erfp.edu.sg.
- For technical assistance on ROMS, please email Research Operation Management System IT Support (NIE) servicedesk@nie.edu.sg.
- For queries on Points of Contact (POCs) of the respective IHLs, please email ERFPO grants@erfp.edu.sg.

Grant Information

- More information can be found at <https://erfp.edu.sg/>
- Administrative guidelines can be found at <https://erfp.edu.sg/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/33RFP-Administrative-Guidelines.pdf>

Q&A Session