



# गण्डकी प्रदेश विज्ञान तथा प्रविधि प्रतिष्ठान

## पोखरा

### अनुसन्धान तथा विकास अनुदान सम्बन्धी सूचना

(सूचना प्रकाशन मिति: २०७९/१०/१३)

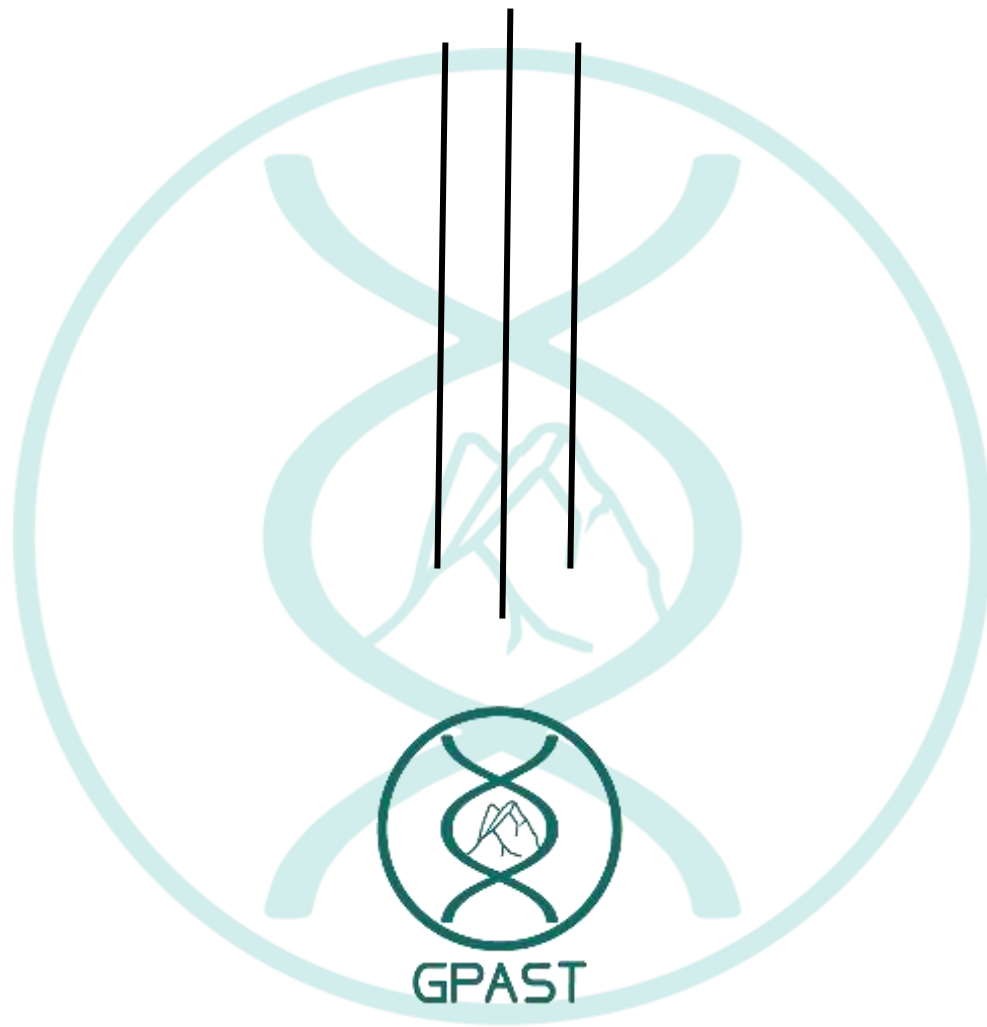
"वैज्ञानिकलाई अनुसन्धान तथा विकास अनुदान मापदण्ड, २०७९" बमोजिम यस प्रतिष्ठानको वार्षिक बजेट तथा स्वीकृत कार्यक्रम बमोजिम विज्ञान तथा प्रविधिको क्षेत्रमा अनुसन्धान तथा प्रविधि विकासका लागि अनुदान कार्यक्रमको लागि विद्यावारिधि गर्ने तथा विदेशबाट विद्यावारिधि गरी फर्केका वा फर्कन इच्छुक योग्यता पुगेका उम्मेदवारहरूले आवश्यक कागजातसहित यो सूचना प्रकाशन भएको मितिले ३० (तीस) दिनभित्र यस प्रतिष्ठानमा आवेदन दिनुहुन यो सूचना प्रकाशन गरिएको छ।

थप जानकारीको लागि प्रतिष्ठानको Email : [info.gpast@gandaki.gov.np](mailto:info.gpast@gandaki.gov.np),

