King Saud University Award for Scientific Excellence

Organizational Bylaw

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Introduction

King Saud University Scientific Excellence Prize was established by KSU to honor distinguished faculty members, researchers, and students within a spirit of scientific competition in order to further promote the standards of scientific research. The Prize is annual, seeking to efficiently pave the way for a distinguished, outstanding, and innovative scientific research environment. The motivations for initiating such a Prize are the following:

1. To serve the first objective of KSU2030 Strategic Plan related to research quality and excellence through raising the academic and scientific standards of research to serve the community, and contribute to the materialization of excellence in various scientific fields. In order for its importance to be highlighted, the objective of excellence has occupied the top of the list of the objectives in KSU2030 Strategic Plan.

2. To serve the various initiatives in the strategic plan programs, especially the faculty members-related initiative, which emphasizes the increase of compensations and the improvement of the support given to them. One of the objectives of this initiative is to provide faculty members with a supportive and stimulating environment conducive to increasing faculty members’ performance and their research output.

3. To embody the values adopted in developing the University such as “quality and excellence” and “creativity and innovation.”

4. To serve the Strategic Plan of the Deanship of Scientific Research, which includes 8 objectives, some of which are:

   a. Research excellence in view of materializing international leadership.
b. Development and consolidation of human resources at the University to promote their scientific research outputs.
c. Contribution to building a knowledge-based society, and assistance to the priorities of industry and growth in the Kingdom.
d. Providing researchers and the research process with a stimulating research environment.


The Prize’s Board and Executive Committee supervise the procedures of nomination and submission according to the criteria and controls set up for each of the branches of the prize. The Prize’s Executive Committee forms specialized jury sub-committees to choose the best candidates.

**Article One: Prize’s objectives**

- To encourage and stimulate researchers and students in view of creating further scientific distinction, excellence, and competition;
- To promote the outputs of scientific research at the University quantitatively and qualitatively;
- To encourage publishing in outstanding scientific journals and periodicals;
- To stimulate the affiliates of the University to materialize the international dissemination of knowledge;
- To contribute to the scientific reputation of the University locally and internationally.

**Article Two: Prize’s branches**

**Branch (i): Life-time Scientific Achievement Prize**
This Prize is awarded to the researcher whose scientific journey is distinguished by quality in research and academia throughout his/her academic career.

**Branch (ii): Research Quality Prize**
This Prize is awarded to the best researcher whose work is characterized by quality and excellence. This branch includes three prizes: a prize for science and engineering specializations, a prize for health sciences specializations, and a prize for social sciences and humanities specializations.

**Branch (iii): Research Productivity Prize**
This Prize is awarded to the best researcher whose scientific production is prolific in international outlets in science and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities specializations.

**Branch (iv): Inventions, Innovations, and Technology Licensing Prize**
This Prize is awarded to three researchers whose work is mentioned under scientific and health inventions and innovations, patents of invention, and licensed technology on condition that this work has a value-added scientific worth.

**Branch (v): Societal Partnership Research Prize**
This Prize is awarded to three distinguished productions in societal partnership research held between the University and the community with the public, private, or charity sectors.

**Branch (vi): Best Authored Book Prize**
This Prize is awarded to the best authored book in science and engineering, health, and social sciences and humanities specializations.

**Branch (vii): Student Research Excellence Prize**
This Prize is awarded to the University undergraduate, postgraduate, and KSU students on scholarship abroad whose research is distinguished.

