नेपाल सरकार
स्वास्थ्य तथा खाद्य स्वच्छता मन्त्रालय
कीटजन्य रोग अनुसन्धान तथा तालिम केन्द्र
हेटौडा, मकवानपुर

☎ ०४७-४२०४७२, ०४७-४२३११६
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पत्र संख्या :
चलानी नं.

मिति :२०८३।४।१४
ने.सं.

अनुसन्धान अनुदान (Research Grant) प्रस्ताव आह्वान सम्बन्धी सूचना

कीटजन्य रोग अनुसन्धान तथा तालिम केन्द्र (Vector Borne Disease Research and Training Centre) को आर्थिक वर्ष २०८३/०८४ को स्वीकृत वार्षिक कार्यक्रम अन्तर्गत स्नातकोत्तर (Post Graduate) तथा विद्यावारिधि (PhD) तहका विद्यार्थीहरूका लागि अनुसन्धान अनुदान (Research Grant) उपलब्ध गराइने प्रयोजनका लागि अनुसन्धान प्रस्ताव (Research Proposal) आह्वान गरिएको छ।

नेपालका विश्वविद्यालय तथा स्वास्थ्य विज्ञान प्रतिष्ठानहरूमा स्नातकोत्तर वा विद्यावारिधि तहमा अध्ययनरत नेपाली विद्यार्थीहरूले कीटजन्य रोग (Vector-Borne Diseases) सम्बन्धी नवीन अनुसन्धानमूलक तथा जनस्वास्थ्यका दृष्टिकोणले उपयोगी विषयमा आफ्नो अनुसन्धान प्रस्ताव मिति २०८३/०५/१५गते भित्र यस केन्द्रको **email:vbdrtc.mohp@gmail.com** मा पेश गर्नुहुन सम्बन्धित सबैमा हार्दिक अनुरोध गरिन्छ।

अनुसन्धान अनुदान सम्बन्धी विस्तृत सूचना आवेदन प्रक्रिया, योग्यता, छनोटका आधारहरू तथा आवेदन फारामका लागि यस कार्यालय को आधिकारिक **website: https://www.vbdrtc.gov.np/** अथवा QR Code Scan गरि उपलब्ध सूचना मार्फत आवश्यक जानकारी प्राप्त गर्न सक्नुहुनेछ।

कीटजन्य रोग अनुसन्धान तथा तालिम केन्द्र
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Vector-Borne Diseases Research Grant Programme for Nepal

2026 PhD and Master's Student Research Grant Programme

Background and Rationale

Nepal has made substantial progress in vector-borne disease prevention and elimination through strengthened surveillance, diagnostics, vector control, and disease-specific programmes. However, elimination gains remain vulnerable to climate change, ecological shifts, imported infections, vector adaptation, and population mobility. This programme aims to strengthen locally relevant evidence generation and research capacity through Master's-level public health, epidemiological, entomological, laboratory, environmental health, implementation science, and One Health research supporting vector-borne disease prevention, control, elimination, and prevention of re-establishment in Nepal.

Goal

- Strengthen evidence generation and research capacity supporting vector-borne disease prevention, control, elimination, and prevention of re-establishment in Nepal.

Objectives

- Support operational and implementation research
- Strengthen evidence-informed policy
- Promote multidisciplinary and One Health approaches
- Improve climate-resilient surveillance
- Build future research capacity

Alignment Framework

Aligned with National Health Policy 2019, Nepal Health Sector Strategic Plan, National Malaria Strategic Plan (2025–2030), vector-borne disease elimination programmes, Integrated Vector Management, One Health priorities, federal health system strengthening agenda, and SDGs 3.3, 3.8, 3.d, 6, 13 and 17.

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Target Students

Maters and PhD students studying in Nepalese universities/Health Science Academy

Research Themes

20 thematic areas including surveillance systems, entomology, climate-health, elimination research, vector control, diagnostics, community engagement, One Health, GIS and digital epidemiology, border health, climate resilience, outbreak preparedness, health equity, financing, innovation, workforce development, resistance monitoring, and implementation science.