Website : <http://gpast.gandaki.gov.np/> वा ९८५६०८६८४६ मा सम्पर्क गर्न सकिनेछ।

# Research and Development Grant for Scientists Program

## Terms of References (TOR)



**Gandaki Province Academy of Science and Technology**  
**Pokhara**

**Magh 2079**

## Activity Summary:

**Activity Title:** Research and Development Grant for Scientists

**Total grant amount available:** Rs. 15,00,000/-

**Starting Date:** Immediately after agreement or work order

**Completion Date:** End of Ashad 2080

**Target:** For Ph.D. Fellows and Ph.D. graduates from national/international universities

### Background

Gandaki Province Academy of Science and Technology (GPAST) is an autonomous governmental organization established in 2076 by the Gandaki Province Government to promote science and technology-related activities in the province by conveying development, prosperity, and improved service delivery by introducing science-based solutions to economic, social, and environmental aspects. The academy aims to advance in the field of agricultural and agronomic sciences; animal, veterinary and fishery sciences; engineering and allied subjects; forestry, environment, ecology, and climate sciences; geography and geosciences; health and allied sciences, I.T., computer, and natural sciences. The academy is committed to assisting in the provincial development plan and advancing the province's developmental goals. As an essential governmental agency, it involves relevant government institutions, ministries, universities, and other organizations to achieve its goals and advise the government on evidence-based policymaking.

To achieve its goals, the academy plan for the active engagement of the students and researchers to enhance scientific research on areas of special importance with the active participation of scholars from all disciplines within the Gandaki province.

Through the Research and Development Grant for Scientists Program, Ph.D. students and returnee Ph.D. graduates can carry out their research projects in science and technology. The Research and Development Grant for Scientists program will not only help the students complete their Ph.D. dissertations and in the development of knowledge, skills, and expertise in the field of science and technology but also enhance the research culture and make the active engagement of research institutions in the overall development of STI in Gandaki Province. This grant also aims to attract young research fellows who have completed their Ph.D. Studying and practicing their research abroad by providing opportunities to continue and explore their research ideas learned; at the same time, GPAST will utilize those fresh scientists to achieve its scientific research objectives.

To maintain uniformity and transparency in the financial and evaluation process, the program will be conducted according to the criteria set by **Research and Development Grant for Scientists Criteria, 2079.**

## **Goals of the Program**

This program aims to maximize the scientific output by mobilizing young researchers in the field of science and technology and achieve result-oriented outcomes in the research area prioritized by the provincial government.

Major objectives:

- Encourage Ph.D. graduates from foreign universities to return
- Capture the knowledge and skills of foreign Ph.D. graduates in STI fields
- Provide institutional support to Ph.D. students toward completing their dissertations
- Encourage Ph.D. education in STI fields.
- Develop future researchers to advance STI in Gandaki Province
- Raise the research capacity of researchers and research institutions

The Specific objectives of this program are to:

- Provide a platform for returnee Ph.D. graduates to perform result-oriented valuable research to the public and share their knowledge and skills
- Enhance the quality efficiency of Ph.D. dissertations

## **Available Research Grants**

Successful applicants will be provided a Research and Development grant to support their Ph.D. study. The Equipment grant can be used to procure equipment, services, or cash expenditure on project-related costs. GPAST will manage the procurement of equipment and machinery. Additionally, all the equipment and machinery will need to be handed over to GPAST at the end of the contract.

### **Gandaki Province Ph.D. Fellowship**

Students enrolled/accepted into a Ph.D. program in STI at national or international universities will be awarded this grant. Such students will be required to work as research associate at GPAST for the duration of the grant. The Ph.D. students will be provided with an equivalent salary of a GPAST research associate a maximum of up to NRs 5,00,000.00 (Five lakhs) to procure equipment, services, or cash expenditure on project-related costs.

### **Gandaki Province Brain-Gain Grant**

Ph.D. graduates from foreign universities who have returned to Nepal and want to perform collaborative research with GPAST to develop a new technology or a product will be awarded this grant. The returnee Ph.D. graduates will be required to work as a scientist at GPAST for the duration of the grant. The researchers will be provided with an equivalent salary of a GPAST scientist and a maximum of up to NRs 10,00,000.00 (Ten lakhs) to procure equipment, services, or cash expenditure on project-related costs.

## **Thematic Areas**

The following thematic areas in accordance with annual programs of GPAST for Fiscal Year 2079/80 have been selected for the Research and Development Grant for Scientists Program. Priority will be given to projects related to ongoing studies at GPAST.

1. Agricultural and agronomic sciences
2. Animal, Veterinary and fishery sciences
3. Engineering and allied subjects
4. Forest, environment, ecology and climate sciences
5. Geography and Geosciences
6. Health and allied sciences
7. I.T., computer and allied sciences
8. Natural sciences



## **Qualification**

**Gandaki Province Ph.D. Fellowship:** The eligible candidates should have the following qualifications.

- Citizenship of Nepal with a permanent address within Gandaki Province
- Enrolled/Accepted at a national or international university into a Ph.D. program in STI
- Should not have received any financial support (funding/stipend) from a national or international body to complete the Ph.D. program.

**Gandaki Province Brain-Gain Grant:** The eligible candidates will have the following qualifications.

- Citizenship of Nepal with a permanent address within Gandaki Province
- Completed a Ph.D. in STI from a foreign university in the last 10 years
- Has already returned or is willing to return to Nepal
- Not employed by any organization within the previous year (in the case of candidates who have returned to Nepal)
- Below 45 years of age
- Should not have received any financial support (funding/stipend) from a national or international body to pursue further research.

