

**Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**

**King Saud University**

**Vice-Rectorate for Graduate Studies and Scientific Research**

**Deanship of Scientific Research**

## **King Saud University Award for Scientific Excellence**

**Organizational Bylaws**

**February, 2017**

## Introduction:

Given the keenness of the University to honor its employees - faculty members, researchers and students, and in support of the spirit of competitiveness directed towards scientific research, and to further raise the level of scientific excellence; the University established **King Saud University Award for Scientific Excellence**- an annual award that seeks to create an environment for distinguished research, creativity and innovation. The motivations for initiating such an Award are as follows:

1. To serve the first objective of KSU 2030 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 realization of excellence in various scientific fields. In order to highlight its significance, the goal of excellence has occupied the top echelon on the list of the objectives in KSU 2030 Strategic Plan.
2. To serve the various initiatives in the strategic plan programs, especially the faculty members-related initiative, which emphasizes the increase of incentives 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 boosting 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 comprises eight (8) objectives, some of which are:
  - a. Research excellence with a view to global leadership
  - b. Development of human resources at the University to foster scientific research outputs.
  - c. Contribute to build a knowledge-based society and service to industrial and growth priorities in the Kingdom.
  - d. Provide a stimulating research environment for researchers and for scientific research in University

The award is consists of nine categories, namely: The Life-time Achievement Award; Scientific Research Quality Award; Elite Journals Publishing Award; Discoveries, Innovations and Technology Licensing Award; Excellence in Obtaining External Funding for Research Award; Best Authored Book Award; Best Translated Book Award; Entrepreneurship Leadership Award and the Students' Research Excellence Award

The Award's Board and Executive Committee supervise the procedures of nomination and submission according to the criteria and regulations stipulated for each of the

categories of the awards. The Award's Executive Committee forms specialized jury sub-committees to choose the best candidates.

### **Article One: Award's objectives:**

- To encourage and stimulate KSU researchers and students to pursue scientific distinction, excellence, and scientific competition.
- To raise the outputs of scientific research at the University quantitatively and qualitatively.
- To encourage publishing in outstanding scientific journals and periodicals.
- To stimulate the members of the University to transmit knowledge internationally.
- To contribute to the scientific reputation of the University locally and internationally.

### **Article Two: Award's Categories:**

#### **Category (i): The Life-time Achievements Award:**

This Award is bestowed on a researcher whose scientific pursuits is distinguished by quality in research and academia throughout his/her academic career.

#### **Category (ii): Research Quality Award:**

This Award is bestowed on the best researcher whose work is characterized by quality and excellence. This category includes six sub-awards; two for Science and Engineering specializations; two for Health Sciences specializations, and two for Social Sciences and Humanities' specializations.

#### **Category (iii): Elite Journals Publishing Award:**

This award is bestowed on three researchers who published in the elite journals (**Nature** and **Science**) or in the top journal of his/her specialty based on the Impact Factor.

#### **Category (iv): Discoveries, Innovations, and Technology Licensing Award:**

This award is bestowed to one researcher whose work(s) is/are registered as scientific and medical discoveries, granted patents, and licensed technologies on condition that the work has a value-added scientific worth.

#### **Category (v): Excellence in Obtaining External Funding for Research Award:**

This award is bestowed to one researcher who has obtained external funding for research, be it from public, private or charity sector.

### **Category (vi): Best Authored Book Award:**

This award is bestowed to the authors of best-authored books in the areas of Science, Engineering specializations; Health specializations and Social Sciences and Humanities' specializations.

### **Category (vii) Best Translated Book Award:**

This award is bestowed to the authors of best-translated books in the areas of Science, Engineering specializations; Health specializations and Social Sciences and Humanities' specializations

### **Category (viii): Entrepreneurship Award:**

This Award is bestowed to three students with best entrepreneurship projects.

### **Category (ix): Students' Research Award:**

This Award is granted to the University undergraduate, postgraduate, and KSU students on scholarship abroad whose researches are adjudged distinguished.

## **Article Three: General conditions for applying for the Awards**

1. Applying for the Awards at the scheduled time, satisfying all the entry conditions, and providing all documents.
2. Making sure that the work submitted was carried out while the applicant is working at the University or while on a scientific mission outside the campus.
3. No one who had won The life-time Achievement Award (category 1) shall be permitted to apply for the Award in any of its categories.
4. No one who had won one of the categories of the Award shall be permitted to apply again for the same category until four years had lapsed.
5. No one shall be permitted to apply for more than two categories of the Award, and the Award shall be conferred in one category only.
6. All the work submitted for the Award should mention the affiliation of the applicant with King Saud University.
7. The Award's Board shall have the right to withdraw the Award in case a breach in research ethics has been proven, and no one from whom the Award had been withdrawn shall apply again for the Award.
8. The applicant to the Award shall not be a member of the Award's Board, any of its committees, or someone affiliated to the Deanship of Scientific Research in the same year of the application.
9. Scientific works that had been previously awarded by other prizes shall not be accepted.

