



Establishing the Targeted Research Groups at the University of Tabuk

Phase-2

Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies

Prompted by the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies' belief in the necessity to maintain pace with future challenges and to provide an appealing and motivating ecosystem that supports distinction and creativity for scientific research, the Deanship is keen to support researchers from various disciplines to achieve the desired goals and contribute to building the knowledge-based economy through sustainably focused research groups to direct scientific research and transform qualitative research at the university into products, through long-term research phases that extend for three years to ensure the achievement of scientific products with high economic feasibility by research groups accredited at the university.

This idea mainly aims to enhance the university's research identity, build enhance research capabilities, and prepare the essential infrastructure for research and innovation needed by the research groups to raise the competencies and skills of the researchers to succeed and reach high levels of excellence and leadership.



Objectives of Establishing a Targeted Research Group:

- Strengthening the university's research identity.
- Transforming high-quality research into economically feasible products.
- Supporting research partnerships and collaboration with public and private research entities.
- Enhancing investment opportunities with university partners through promising research outcomes.
- Creating scientific references within specific specialized research areas.
- Ensuring research sustainability
- Enhancing the research infrastructure according to University's research identity



General Requirements for the Establishment of Oriented Research Groups


- The principal investigator (PI) should be an associate professor or assistant professor who has published at least two research papers in the Web of Science (WOS) database within the two citation indicators “Science citation index expanded ISI” or “Social Sciences Citation Index”.
- The research group's identity must be distinct and not duplicated.
(The approved research groups can be located by scanning the QR code)
- The principal researcher can be a PI in one research group and a co-investigator in two other groups.
- The researcher can join two research groups as a co- investigator.
- Members of research groups from the University of Tabuk must create and activate their accounts in Google Scholar, ORCID, and WoS which are linked to their affiliation with the University of Tabuk, their faculty, and their department.
- The majority of the work of the research should be conducted inside the University of Tabuk, in a manner that does not conflict with research partnership agreements and contracts signed with external co-researchers.
- The principal investigator must obtain prior approval from the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies to add any external authors to published papers and provide. This does not apply to University of Tabuk faculty members.



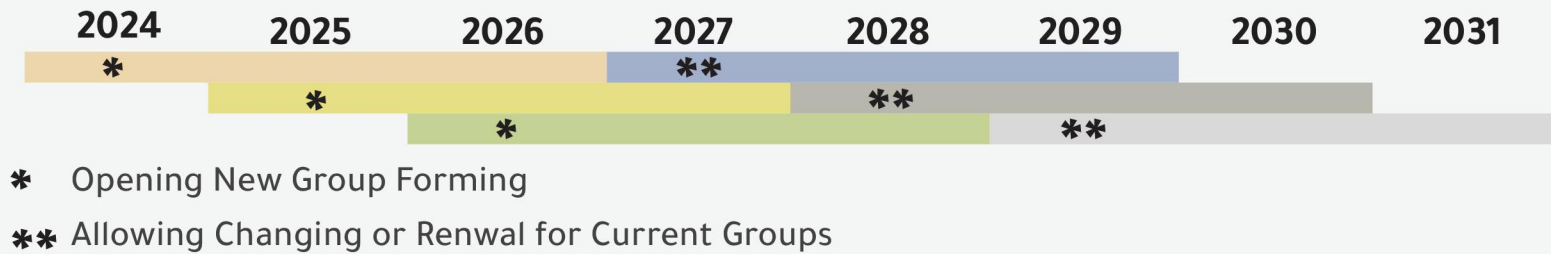








Special Requirements for the Establishment of Oriented Research Groups

- The principal investigator should select a name for the research group that reflects its domain, specialization, and objectives (an illustrative example is attached in page #).
- The research plan of the group should comply with the identity of the faculty which reflects the identity of the university and the research priorities announced by the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies (research priorities for 2024 are attached in page 18).
- The research group is committed to completing authentic research work that can be published in high-quality journals, as well as building an applied product that can be tested in one of the public or private entities.
- The objectives of the research group should be clear and serve a large segment of society.
- Developing of a three-year research plan (according to the attached form in page 17) that clearly outlines the research group's plan to reach economically feasible products.
- Focusing on interdisciplinary among members of the research group (interdisciplinary are studies based on two or more fields of knowledge that contribute to addressing a very broad topic, which is difficult to deal with through one specialization, and it may be different specializations from the same department or college or from outside it.)
- The total number of members of the research group must be between four and twelve members, at least 50% of them from the University of Tabuk.
- In addition to the aforementioned members, the group must include at least one currently enrolled UT student.

