

MTC IRG/YIRG FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

General		
1	Why is the IRG no longer offered under RIE2030, and what has changed in the approach to supporting investigator-led research?"	Under RIE2030, most MTC funding is focused on mission-oriented research aligned with national priorities. A small but important proportion of funding continues to support curiosity-driven, investigator-led research, primarily through MTC YIRG. This preserves space for exploratory work that can lay the groundwork for future technologies and enable unexpected breakthroughs.
2	What are the themes for MTC YIRG grant calls?	Research in physical sciences and engineering is generally eligible, provided there is a line of sight to further translation and adoption by MTC sectors Please refer to Annex A1: MTC Domain Focus Areas
Eligibility Criteria		
3	Why did the eligibility criteria change in RIE2030, and what considerations guided these updates?	Following the right-siting of MTC YIRG within the Talent Horizontal, eligibility criteria were revised to focus on early-career researchers and avoid overlap with other RIE2030 talent funding initiatives.
4	Are the eligibility criteria applicable to the, Co-Investigators (Co-Is) and Collaborators as well?	The eligibility criteria are generally applicable to applicants applying as lead Principal Investigators (PIs). 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.
5	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. (E.g. Minimum of 9 months' employment per year with a local Singapore Institution <u>throughout</u> project duration)
6	Do applicants applying as lead PIs need to be Singaporeans or Singapore PRs?	Any nationality.

7	Can I apply if I have MD, MBBS or BDS qualifications instead of a PhD?	Yes.
8	Can a researcher be a 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.
9	Are applicants supported on grants, either partially or fully, eligible to apply for YIRG?	Yes, so long as the applicant is hired by the institution and satisfies the other eligibility criteria.
10	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.
11	Are visiting investigators or experts fundable?	Yes, subject to rules and regulations of the host institution. 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.
12	Can the MTC YIRG grant be transferred to another researcher?	MTC YIRG cannot be transferred to another PI.
13	Can MTC 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.
14	Since MTC YIRG are meant to be "individual" grants, why are we allowing more than 1 PI, and Co-Is?	MTC YIRG application can only have one PI. All others are Co-Is. Co-Is are allowed to encourage collaborations, particularly across institutes.
15	Can I submit more than one application as PI for YIRG?	You may only submit one application as PI per MTC YIRG call.
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)		
16	Are there any other KPIs aside from number of publications in the top 10% journal percentiles?	Follow on Funding and Intellectual property (IP) Outputs will be tracked Additional KPIs and tracking indicators (TIs) may be set for specific projects, to enable proper tracking of outcomes and deliverables of the projects.
17	Where can we go to verify if a conference belongs to the top conference criteria?	Please refer to the MTC YIRG application materials.

18	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		
19	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. 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. To register for an ORCID iD, please visit https://orcid.org/about/membership/new
20	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 has superseded and replaced the 1 Oct 2016 version and all other earlier versions.
21	What is the rate of indirect costs to be factored in?	MTC YIRG will receive 30% of Direct Costs as Overheads (Indirect Costs). Overheads go to the host 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 YIRG quantum has thus been increased to incorporate these costs.
Eligibility Criteria		
22	Are post-doctoral researchers eligible to apply?	Yes, provided they meet all the eligibility criteria. <i>Note: The post-doctoral researcher's contract with the institution must be as long as, if not longer than, the duration of the project.</i>
23	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 ecosystem.

Mentors		
24	Are overseas mentors allowed?	Mentors must be from a local research institution.
25	Can I have more than one mentor?	Preferably one, but possible to have more.
26	What are the characteristics of mentors?	Minimally, mentors should have a track record as principal investigators of competitive national grants and have sufficient seniority or experience in mentoring young staff.
27	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.
28	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 <i>areas</i> that they have been trained in. However, given that the intent of 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'.