## **Article Four: Specific Conditions and Evaluation Criteria:**

**Category (i): The Life-time Achievements Award**, is granted to the researcher whose scientific pursuit 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<sup>1</sup>-indexed articles for Science, Engineering, and Health specializations and 15 ISI- or Scopus<sup>2</sup>-indexed articles for the Social Sciences and Humanities' specializations).<sup>3</sup>

**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: Overall number of supervised theses and dissertations

\* If the applicant is from the Social Sciences and Humanities specializations, the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> criteria do not apply.

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<sup>1</sup> By ISI is meant the 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.

<sup>2</sup> Elsevier-owned Scopus is a database of refereed and indexed journals and periodicals, which count more than 21000 journals.

<sup>3</sup> It should be noted that refereed periodicals and journals may be indexed in these two databases.

## **Category (ii): Research Quality Award:**

The Award is bestowed to the best researcher whose work is characterized by quality and excellence. This branch is consist of six awards.

**First: Research Quality Award: Science and Engineering**, which is awarded to two researchers whose works are characterized by quality and excellence in these specializations.

### **Entry condition:**

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed publishing outlets, with at least 25 ISI-indexed articles in the last five years.

### **Evaluation criteria:**

1. Number of published articles
2. Average contribution in the submitted articles
3. Research impact: Total citations of published research for the last five years
4. Research quality: Number of articles published in the top quartile within the specialization for the last five years
5. Research leadership: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author.
6. Research Excellence: Number of articles published in the top-10% journals according to impact factor in the applicant's scientific field

**Second: Research Quality Award: Health Sciences**, which is awarded to two researchers whose research outputs, are characterized by quality and excellence in these specializations.

### **Entry condition:**

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outfits, with at least 25 ISI-indexed articles in the last five years.

### **Evaluation criteria:**

7. Number of published articles
8. Average contribution in the submitted articles
9. Research impact: Total citations of published research for the last five years
10. Research quality: Number of articles published in the top quartile within the specialization for the last five years
11. Research leadership: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author.
12. Research Excellence: Number of articles published in the top-10% journals according to impact factor in the applicant's scientific field

**Third: Research Quality Award: Social Sciences and Humanities**, which is awarded to two researchers whose scientific outputs, are characterized by quality and excellence in these specializations.

**Entry condition:**

Evidence of scientific publication in indexed outlets, with at least 12 ISI- or Scopus-indexed articles for the last five years.

**Evaluation criteria:**

1. Number of published articles indexed in ISI, Scopus or journals approved by the academic departments.
2. Average contribution in the submitted article
3. Research impact: Total citations of published research for the last five years.
4. Research quality: Number of articles published in the top quartile within the specialization for the last five years.
5. Research leadership: Number of articles in which the applicant is a first or corresponding author.
6. Number of articles published in the top-10% journals according to impact factor in the applicant's scientific field.

**CATEGORY (iii) Elite Journals Publishing Award:**

This Award is bestowed to three researchers who have published in the Elite Journals (**Nature and Science**) or the top (first) journal of their specialty based on the Impact Factor.

**Entry conditions:**

Publication of at least one paper in the elite journal (**Nature** and **Science**) or in the first journal in the different fields during the last three years (2014-2016).

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- 1- Number of publications in **Nature** and **Science**
- 2- Number of publications in the first journal in the different fields
- 3- Average contributions in the articles in the elite and first journals
- 4- Number of papers in which he is a corresponding or first author
- 5- Average citations per article

**Category (iv): Discoveries, Innovations, and Technology Licensing Award**, is bestowed to one researcher whose work is registered as scientific and medical discoveries, granted patents of invention, and licensed technology on the condition that this work has a value-added scientific worth.

**Entry conditions:**

1. The invention, innovation, and technology licensing should be awarded in the last two Gregorian years (2015-2016).
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 prize previously

**Evaluation criteria:**

1. Number of works submitted that satisfy entry conditions.
2. Average contributions in the submitted works.
3. Societal, environmental, or economic dividend expected from the submitted works.

**Category (v): Excellence in Obtaining External Funding for Research Award:**

This category is awarded to a researcher who had obtained external funding for research project, be it from the public, private or charity sector.

**Entry Condition for the Award:**

- 1-The submitted project is funded externally.
- 2-The project's minimum funding should exceed 3 million Saudi Riyals
- 3-These projects should have been conducted after 1 January 2014
- 4-

**Evaluation Criteria:**

1. The project total research funding
2. Level of actual funding obtained to-date
3. The project's knowledge output
4. Number of KSU affiliates in the project
5. Re-usability of the project to carry out other projects.
6. Number of KSU students participating in the project
7. Number of participants from research collaboration beneficiary agency
8. The evaluation will be based on the average annual external funding
9. 5-In case of equal funding, preference will be given to project with more research outputs

**Category (vi): Best Authored Book Award**

This Award is bestowed to three best authored books in: Science, Engineering specializations, Health Sciences specializations; 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 during the last 5 years
- 3- The applicant should refer to his/her affiliation with King Saud University on the book submitted for the Award.



