

Webinar

“Embracing the uncharted waters, minimizing the fear of rejections: tips on securing the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme for the Humanities and Social Sciences”

24th May 2022 Tuesday 9-11 am; <https://meet.google.com/tij-yzgx-idt>

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What a mouthful long topic of a webinar that the Academy Of Language Studies UiTMCPH has proposed to be conducted. The same thought that preoccupied the presenter of the Webinar which was quickly dismissed as we rose to the occasion, wanting to do just that- minimizing the fear and doubts stigmatized by the initials of FRGS.

The two hour event witnessed our KPP, Assoc. Prof Dr Rofiza Aboo Bakar welcoming Prof Faizah and the webinar participants who are the department members before handing over to the speaker cum presenter. Prof Faizah Abd Majid appeared calm and started off by telling a bit of her background and credentials which has made her relevant and credible to share and provide some insights on how securing the FRGS does not have to remain a daunting task to the applicants.

Organizing her presentation into sections of “why research”, “research skill sets”, “what is FRGS” and “proposal checklist”, Prof Faizah was able to share with us the significance and relevance of conducting research being academics as we are. So what are the steps for us to secure an external research grant much to the likes of FRGS? Prof Faizah underlines various proactive steps to be taken and these measures are very much dependent on the proposal that holds the key to a successful application. Next, she explores the different research skill sets in which she differentiates the roles of being a researcher apart from being a collaborator.

Then, Prof Faizah distinctively distinguishes FRGS from other grants and highlights to her audience the emphasis on how at least one from each certain criteria needs to be fulfilled which includes Research Domain, Research Clusters, 10 – 10 MyS-TIE, WKB 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals. Next according to her, usually the top 30% proposal to be selected also should have aligned itself to the Key Economic Growth Activities or KEGA.

Moving onto another section, Prof Faizah emphasized that the FRGS application flow has always been very thorough and meticulous due to the abundance of grant applications from all over the country. To ensure that a proposal reaches such high a stature, the initial process of evaluation is from a panel elected by the applicants’ institution itself, then forwarded to undergo the stringent process of scrutiny from the inspection and evaluation committee at the Department of Higher Institution level before it ends at being endorsed by another panel of Evaluators appointed at the highest level of expertise and experience.

Based on the explanation provided by the expert assessor, Prof Faizah, the FRGS assessment criteria falls under the following categories whereby the research applied can produce a new idea/theory/concept/methodology/model/new process. In addition

tion is one which can improve a particular policy, methodology and existing problem-solving model. Apart from that, another criteria includes research encompassing humanities and social science issues intended to improve the quality of life nationwide and the values of mankind. Of significance is also a criteria underlining research projects with a potential to contribute towards the national strategic agenda (Faizah Abdul Majid, 2022).

Not to be ignored is the proposal checklist which Prof Faizah singled them out from the long list namely as research output which can be in the form of university publication. Moreover, details of the researcher and other members should also be current. She reminded that a great group of researchers should be made up of experienced researchers whose CV is to be updated and the members can be those of the same university but from a different faculty. Make a point also to include collaborators from other universities whose research interest is similar.

The checklist also would include the track record detailing the project leader’s pertinent information on academic publication for the last five (5) years i.e H-Index, Citation, Journals, Books, Chapters in books, etc. This is not to be taken lightly as the project leader has to be competitive and able to outdo the other competitors in the run for the grant.

Prof Faizah also touches on how the evaluation of a proposal is set as having to fulfill all the 9 main criteria. The last section is on a selected assessment criteria and the marks awarded to the proposal which amongst others carry a certain weightage range from the title 5%, executive summary 10%, research background 15%, objectives 15% methodology 25%, expected result 10%, track record and composition of team 5%, quality of proposal 10%, elements of FRGS criteria 5%, patent search 2%, Collaboration 2% to the risk assessment 1%. The trick is to score a point in every listed criteria to ensure a higher percentage as the overall marks achieved; high enough to put it in the high top 30% applications.

Another important section that should not be ignored is on the funding allocation which requires the team to be wise in putting them into the different sets of votes. Adhering to a certain guideline will ensure the evaluators to be more than thrilled to accept the proposal.

All in all there is a wealth of information comprising the tips for just any academic to dip their feet into the warm waters. No longer should the fear of rejection be enormous or repulsive since we have to start treading the uncharted waters, slowly but surely.

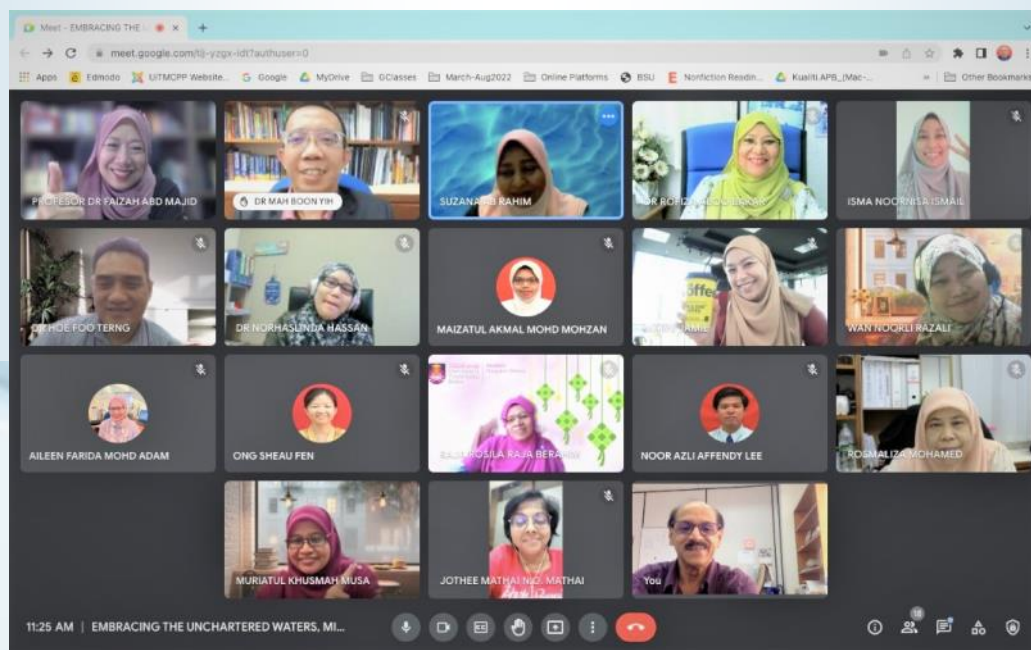
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Professor Dr. Faizah sharing her knowledge on Fundamental Research Grant Scheme.



Some of the workshop participants .