**Article Three: General conditions to apply for the Prize**

1. Applying for the Prize at the scheduled time, satisfying all the conditions, and providing all documents.
2. Making sure that the work submitted has been done while the applicant is working at the University or while on a scientific mission off campus.
3. No-one who won the Life-time Scientific Achievement Prize (Type (i)) shall be permitted to apply for the Prize in any of its branches.
4. No-one who won one of the branches of the Prize shall be permitted to apply again for the same branch before five years have elapsed.
5. No-one shall be permitted to apply for more than two branches of the Prize, and the Prize shall be awarded in one branch only.
6. All the work proposed to the Prize shall have a mention of the affiliation of the applicant with King Saud University.
7. The Prize’s Board shall have the right to withdraw the Prize in case a breach in research ethics has been proven, and no-one from whom the Prize has been withdrawn shall apply again for the Prize.
8. The Prize’s Board shall have the right to withdraw the Prize in case a breach in any of its conditions has been proven.
9. The applicant to the Prize shall not be a member of the Prize’s Board, any of its committees, or someone affiliated to the Deanship of Scientific Research in the very same year of the application.

10. Applications shall not be accepted for previous work that has been awarded the same level or a higher prize from another institution.

Article Four: Specific conditions and evaluation criteria

Branch (i): Life-time Scientific Achievement Prize, which is awarded to the researcher whose scientific journey is distinguished by quality in research and academia throughout his/her academic career.

Entry conditions

1. The researcher should be affiliated to the University for at least ten years.
2. The researcher should have refereed scientific articles in indexed outlets (at least 30 ISI\(^1\)-indexed articles for science, engineering, and health specializations and 15 ISI- or Scopus\(^2\)-indexed articles for the social sciences and humanities specializations).\(^3\)

Evaluation criteria

1. **Prolific production**: Number of published articles
2. **Research leadership**: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author
3. **Research excellence**: Number of articles published in the top-five journals according to impact factor in the applicant’s scientific field
4. **Research impact**: Overall citations of research articles
5. **Authoring and translating books**
6. **Research supervision**: Number of supervised theses and dissertations

Normalization to the highest value is made use of in science, engineering, and health specializations and in the social sciences and humanities specializations in order to unify evaluation for all the branches of the Prize.

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\(^1\) By ISI is meant the Thompson Reuters-owned Web of Science, which is the ensemble of refereed and indexed scientific journals under the Science Citation Index-Expanded (SCI-E), which includes 8631 journals; under the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), which includes 3130 journals; and under the Arts & Humanities Sciences Citation Index (A&HCI), which includes 1734 journals. The Web of Science can be accessed through the Deanship of Libraries at KSU.

\(^2\) Elsevier-owned Scopus is a database of refereed and indexed journals and periodicals, which count more than 21000 journals.

\(^3\) It should be noted that refereed periodicals and journals may be indexed in these two databases.
Type (ii): Research Quality Prize, which comprises three prizes:

First: Research Quality Prize: Science and Engineering, which is awarded to one researcher whose work is characterized by quality and excellence in these specializations.

Entry condition

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outlets, with at least 10 ISI-indexed articles for the last five years.

Evaluation criteria

1. Research impact: Overall citations of published research for the last five years
2. Research quality: Number of articles published in the top quartile within the specialization for the last five years
3. Research leadership: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author
4. Research Excellence: Number of articles published in the top-five journals according to impact factor in the applicant’s scientific field

Second: Research Quality Prize: Health Sciences, which is awarded to one researcher whose production is characterized by quality and excellence in these specializations.

Entry condition

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outlets, with at least 10 ISI-indexed articles for the last five years.

Evaluation criteria

1. Research impact: Overall citations of published research for the last five years
2. Research quality: Number of articles published in the top quartile within the specialization for the last five years
3. Research leadership: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author
4. Research Excellence: Number of articles published in the top-five journals according to impact factor in the applicant’s scientific field

Third: Research Quality Prize: Social Sciences and Humanities, which is awarded to one researcher whose production is characterized by quality and excellence in these specializations.
Entry condition

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outlets, with at least 5 ISI- or Scopus-indexed articles for the last five years.

Evaluation criteria

1. **Research impact**: Overall citations of published research for the last five years
2. **Research quality**: Number of articles published in the top quartile within the specialization for the last five years
3. **Research leadership**: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author
4. **Research Excellence**: Number of articles published in the top-five journals according to impact factor in the applicant’s scientific field

Type (iii): **Research Productivity Prize**, which comprises three prizes:

*First: Research Productivity Prize: Science and Engineering*, which is awarded to the best researcher whose scientific production is prolific in ISI-indexed outlets.