Theme	Suggested Subtitle (examples only)	Priority Diseases
Theme 1: Surveillance and Early Detection	Strengthening case-based and event-based surveillance	Malaria, kala-azar, dengue, LF, scrub typhus
Theme 2: Entomological Surveillance and Vector Ecology	Understanding vector distribution across ecological zones	Malaria, dengue, kala-azar, JE
Theme 3: Climate Change and Vector-Borne Disease Risk	Linking climate variability with disease emergence	Dengue, malaria, scrub typhus, kala-azar
Theme 4: Elimination-Focused Operational Research	Closing gaps in elimination programmes	Malaria, kala-azar, LF
Theme 5: Vector Control and Insecticide Resistance	Improving effectiveness of integrated vector management	Malaria, dengue, kala-azar
Theme 6: Laboratory and Diagnostic Capacity	Improving diagnosis, confirmation and referral systems	Malaria, dengue, kala-azar, scrub typhus
Theme 7: Community Engagement and Risk	Behavioural and social dimensions of VBD prevention	Dengue, LF, malaria, kala-azar

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Communication		
Theme 8: Health Systems and Governance	Federal coordination for VBD prevention and Response	All priority VBDs
Theme 9: One Health and Environmental Determinants	Integrating human, vector, animal and environmental risks	JE, scrub typhus, dengue, malaria
Theme 10: Digital Epidemiology and GIS Mapping	Data-driven surveillance and response targeting	Malaria, dengue, kala-azar
Theme 11: Border Health and Cross-Border Disease Transmission	Addressing imported infections and mobility-related risks	Malaria, dengue, kala-azar
Theme 12: Urbanization and Emerging Vector Ecology	Understanding urban expansion and vector adaptation	Dengue, JE
Theme 13: Climate-Smart Health Systems	Building resilience against climate-sensitive vector-borne diseases	Dengue, malaria, scrub typhus
Theme 14: Outbreak Preparedness and Emergency Response	Strengthening rapid detection and outbreak containment systems	Dengue, JE, malaria
Theme 15: Social Determinants and Health Equity	Reducing inequalities in VBD burden and service access	LF, malaria, kala-azar
Theme 16: Health Financing and Economic Evaluation	Improving efficiency and sustainability of VBD programmes	All priority VBDs

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Theme 17: Innovation and Digital Health Technologies	Leveraging digital tools for surveillance and vector control	Malaria, dengue, kala-azar
Theme 18: Capacity Building and Workforce Development	Strengthening human resources for VBD elimination	All priority VBDs
Theme 19: Antimicrobial and Insecticide Resistance Monitoring	Addressing resistance threats to elimination strategies	Malaria, dengue
Theme 20: Policy Translation and Implementation Science	Bridging evidence generation and policy implementation	All priority VBDs

Study Duration: 6 Months

Eligibility Criteria

- Only applicants from Nepal are eligible to apply.
- One project can only have one Principal Investigator who must be the Post Graduate/PhD student as indicated above.
- Researcher should be a Post Graduates/PhD students enrolled in a recognized University/Academic Institution/affiliated college of Nepal.
- Applicant may use the grant as part of the Post Graduate/PhD dissertation/thesis.
- Applications must include all required information and attachments. Only complete applications will be considered for review.
- Proposed ideas must be aligned with the aforementioned themes.
- Researchers must comply with the National Ethical Guideline for Health Research of the NHRC.
- Same researcher cannot apply in more than one proposal (Both as PI or Co-PI)

Note: Those who have already started the thesis in the relevant topics can also apply for this

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grant.