## **Documents Required**

**Gandaki Province Ph.D. Fellowship:**

- Citizenship certificate of Nepal with a permanent address within Gandaki province (if the permanent address is outside Gandaki province, please provide the migration certificate to Gandaki province)
- Cover Letter (which describes your motivation and interest in the project)
- Resume
- Academic Certificates and Transcripts
- Enrollment/Acceptance Letter into a Ph.D. program from the College/University
- Proposal Acceptance Letter from the Supervisor (should show that he/she is ready to supervise)
- Proposal (Technical and Financial), the format provided in Appendix 1.

**Gandaki Province Brain-Gain Grant:**

- Citizenship certificate of Nepal with a permanent address within Gandaki province
- Cover Letter (which describes your motivation and interest in the project)

- Resume
- Academic Certificates and Transcripts
- Proposal (Technical and Financial), the format provided in Appendix 1.

### **Selection Criteria/Evaluation**

The selection will be made according to **Research and Development Grant for Scientists Criteria, 2079**. First of all, the preliminary screening will be done by GPAST, and only complete applications and proposals within the thematic area of this program (**Clause 6 of Research and Development Grant for Scientists Criteria, 2079**) will be reviewed by the members of the Technical Committee. Ph.D. Fellowship and Brain-Gain Grant applications will be evaluated separately based on the criteria (**Clause 11 of Research and Development Grant for Scientists Criteria, 2079**). The technical committee will provide the merit list of successful and alternative candidates/applications to GPAST. There will be a separate merit list for Ph.D. Fellowship and Brain-Gain Grant.

.GPAST has the authority to allocate the number of grants for Ph.D. Fellowship and Brain-Gain Grant depending upon the application pool. The number of grantees on each grant may vary depending on the number of applications.

The applicants will be evaluated using the following criteria.

<b>S.N</b>	<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Max Points</b>
1	Research Plan/Proposal	30
2	Topic/Priority Area	10
3	Innovativeness	10
4	Technology Development	20
5	Presentation and Interview	30
<b>Total</b>		<b>100</b>

The technical committee will evaluate proposals and propose minimum and maximum points for each sub-criterion.

### **Program Duration**

The successful candidates will be required to sign a contract outlining their responsibilities, expected performance and compensation. The agreement will be for the duration of one fiscal year

and can be renewed for a maximum of 3 years. Contracts will be renewed only for candidates with satisfactory performance evaluated by their immediate supervisor at GPAST. Moreover, the monthly salary will not be provided if the budget/sources cannot be secured. However, by signing a separate contract, the candidates will be allowed to continue their research and developmental work without any additional burden to GPAST. Each party can cancel the contract by providing a 1-month written notice.

### **Deliverables**

<b>S. N</b>	<b>Reports</b>	<b>Duration</b>	<b>No. of Copy/Form</b>	<b>Minimum Contents of the Report</b>
<b>1</b>	Inception Report	1 Month after signing the contract	1 digital copy as a word document	Detailed academic/Research plan, methodology, conceptual plans/design
<b>2</b>	Progress Report	Each month after the completion of the inception report	1 digital copy as a word document	Work performed with preliminary data, the outlook for the next month and challenges
<b>3</b>	Final Report /Dissertation	At the end of the research project/fiscal year or Ph.D. program	1 digital copy as a word document	Introduction, results, discussion and conclusion

### **Mode of payment**

The selected candidates will be provided an equivalent salary of a GPAST research associate or scientist monthly. All the equipment, machinery, chemicals, reagents and other consumables related to research and development will need to be procured through GPAST and GPAST will directly pay the vendors. Other project-related expenses will be paid after the submission of invoices. All the invoices will be cross-verified, and submission of forged bills will be penalized per the rules and regulations.

### **Intellectual Property Rights**

GPAST will hold all the rights to any intellectual output from this program. Moreover, the immediate supervisors and other individuals who supervised and assisted in the project should be given appropriate authorship and GPAST will need to be acknowledged in scientific publications.



## **Appendix 1: Proposal Format**

### **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Background
- 1.2 Rationale of the Study
- 1.3 Literature Review
- 1.4 Objectives of the Study
- 1.5 Scope and Limitations of the Study
- 1.6 Theoretical Framework

### **2. Methods and Materials**

- 2.1 Study Area/Sample description
- 2.2 Data Collection
- 2.3 Data Analysis

### **3. Expected Outcomes**

### **4. Timeline of the Study**

### **5. Proposed Budget (specify the amount for cash, material, or services separately)**

### **6. References**

American Psychological Association (APA) 6<sup>th</sup> format

### **7. Annexes**

Data collection format, Questionnaires, Checklists, Standard operating procedures, etc.

### **8. External Collaboration**

Mention the role and responsibilities of each collaborating partner/s (if applicable).

Font: Times New Roman, 12 single spaced

Word: Up to 2000 words, excluding References, Annexes