

# FAQs: HF-KSA Full Proposal

## GENERAL

### 1. Q: What is HF-KSA

A: The 2023 Hevolution Foundation Call for Grant Applications in Saudi Arabia (HF-KSA) is an initiative that will provide funds for initiating research projects in Aging Biology or Geroscience (no Clinical Trials). Funding will be made available to investigators with labs in Saudi Arabia.

### 2. Q: How can I apply?

A: The announcement and instructions for submitting the full proposal are available on our website ([Link: Proposal Central - Grant Opportunities](#)). HF-KSA does not fund grants outside our funding priorities.

### 3. Q: What is the process of selection?

A: The selection process will use a 1-step approach, whereby applicants will submit a full application, which will be reviewed and scored by an external panel of experts in the fields of aging biology and geroscience. The best proposals will be selected for funding.

### 4. Q: I am not familiar with a biosketch, is there a template I can use?

A: The template for the biosketch can be found in this [Link: Proposal Central - Grant Opportunities](#). See more information in the Biosketch section below. **Remember that a biosketch will be required for all key personnel.**

### 5. Q: Can I get an extension on the application submission deadline?

A: No, we will not accept late submissions. The application needs to include all necessary documents scanned including signatures as requested (electronic signatures are accepted), by the deadline. Please plan accordingly.

### 6. Q: How will I know that application was received?

A: After submitting your application through the appropriate link, you will receive an automatically generated confirmation email. Please keep this email for your records. If you do not receive this email within 48 hours of submitting your application, please check your spam/junk folder. If you do not receive the confirmation email in 48 hours from submission, contact Hevolution Foundation immediately at [grants@hevolution.com](mailto:grants@hevolution.com)

**7. Q: Can there be more than one PI?**

**A:** Yes, Multiple Principal Investigator (MPI), Co-Investigator (Co-I), and collaborators are allowed as long as the main PI meets the eligible criteria. However, the award will go to the primary institution, where a substantial proportion of the work (**at least 60%**) must be conducted, including appropriate oversight of all matters related to the grant (scientific, programmatic, and financial). In an **MPI** application, multiple PIs jointly oversee the project's design, conduct, and direction. They share equal accountability to the grantee organization for the project's leadership and management. An MPI application requires a detailed MPI leadership plan outlining the roles and responsibilities of each PI. **Co-I**, in the other hand, is a researcher who plays a significant role in the project but does not share the same level of responsibility as the PI/MPIs. The Co-I contributes to the project but is not accountable to the grantee organization for the overall direction and oversight of the project. When two Principal Investigators have 2 different Authorized Organization Representative (AOR), then an AOR is the designated representative of the applicant or grant recipient organization with authority to act on the organization's behalf in matters related to the award and its administration. This is different from co-investigators or collaborators who may carry smaller part of the work, however a letter of support from the co-investigator/collaborator may be required based on the size of and merit contribution. These definitions, and other technical aspects will be clarified in the webinars, please make sure to attend.

**8. Q: Are subawards (Consortium Agreements) allowable?**

**A:** Yes, and If you are planning to have a subaward, please remember that a sub-awardee cannot create their own subaward agreement with a third party. Nevertheless, sub-awardees can use collaborators and/or consultants. In brief a subaward is a contract created by the institution of the main PI (Authorized Organization Representative (AOR) and passed to another PI who reports to a different AOR and the subaward should not exceed 50% of the grant fund. The definition of subaward, and who is eligible to create or receive will be clarified in the webinars, so make sure to attend.

**9. Q: I have a Co-Investigator and/or Collaborator on my project. Should I have them write a letter of collaboration?**

**A:** Yes, a letter of collaboration and their biosketch are necessary.

**10. Q: When do I need a Letter of Support or Collaboration?**

**A:** Only submit letters of support or collaboration that are relevant to your work and will assure that your collaborations and institutional commitments are established and formalized. We suggest including letters of support from your institution, key personnel, collaborators, and other significant contributors. In some instances, the Hevolution team may ask for a letter of support based on evaluation of the work to be done by a co-I or collaborator.