Entry condition

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outlets, with at least 30 ISI-indexed articles for the last five years.

Evaluation criteria

1. **Research quality**: Number of published research articles in ISI-indexed journals
2. Average of the contribution in the submitted research production
3. **Research leadership**: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author
4. **Research impact**: Number of citations for the overall number of submitted research articles

*Second: Research Productivity Prize: Health Sciences*, which is awarded to the best researcher whose production is prolific in international outlets.

Entry condition

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outlets, with at least 30 ISI-indexed articles for the last five years.

Evaluation criteria
1. Research quality: Number of published research articles in ISI-indexed journals
2. Average of the contribution compared to other applicants
3. Research leadership: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author
4. Research Impact: Number of citations for the overall number of submitted research articles

Third: Research Productivity Prize: Social Sciences and Humanities, which is awarded to the best researcher whose scientific production is prolific in ISI- and Scopus-indexed outlets.

Entry condition

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outlets, with at least 10 in ISI- and Scopus-indexed outlets.

Evaluation criteria

1. Research quality: Number of published research articles in ISI- and Scopus-indexed journals
2. Average of the contribution compared to other applicants
3. Research leadership: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author
4. Research Impact: Number of citations for the overall number of submitted research articles
5. Research Supervision: Supervising theses

Type (iv): Inventions, Innovations, and Technology Licensing Prize, which is awarded to three researchers whose work is mentioned under scientific and health inventions and innovations, patents of invention, and licensed technology on condition that this work has a value-added scientific worth.

Entry conditions

1. The invention, innovation, and technology licensing should be awarded in the year of the Prize or the year preceding it.
2. King Saud University should be sharing the intellectual property of the invention, innovation, and technology licensing.
3. Evidence that the submitted work was not awarded another prize previously.

Evaluation criteria

1. Number of submitted articles which satisfy entry conditions.
2. Average of the contribution compared to other applicants to the prize.
3. Societal, environmental, or economic yield expected of the invention or innovation.

Type (v): Societal Partnership Research Prize, which is awarded to three distinguished productions in societal partnership research held between the University and the community with the public, private, or charity sectors.

Entry conditions

1. Evidence that the research partnership started five years ago and finished two years ago.
2. Evidence that the research partnership was funded extramurally.
3. The applicant should refer to his/her affiliation with King Saud University.
4. Work should be completed by the applicant in person and not through a program funded by the University.

Evaluation criteria

1. Content and importance of the research partnership.
2. Size of the funds used in the project of research partnership.
3. Documented knowledge outcome of the research partnership.
4. Number of KSU faculty members who took part in the research partnership.
5. Extent of reusability of the research partnership in undertaking other partnership projects.
6. Number of KSU students participating in the research partnership.
7. Number of beneficiaries of the partnership taking part in the research partnership.

Type (vi): Best Authored Book Prize, which comprises three prizes, one of which is awarded to the best book in each of the science and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities specializations.

Entry conditions

1. Evidence that the applicant has been working for at least two years at King Saud University.
2. Evidence that the book was published in the last two years.
3. The applicant should refer to his/her affiliation with King Saud University on the book submitted for the Prize.

Evaluation criteria

1. Importance of the topic of the book.
2. Addition to human knowledge and originality.
3. Likelihood for the book to serve the community.
5. Language proficiency, stylistic accuracy, and layout.
6. Accuracy of documenting information.
7. Other criteria such as number of participants, publishing house, number of editions, or other distinctiveness seen by the Committee.

**Type (vii): Student Research Excellence Prize**, which is awarded to a number of University students who have done distinguished research. This branch of the Prize comprises:

a) Six prizes to postgraduate students (two prizes for each of the science and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities specializations).

b) Three prizes for students on scholarship abroad (one prize for each of the science and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities specializations).

c) Three prizes for undergraduate students (one prize for each of the science and engineering, health sciences, and social sciences and humanities specializations).