**Evaluation Criteria:**

- 1-Significance of the book's theme.
- 2 -New knowledge contribution and originality.
- 3-Likelihood for the book to serve the community.
- 4-Methodology and comprehensiveness of the contents of the book
- 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 observed by the Committee.

**Category (vii) Best Translated Book:**

This award is bestowed to the three translated books in: Science, Engineering specializations, Health Sciences specializations; and Social Sciences and Humanities' specializations.

**Entry Conditions:**

- 1-Evidence that the book was translated into Arabic
- 2-Evidence that the book was translated in the last three years
- 3 Submission of only one translated book by the applicant
- 4- Applicant's affiliation on the translated book should be KSU
- 5 The translated book should not have been awarded an earlier prize from another institution.

**Evaluation Criteria:**

- 1- The importance and value of the subject of the book
- 2- The quality of the translation
- 3- Linguistic and the editorial quality and design
- 4- Adherence to the intellectual property of the original author
- 5- Honesty and accuracy in translation and documentations
- 6- Other criteria such as the number of authors, publisher and the number of editions.

**Category (viii): Entrepreneurship Award:**

This Award is bestowed to three students with best entrepreneurship projects.

**Note:** No applications will be received for this Award, as the winners will be chosen by the *King Salman Institute for Entrepreneurship*.

**Category (ix): Students' Research Excellence Award:**

This Award is bestowed to the University undergraduates, post graduate, and KSU students on scholarship abroad whose research is distinguished. This category of the Award comprises:

- a) Three Awards to postgraduate students (One Award for each of the science and Engineering specializations, Health Sciences specializations, and Social Sciences and Humanities specializations).
- b) Three Awards for students on scholarship abroad (one award for each of the Science and Engineering specializations, Health Sciences specializations, and Social Sciences and Humanities specializations).
- c) Three Awards for undergraduate students (one Award for each of the Science and Engineering specializations, Health Sciences specializations, and Social Sciences and Humanities specializations).

**Entry conditions:**

1. The applicant should have the following:
  - a. Regarding post graduate 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. As for students on scholarship abroad, the University should delegate them on condition that this delegation is not over at the time of the application to the Award.
  - c. With Regards to undergraduate students, they should be enrolled and regular in one of the bachelors programs at King Saud University.
2. The applicant's GPA should be at least 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, 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. Percentage of contribution of the student in the submitted research articles.
4. Over all citations of submitted research articles.

### **Evaluation criteria for Social Sciences and Humanities students:**

1. Number of articles published in Scopus-indexed journals.
2. Percentage 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: Award's Working Procedure**

1. Announcing the start of application to the Award's category 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 Award's top officials.
5. Announcing the names of winners and handing in awards at the final ceremony.

### **Article Six: Award's Components**

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

**Category (i): Life-time Achievement Award: SR 125,000**

**Category (ii): Research Quality Award**

- Research Quality Award for Science and Engineering specializations: First Prize: SR125,000; Second Prize: SR; 75,000.
- Research Quality Award for Health Sciences specializations: First Prize: SR

100,000; Second Prize: SR.75,000

- Research Quality Award for Sciences Social and Humanities specializations:  
First Prize: SR 100,000; Second Prize: 75,000

**Category (iii): Elite Journals Publishing Awards:**

First Prize: SR. 100,000; Second Prize: SR. 75.000; Third Prize: SR. 50,000.

**Category (iv): Discoveries, Innovations, and Technology Licensing Award:**

First Prize: SR. 50,000

**Category (v): Excellence in Obtaining External Funding for Research Award:**

One Prize: SR.50,000.

**Category (vi): Best Authored Book:**

- Best Authored Book Award for Science and Engineering specializations:  
One Prize:SR.50,000
- Best Authored Book Award for Health Sciences specializations: One Prize:  
SR50,000
- Best Authored Book Award for Social Sciences and Humanities  
Specializations: One Prize: SR50,000

**Category(vii) Best Translated Book**

- Best Translated Book Award for Science and Engineering specializations:  
One Prize:SR.50,000
- Best Translated Book Award for Health Sciences specializations: One  
Prize: SR50,000
- Best Translated Book Award for Social Sciences and Humanities  
Specializations: One Prize: SR50,000

**Category (viii): Entrepreneurship Award:**

First Prize: SR. 20,000; Second Prize: SR. 15.000; Third Prize: SR. 10,000.

**Category (ix): Students; Research Excellence Award for Postgraduate Studies:**

**Science and Engineering Specializations:** First Prize: SR. 20,000

**Health Sciences Specializations:** First Prize: SR. 20,000

**Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations:** First Prize: SR. 20,000

**Students' Research Excellence for Students on Scholarship Abroad:**

- Science and Engineering Specializations: SR.20,000
- Health Sciences Specializations: SR.20,000
- Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations: SR.20,000

**Students' Research Excellence Prize for Undergraduate Studies:**

- Science and Engineering Specializations: SR.20,000
- Health Sciences Specializations: SR.20,000
- Social Sciences and Humanities Specializations: SR.20,000