**11. Q: Do I need to include Human Subjects Research (IRB or equivalent) and Institutional Animal Use Committee (IACUC or equivalent) approvals with my full application?**

**A: No, But** If your application is recommended for funding, you will need to provide IRB or IACUC approvals prior to the start date of the award. **Obtaining IACUC & IRB approvals is a pre-requisite for funding allocation.**

Human Subjects and Animal Subjects Research All Human Subject Research must comply with guidelines provided by The International Conference on Harmonization

Guidelines for Good Clinical Practice (Check the ICH Official website), World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki-Ethical principles for medical Research Involving Human Subjects and must approved by Institutional Review Board (IRB) or its equivalent. All Animal Subjects Research must comply with standards as described in the latest edition of the “Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals (Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals, latest edition) and must be approved by Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) or its equivalent. All submitted forms must be updated for the funded project and title, aims and dates.

**12.Q: What are the selection criteria for shortlisting the applications?**

**A:** HF-KSA grant initiative supports investigators conducting research in aging biology or geroscience (advances in basic research from the laboratory towards the clinic, or “translational research”). The selection criteria to evaluate the application are the following, as stated in the RFA guidelines ([LINK: Proposal Central - Grant Opportunities](#)):

- a. Quality of the proposed research
- b. Alignment of the research topic with **Hevolution’s goals and mission**
- c. Innovation and creativity of the approach
- d. Qualifications and track record of the applicant(s)
- e. Excellence of the research environment; including the availability of all tools and platforms needed to perform the work proposed.

**13.Q: I have a project that includes a clinical trial, does it qualify for this call?**

**A:** No, HF-KSA does not fund projects that include clinical trials. Other non-responsive criteria are the following, as stated in the RFA ([LINK: Proposal Central - Grant Opportunities](#)): Research on age-related diseases without a clear focus on the underlying biology of aging. Projects that deal strictly with clinical topics such as the diagnosis and/or treatment of disease and health outcomes, and Investigators who are conducting research at a for-profit institution.

**14.Q: Is there a limit on the number of projects that can be submitted?**

**A:** Yes, each applicant is allowed to submit only one project to the HF-KSA grant program as a Principal Investigator (PI) and/or MPI/Co-PI. If you are a Co-Investigator or collaborator on another HF-KSA project, you are allowed to submit your own HF-KSA application.

**15.Q: Can I apply to HF-KSA if I already have a grant funded by another institution?**

**A:** Yes, you can apply as long as no funded application has scientific or budgetary overlap with the current proposal. For pending research projects, scientific and budgetary overlap will be re-visited at the time of award, to avoid any overlaps.

**16.Q: When is the start date of the award?**

**A:** We expect awards to start in Q4 2024.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

### **17.Q: My project focuses on age-related diseases, does it qualify for this call?**

**A:** This program **will only consider** disease-specific research if projects focus on understanding how basic aging processes may lead to disease outcomes or how addressing the basic biology of aging might delay the onset, improve prognosis, or treatment of an age-related disease. For example, if your research is focused on determining how Ab mutations influence Alzheimer's onset and prognosis, that is disease-specific research. However, if your research is focused on understanding how the loss of proteostasis with aging affects the toxic formation of Ab in Alzheimer's onset and prognosis, then this is "aging-focused" research. If you are uncertain, please contact us at [grants@hevolution.com](mailto:grants@hevolution.com) prior to submitting your application.

### **18.Q: What is the difference between Aging Biology and Geroscience?**

**A:** Examples of projects in **Aging Biology** include basic research on the hallmarks/pillars of aging, as well as topics such as fibrosis, organelle dysfunction, the microbiome, and other areas identified as drivers of the aging process. Aging Biology studies can be done in any model system, including yeast, invertebrates, etc.