- The funding amount will be increased in case of adding a new faculty member to the group (the person who is in the rank of assistant professor not more than 2 years)
 - The research group must include two researchers who rank least assistant professors affiliated with the university's international partners or affiliated with the top 200 universities according to Shanghai, Times, or QS data bases. (The list of UT's international partners can be located by scanning the QR code)
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- To access the list of international partners, scan the QR code.
- If the research group requires modification or adding a member after the deanship's approval, the principal investigator must submit a request to the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies, accompanied by the requisite justifications.

- Faculties can establish new research groups on an annual basis in addition to the research groups previously registered with the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies, provided that their research activity is not similar to previous groups (shown in the figure below)
- Research groups with the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies will be renewed every three years



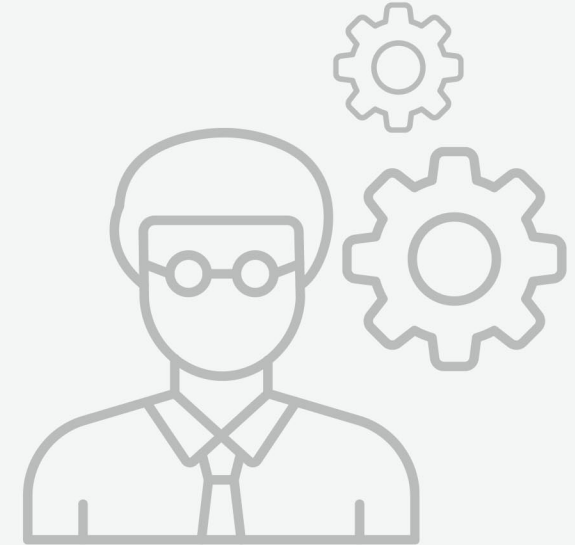
	Minimum (Group of 4 Researchers)	Maximum (Group of 12 Researchers)	
Total number of group members	4	12	
Number of international participants (The research group has the option of selecting co-researchers from the university's partners or other international entities, according to the following:)	Two researchers affiliated with the University of Tabuk's disclosed partners. Two researchers affiliated with top 200 international universities which are not listed as partners.	Five researchers affiliated with the University of Tabuk's disclosed partners. Five researchers affiliated with top 200 international universities which are not listed as partners.	 and the researcher can choose one of these two options
Number of group members from the University of Tabuk (minimum 50% of the total number of members)	2	6	
undergraduate and master's students	Each research group must include a minimum of one student in addition to the number of research members.		
Participants within the Kingdom include researchers, consultants, and technicians	mandatory conditions must be adhered to.		
Participants outside the Kingdom include researchers, consultants, and technicians.	All international researchers of the team must be affiliated with the top 200 universities or affiliated with the university's international partners.		

 **Mandatory**

 **Optional**

Duties of the Group's PI and Co-PI

- A representative of the research group at the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies
- Submitting periodic reports on the activities and achievements of the group
- While the principal investigator is unavailable, the co-principal investigator will serve in the role of the principal investigator.



Procedures for Establishing Oriented Research Groups

- Fill out the research group establishment request form (Page 14,15)
- Obtain the approval of the research groups by the Dean of the faculty, after approval by the scientific committee of the principal investigator's faculty (note: The names of the research groups or their activity should not be duplicated for each faculty).
- In case of similarity in the research activity of two research groups from the same faculty, priority would be given to the group which has higher impact research in their field and registered or granted patents from approved entities by the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies.
- The form should be sent with the required documents to the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies by the Dean of the faculty to request approval from the Council of the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies.