**Entry conditions**

1. The applicant should have the following:
   a. Regarding postgraduate students, they should be enrolled and regular in one of the postgraduate programs at King Saud University or a graduate from a postgraduate program in the last two years.
   b. Regarding students on scholarship abroad, they should be delegated by the University on condition that this delegation is not over at the time of the application to the Prize.
   c. Regarding undergraduate students, they should be enrolled and regular in one of the BA programs at King Saud University.

2. The applicant’s GPA should be 4 out of 5, or equivalent.
3. Evidence that the research was published in the last two years.
4. Evidence that the research was published in ISI-indexed journals for science and engineering, and health sciences students, and in Scopus-indexed journals or in refereed journals in local or international outlets for social sciences and humanities students.
5. The applicant should refer in his/her research to his/her affiliation to King Saud University.

**Evaluation criteria for science, engineering, and health sciences students**
1. Number of articles published in ISI-indexed journals.
2. Rank of the journals according to scientific field.
3. Rate of contribution of the student in the submitted research articles.
4. Overall citations of submitted research articles.

**Evaluation criteria for social sciences and humanities students**

1. Number of articles published in Scopus-indexed journals.
2. Rate of contribution of the student in the submitted research articles.
3. Number of research articles published in refereed international journals.
4. Number of research articles published in refereed local journals.
5. Publications in international conference proceedings.
6. Publications in local conference proceedings.
7. Participating with the research in an international conference.
8. Participating with the research in a local conference.

**Article Five: Prize’s work process**

1. Announcing the start of application to the Prize’s types and making available application forms via advertising media at the University and through college deans.
2. Verifying submitted applications for thorough satisfaction of entry conditions.
3. Refereeing, evaluating, and selecting.
4. Adopting the jury’s results by the Prize’s top officials.
5. Announcing the names of winners and handing in prizes at the final ceremony.

**Article Six: Prize’s components**

1. Certificate of appreciation
2. Medal or shield
3. A sum of money to the seven types, determined as follows:

**Branch (i): Life-time Scientific Achievement Prize:** SR250,000

**Branch (ii): Research Quality Prize**

- Research Quality Prize for Science and Engineering Specializations: SR150,000
- Research Quality Prize for Health Sciences Specializations: SR150,000
- Research Quality Prize for Sciences Social and Humanities Specializations: SR150,000
Branch (iii): Research Productivity Prize

- Research Productivity Prize for Science and Engineering Specializations: SR100,000
- Research Productivity Prize for Health Sciences Specializations: SR100,000
- Research Productivity Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations: SR100,000

Branch (iv): Inventions, Innovations, and Technology Licensing Prize

- First Prize: SR100,000
- Second Prize: SR75,000
- Third Prize: SR50,000

Branch (v): Societal Partnership Research Prize

- First Prize: SR100,000
- Second Prize: SR75,000
- Third Prize: SR50,000

Branch (vi): Best Authored Book Prize

- Best Authored Book Prize for Science and Engineering Specializations: SR100,000
- Best Authored Book Prize for Health Sciences Specializations: SR100,000
- Best Authored Book Prize for Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations: SR100,000

Branch (vii): Student Research Excellence Prize

Student Research Excellence Prize for Postgraduate Studies

Science and Engineering Specializations

- First Prize: SR20,000
- Second Prize: SR15,000

Health Sciences Specializations

- First Prize: SR20,000
- Second Prize: SR15,000

Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations
• First Prize: SR20,000  
• Second Prize: SR15,000

**Student Research Excellence Prize for Students on Scholarship Abroad**

Science and Engineering Specializations: SR20,000  
Health Sciences Specializations: SR20,000  
Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations: SR20,000

**Student Research Excellence Prize for Undergraduate Studies**

Science and Engineering Specializations: SR20,000  
Health Sciences Specializations: SR20,000  
Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations: SR20,000