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Application Instructions

Application must be submitted electronically at the email (vbdrtc.mohp@gmail.com) of Vector Borne Diseases and Research Training Centre. Electronic application should be submitted in PDF file format. Application should be submitted in English. Application should be submitted in the following documents;

- Research Proposal
- CV of Principal Investigator
- A copy of citizenship of Principal Investigator
- Recommendation/Support letter from supervisor or Head of Department of concerned Department/University

Review Process

All applications will initially undergo administrative and eligibility screening by the Grant Sub-Committee at the Vector Borne Disease Research and Training Centre (VBDRTC). Eligible proposals will then be independently evaluated by at least one independent technical reviewer. Upon completion of the technical review, the Grant Review Committee will consider the reviewers' assessments, rank the fundable proposals, and recommend applications for funding based on scientific merit, methodological quality, feasibility, public health relevance, and budget justification. Final funding decisions will be made based on the ranking of proposals, reviewers' scores, and the recommendations of the Grant Review Committee, subject to the availability of funds.

All the selected candidates may give the proposal presentation virtually.

Evaluation criteria

Eligible research proposals will be evaluated against the following criteria. Each criteria will weigh 20 marks.

1. **Relevance to VBDRTC priorities:** The proposed research addresses one or more priority vector-borne diseases or related public health issues identified by VBDRTC and demonstrates alignment with national research priorities.
2. **Scientific merit and novelty:** The research question is clearly defined, supported by the

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existing evidence, and demonstrate scientific merit, originality, or innovation.

3. **Significance and potential impact:** the proposed research has the potential to generate evidence that contributes to scientific knowledge and informs disease prevention, control, surveillance, policy, or public health practice.
4. **Methodological Quality and Feasibility:** The study design, methodology, sampling strategy, data collection, data analysis, and ethical considerations are scientifically sound and appropriate. The project is feasible within the proposed timeline and available resources.
5. **Overall quality of the proposal:** The proposal is well organized, clearly written, logically structured, and demonstrates a high likelihood of successful completion and dissemination of findings.

Expected Outputs

- Research report
- Scientific manuscript
- Conference presentation
- Policy brief
- Operational recommendations
- Disease surveillance improvement recommendations

Template for Research Proposal

The research proposal should be structured around following template to fulfill criteria for successful submission. The proposal should be submitted in English, and should be a maximum of 10 pages (excluding cover page and the bibliography).

Technical details:

Title of the research	Project title, Name of Principal Investigator and team member, affiliated organization and designation
Summary of the Proposal	Maximum 500 words (Explain need to perform research on your topic and highlight the

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	research gap, objective, indicative methods and expected outcome)
Background and Rationale/Justification	Set out scientific background and basis of your project and justify the research need
General objective	Specify the research hypothesis and concrete objective that you aim to achieve
Specific Objectives	Break down of general objective to cover the scope of work
Study Variables	List of important dependent and independent variables of the study including operational definitions if required
Research Method	• Qualitative • Quantitative • Mixed
Research design	• Select research sub-type • Cross-sectional • Case-control • Cohort • Interventional • Other
Description of Research design	The strategy should include clear description of research methods by which the research goals are to be attended.
Inclusion and exclusion criteria of the participants	
Study site and its justification	
Study Population	
Sample size	Sample size required for the study with

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	justification and description
Sampling technique	
Data collection techniques	Details of the procedure of data collection including laboratory methods (if applicable)
Data collection tools	List of questionnaires, Performa, standard protocols, FGD guidelines, IDI, KII guidelines, observation checklist etc. that will be used for data collection
Potential biases	
Limitation of the study	
Plan for the data management and analysis	
Expected outcome of the research results	
Potential Impact of the project (Explain, through a short context analysis at local, national and international level, how the project (findings) will contribute to the achievement of the SDG3 and other national and international health priorities. Describe how the proposed research project is important in terms of bridging the evidence gap and impact on health policy and practice.)	
Contribution of research findings in generating evidence for policy/treatment control protocols	
Project Schedule and Budget (outline major activities with the completion timeframe and estimated budget.)	
Ethical Proposal/Approval	
References/Bibliography (The references should follow the Vancouver referencing style. The references must be part of the document, but does not count towards the 10-page restriction.)	

Application Deadlines: Bhadra 15, 2083

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