The Basis for Evaluating and Canceling the Research Group

- Forming priority for the group that is compatible with the university's research priorities, the region's giant projects (such as NEOM, the Red Sea, and others), as well as the region's needs related to the vision of the kingdom 2030.





- The research group is subject to the regulations of the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies in financing and managing research and projects.
- Any research group that is not approved by the Council of the Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies will not be funded.
- The Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies has the right to make exceptions to these rules and conditions according to the public interest



Required Documents to Approve the Targeted Research Group

- Oriented Research Group Establishment Form (attached)
- If the principal investigator is an assistant professor, two published research papers in the Web of Science database (Science citation index expanded or Social Sciences Citation Index)must be attached
- CV of members of the research group from outside the university.
- The approval of the scientific committee of the faculty.
- Approval of the Dean of the faculty



The Proposed Timetable for the Establishment of Oriented Research Groups



Milestone	Entity	Date	Comments
Announcement of funding tracks	Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies	2024 - 6 - 4	Announcement of the funding mechanisms and associated terms for the 2024 funding cycle
Introductory workshop	Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies	2024 - 6 - 5	Responding to the inquiries of researchers and explaining the paths and their conditions
Forming a research group with international collaborators and formulating a joint research proposal	Research Team	2024 - 6 - 5 To 2024 - 8 - 18	Allowing researchers to engage in communication with other researchers and establish a research team that aligns with the group's identity
Starting to receive inquiries regarding the establishment of a new research group	The Scientific Committee at the PI's Faculty	2024 - 8 - 18 To 2024 - 8 - 24	The portal will be officially opened to allow researchers to submit requests to form research groups in 2024
Opening the portal to apply to the funding tracks	Deanship of Research and Graduate Studies	2024 - 9 - 3 To 2024 - 9 - 14	Receiving requests for funding research proposals across all disciplines

Research Group Establishment Form

First: Group member information

1- Principle investigator

Name	Department	Faculty	General and precise specialization	Academic degree	University Email	Mobile number	ORCID Account	WOS ACCOUNT	Google scholar account link

2- Group members from the university

Name	Faculty	Department	Major and Specialization	Academic degree	Official Email	ORCID Account	WOS ACCOUNT	Google scholar account link

3- Group members from outside the university

Name	Employer Name	Major and Specialization	Job Title	Nationality	(Associate expert- Co-researcher - Consultant)	Official Email	H-index	ORCID

Second: Group information

Group name (in line with the research identity of the university)	
Group identity	
Group goals	
Group activity	

**Third: A summary of the research plan for a period of three years
(it is not considered a research proposal to obtain funding)**

Year	Summary of the research plan (targets)
First (No more than 200 words)	
Second (No more than 200 words)	
Third (No more than 200 words)	

An illustrative example of the name, identity,

Research group name (in line with the university research identity)	Cancer Immunotherapy Group (Medical Technology)
Theme	Our research program focuses on developing cancer immunotherapies, which include engineering oncolytic viruses, checkpoint inhibitors, cell therapies, and cancer vaccines. Our aim is to develop novel treatments for breast, colon, and brain tumors. Currently, we are working on combining various experimental drugs to enhance the efficacy of the treatment.
Aims	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Invent and develop vaccines and cell-based therapies for the treatment of cancers. 2. Promoting a culture of innovation and creativity in the field of vaccines and immunotherapy. 3. Technology transfer and localization for designing vaccines and immunotherapies. 4. Ensure the sustainability of the research program through the development of the capacities and capabilities of faculty members and postgraduate students in the field of vaccines and immunotherapy.
Research activities	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Developing oncolytic VSV virus platform for the treatment of breast and colon cancers. 2. Developing Maraba virus platform for infectious disease vaccine uses 3. Identifying and exploring the oncolytic activities animal and plant viruses for as potential cancer therapeutics 4. Developing CAR-T therapy for hematological malignancies.

Research Priorities and Activities for Approved Research Groups at the University of Tabuk for the Year 2024