**Geroscience research** or translational research can be defined as a systematic effort to convert basic research knowledge into practical applications to improve human health and well-being. i.e., if a project has a clearly articulated pathway towards clinical relevance to the health and well-being of older adults then it is **Geroscience research** because it aims at applying those basic biology topics towards a translational goal.

These may include proof of concept studies or small-scale studies related to new diagnostic, treatment, or preventive modalities related to aging-relevant biology. Geroscience studies should use one or more of the following models, Human subjects, Human cells and tissues, Mice or other mammals.

Programs using other types of models (i.e. yeast, invertebrates, etc.) will only be considered when there is a compelling justification that these studies may be directly relevant to human health and aging.

### **19.Q: What is the grant period that my project will be eligible for?**

**A:** Projects will be 2 years in length and not renewable. However, you will be eligible to apply for future grant calls to further your research.

### **20.Q: What countries are eligible for this program?**

**A:** HF-KSA is an initiative open to investigators based at institutions in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia only.

### **21.Q: Are Early-Stage Investigators or investigators who are new to aging eligible to apply? These questions are on the title page of the application, so I just want to be sure.**

**A:** Applicants must be independent investigators/group leaders with independent research space and the skills, knowledge, and resources necessary to carry out the proposed research. So, yes, early-stage and investigators new to aging are eligible to apply. The questions on the cover of the title page are for internal record- keeping only.

### **22.Q: How do you define Independent Investigator?**

**A:** The applicants should hold a Ph.D., M.D., or M.D./Ph.D. or similar, and must have independent space/lab. The Independent investigator should be at the level of Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor (including research track) or be in equivalent positions as defined by the applicant's institution. It is preferred that an independent investigator has published at least one paper as a senior author. All this information will be checked at the submission of the application.

## **BUDGET**

### **23. Q: What is the total budget?**

**A:** The total budget for the 2-year Project will be 500,000 SAR. Thus, the budget requested should include all expected costs and be appropriate for the planned work. You need to provide detailed budget justification and the decision of the final budget will be at the discretion of Hevolution Foundation and will not be appealable.

### **24. Q: Can the budget include postdoctoral students and graduate students under personnel?**

**A:** Yes, we cover salary plus fringe for postdocs and graduate students, but not tuition (or tuition remission). The budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs and it needs to be commensurate with the standards in KSA.

### **25. Q: Under personnel in the budget, can fringe benefits be included as well as salary?**

**A:** Yes, but the budget requested should be based on reasonable, allocable costs, and commensurate with the standards in KSA.

### **26. Q: Does HF-KSA provide indirect costs or Facility and Administrative (F&A) costs?**

**A:** No, HF-KSA provides no additional indirect costs.

## **BIOSKETCH**

### **27. Q: What is the information needed for the 'CURRENT POSITION' in the Biosketch?**

**A:** Describe the necessary information about your title and the institution where you are currently working.

### **28. Q: What levels of 'EDUCATION & TRAINING' is needed in the biosketch?**

**A:** List your undergrad degree, you graduate degrees and your postdoctoral training including where it was done and in what years.

### **29. Q: Is the 'TOP 5 PUBLICATIONS' expected to be in the field of aging?**

**A:** No, submit your top publications throughout your career.

### **30. Q: What does the 'MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS RELEVANT TO THE PROPOSED RESEARCH' section mean?**

**A:** Submit any publications, patent applications or patents, abstracts, invited speeches, workshops etc., related to the field of study you are applying funding for.

### **31. Q: What are the details needed under 'CURRENT ACTIVE AND PENDING FUNDING' and 'PAST FUNDING'?**

**A:** The Title, the aims of the study, the funding amount, and the dates for the funding, or

the anticipated dates for funding.

**Please read the grant materials carefully and contact us if you have any questions ([grants@hevolution.com](mailto:grants@hevolution.com)).**