

## **15 Reasons of Why NRPU-HEC Projects are Rejected?**

The academic researchers are the most powerful assets of a country for promoting the research culture in universities of Pakistan. According to the 2016-2017 estimate the success rate of research proposal is very low i.e. 21% only. The following are the main reasons for mostly rejected projects. We found these reasons from NRPU review forms from different universities i.e. University of Management and Technology (Lahore), University of Engineering & Technology (Peshawar), Baluchistan University of Information Technology, Engineering and Management Sciences, The University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir (Muzaffarabad) and University of Baluchistan (Quetta).

### **1. Understanding**

The major reason for the rejection of NRPU projects is the understanding of research projects' phenomena. The research under NRPU program is of applied nature in which researcher ensures the actual applicability of the research project. To avoid the rejections under NRPU we should understand the concepts of basic and applied research.

### **2. Experience and Qualification of PI**

The experience and qualification of the PI (Principal Investigator) is the central point for winning NRPU projects. A number of projects got rejected having a single solid reason that PI has not relevant experience and qualification for running this project. HEC requires that PI must have at least MS/MPhil or PhD. PI must have sufficient number of publications in the relevant field for minimizing the chances of the rejections of NRPU proposals. Moreover impact factor of PI is also important for winning the projects because funding limits is dependent on the basis of cumulative impact factor of PI.

### **3. Novelty of the Research**

The uniqueness of the research is very essential for winning projects. Most of the projects got rejected because they are not based on novelty but instead they are just replication of the previous studies. In order to win projects your research must contain some innovation and novelty.

### **4. Budgeting Errors**

The budgeting estimation of a research proposal is very important section and should be considered with full significance. The fund winning budget estimates contains all the requirements of HEC and also includes reasonable prices of equipments and other expenses.



Here are some useful points which must be considered while preparing the financials of NRPUs proposals.

- If permanent equipment/s are already available in the host university /institute or their contribution in the execution of the project is not significant, please cut them down.
- If year wise quantity and cost of expandable supplies demanded is not justified either these are not required or overestimated? Please cut them down to a reasonable size.
- Food/entertainment expenditure cannot be demanded in the budget.
- No foreign payment could be made either to any firm for the purchase of any item or to any foreigner Co-PI.
- International travel is not allowed. However, PI may go abroad if he/she is funding / supported by a collaborating partner.
- However, travel expenditure as per actual can be claimed under head local travel but maximum up to **0.2 million** per project.
- The only studentship is allowed (**M. Phil./MS/MSc (Hons) / PhD students**)
- No research associate/research assistant/field assistant/field surveyor/ or any supporting staff etc. can be engaged other than studentship in the project. However daily paid Labor (DPL) can be demanded for a specific time period and may be hired at university rates if justified under the proposal.
- Secretariat Staff (if required & justified by PI) is allowed @ **Rs=18,000** per year.
- No coordinator/consultant is allowed to be hired as it is the responsibility of PI/Co-PI.

#### **5. Ignorance of NRPUs Research Domains**

HEC provides the research areas in which you can write your proposals under NRPUs program. The research areas must be strictly followed for avoiding the rejections of the projects. If a project is out of the research domain provided by HEC then it gets rejected straight forwardly.

#### **6. Excessive Interdependence of the Project**

The interdependence of the project on excessive tasks and events can move your project towards rejection, because if the previous task is not performed then what happened to your project.

#### **7. Institutional Approval**

Submission of the projects under NRPUs program without approval from the host institute will lead towards its rejection. HEC requires that projects must be submitted with prior approval form the host institute and signed by DG and Rector of the university. Many projects got rejected because they have not approved by the host institution.



## **8. Ignorance of Guidelines**

HEC provide the detailed guidelines for the submission of the projects under NRPU program. These guides can be easily downloaded from HEC web site. Most of the Scientists do not read the guidelines thoroughly and got their projects rejected. The review process of NRPU projects consists of 2 rounds, in which round one is more important because in this round a focal person check the projects checklist and if he finds any point missing or un answered, he immediately rejects the project and at this stage the project got disqualified.

## **9. Projects Objectives and Scope**

Research projects objectives are they key consideration of the project. Objectives provide reviewer an understanding about the purpose of doing the research. This reason is most common in rejections because many researchers not specify the objectives and scope of their research projects.

## **10. Practical Implication of the Project**

The scientists must ensure the practical applicability of their research projects before writing it. This reason is most common in academia. The reviewer of NRPU ensures and verifies that whether the project is actually applicable or the practical implication is possible or not.

## **11. Errors Relating to the Project Equipment**

The equipment prices must be realistic. The most of the NRPU rejection reasons includes the projects equipment relating mistakes. The equipment got over priced and sometimes equipment cost is unrealistic. One main point is that the equipment costing greater than Rs. 100,000 requires quotations to be attached with project file. This requirement is mandatory and most of the projects got rejected having this reason.

## **12. Grammatical and Syntax Errors**

These types of errors are most common in the research proposals and it may cause a serious problems for the researchers. The grammatical mistakes and syntax errors must be corrected before sending the projects to avoid rejections and bad impression.

## **13. Errors in Projects Summary**

The project summary is the key idea of the researchers which provides a complete sense of understanding of the whole projects to the reviewer. Mostly this part is not considered well before submitting the projects. The summary should be brief, eye catching and includes whole project details in short paragraph. It also includes importance of the project.

## **14. Missing Hypothesis**

Hypothesis must be provided in research proposals. This is the essential part of the project which is to be tested or which researchers expects from their projects. Missing hypothesis will lead your projects towards rejections.

## 15. Complicated Aims of the Projects

The aims of your projects must be clear and simple and must not be complicated. The project having many complicated aim which cannot be achieved during the life the project must be considered critically. Many projects hot rejected because they have not clear aims of the project.

*Note: This short article is extracted from continuous studies conducted by SATHA on Research Grants and NRPV projects*

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