# MTC IRG/YIRG FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

| General | | |
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| 1 | What are the themes for the IRG and YIRG grant calls? | The themes would include areas relevant to the Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC) and proposals can focus on any research topics relevant to the MTC domain.<br><br>Refer to Application Guide Annex A for details of the MTC sectors' focus areas. |

| Eligibility Criteria | | |
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| 2 | Are the eligibility criteria applicable to the Team PI(s), Co-Investigators (Co-Is) and Collaborators as well? | The eligibility criteria are generally applicable to applicants applying as lead Principal Investigators (PIs).<br><br>However, the employment criteria would apply to Team PI(s) and Co-Is as well, as funding can only flow to public sector research performers based in Singapore. |
| 3 | Can I apply if I have only been employed in my current Host Institution for less than 9 months? | No minimum duration of employment required but an applicant must hold a primary appointment of at least 75% in a local publicly funded institution and salaried by the institution. |
| 4 | Do applicants applying as lead PIs need to be Singaporeans or Singapore PRs? | Any nationality. |
| 5 | Can I apply if I have MD, MBBS or BDS qualifications instead of a PhD? | Yes. |
| 6 | Can a researcher be a Team PI/Co-I for multiple projects? | Yes, but he/she should be able to commit reasonable time and effort to each project towards fulfilling the project's outcome and goals. |
| 7 | Are applicants supported on grants, either partially or fully, be eligible to apply for IRG or YIRG grants? | Yes, so long the applicant is hired by the institution and satisfies the other eligibility criteria. |
| 8 | Do we need to partner A*STAR Research Institutes (RIs) in our projects or ensure that the research areas are in line with the RIs' interest? | No, as long as proposals are in areas that are relevant to the MTC domain. |
| 9 | Are visiting investigators or experts fundable? | Yes, subject to rules and regulations of the host institution.<br><br>The visiting professor(s)/expert(s) however must be identified and his/her contribution to the project must be clearly defined and described in the application. |

| 10 | Can the IRG/YIRG grant be transferred to another researcher? | IRG and YIRG cannot be transferred to another PI. |
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| 11 | Can IRG/YIRG PI request for a change of host institution? | Grantor's approval could be sought for this if the PI is transferring to another local publicly funded institution. |
| 12 | Since IRG and YIRG are meant to be "individual" grants, why are we allowing more than 1 PI, Team PIs and Co-PIs? | Each IRG or YIRG application can only have one PI. All others are Team PIs or Co-PIs. Team PIs or Co-PIs are allowed to encourage collaborations, particularly across institutes. |
| 13 | Can I submit one application as PI for IRG and one application as PI for YIRG? I am eligible for both. | There shall only be one application as PI per MTC IRG & YIRG call. |
| **Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)** | | |
| 14 | Are there any other KPIs aside from number of publications in the top 10% journal percentiles? | Additional KPIs and tracking indicators (TIs) may be set for specific projects, to enable proper tracking of outcomes and deliverables of the projects. |
| 15 | Where can we go to verify if a conference belongs to the top conference criteria? | Please refer to the MTC IRG & YIRG application materials. |
| 16 | CiteScore is not adjusted by field, which means fields that tend to have lower citation numbers will be penalized. Will the top 10% criterion KPI adjust for this? | Publications in Top Journal Percentiles in SciVal indicates the extent to which an entity's publications are present in the most-cited journals in the data universe, calculated using CiteScore Percentile metric. CiteScore Percentile compares the CiteScore of a serial title to that of others in the same subject field, and indicates the relative position of the serial title. CiteScore is not a field-normalized metric, but the CiteScore Percentile is. Hence, it will inherently account for differences in the behaviour of academics between fields. |
| **Others** | | |
| 17 | How do I get an ORCID iD? | Your ORCID iD is a unique, open digital identifier that distinguishes you from every other researcher with the same or a similar name to you.<br><br>Anyone who participates in research, scholarship, or innovation can register an ORCID iD for themselves free of charge, and you can use the same iD throughout your whole career -- even if your name changes or you move to a different organization, discipline, or country.<br><br>To register for an ORCID iD, please visit https://orcid.org/about/membership/new |

| 18 | When would A*STAR be implementing its version of the harmonised Grants Terms and Conditions? | A*STAR has implemented the revised Grants Terms and Conditions as well as Grants Guidelines on 1 Jan 2020. This will supersede and replace the 1 Oct 2016 version and all other earlier versions. |
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| 19 | What is the rate of indirect costs to be factored in? | MTC IRG & YIRG will receive 30% of Direct Costs as Overheads (Indirect Costs). Overheads goes to the institution to support items such as rental, utilities, support staff costs. As these costs have been rising over the years, the funding agencies have assessed that there is a need to raise this from 20% to 30%. The IRG and YIRG quantums have thus been increased to incorporate these costs. |

| APPLICABLE TO YOUNG INDIVIDUAL RESEARCH GRANTS ONLY | | |
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| **Eligibility Criteria** | | |
| 20 | Are post-doctoral researchers eligible to apply? | Yes, provided they meet all the eligibility criteria.<br><br>*Note: The post-doctoral researcher's contract with the institution must be as long if not longer than the duration of the project.* |
| 21 | What constitutes a national grant? | It is any grant awarded or funded (partially or in full) by a local government on an open, competitive basis across the research eco-system. |
| 22 | I have previously received a national grant for a project that was led by me. Do I still qualify for YIRG?<br><br>[This question also applies to projects that are required to have one lead Clinical PI and one lead Technical PI] | There will not be a limit to the amount of prior funding that YIRG applicants have received. However, PIs of ongoing MTC/ AME IRG/YIRG projects will not be eligible. |
| **Mentors** | | |
| 23 | Are overseas mentors allowed? | Mentors must be in a local research institution. |
| 24 | Can I have more than one mentor? | Preferably one, but possible to have more. |
| 25 | What are the characteristics of mentors? | Minimally, mentors should have the track record as principal investigators of competitive national grants and have sufficient seniority or experience in mentoring young staff. |
| 26 | While mentors cannot be part of the project as a Team PI, Co-I or Collaborator, are they still allowed to co-author any papers under the project? | Authorship of papers is based on established guides of authorship to the project (such as degree of intellectual contributions to the work etc.). Mentorship is not a sufficient qualification for being a co-author of a piece of work. |

| 27 | YIRG requires the applicants' projects to be distinctively different from their supervisors' current research. How would they be assessed if they do not have existing capabilities in the new area of research? | It is understandable that applicants would want to develop expertise in *areas* that they have been trained in. However, given that the intent of IRG and YIRG is to support ideas that are <u>novel</u>, the applicants' projects would need to be distinct from other ongoing projects, including their supervisors'. |