

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS**

### **Innovation Initiative – I<sup>2</sup>**

#### **MEDRC Water Research Grants in Palestine**

MEDRC Water Research is pleased to announce the first round of Innovation Initiative (“I<sup>2</sup>”) research grant award for 2021 in Palestine, in collaboration with the Palestinian Water Authority (“PWA”), funded by the Government of the Netherlands. The I<sup>2</sup> grant provides research support funds to innovative and impactful projects relating to the water sector, or solutions to fresh water scarcity, with a particular interest in projects relating to water management and wastewater.

The Innovation Initiative will provide support funds ranging from roughly \$3,000 to \$5,000 USD per project, to a small selection of promising projects in relevant areas of water research. Applications are reviewed twice annually, until the annual funding allocation is exhausted, for a period of three years. The annual funding window will reset at the end of each calendar year

**Application Deadline: April 20, 2021**

I<sup>2</sup> grant award recipients will be selected by an international panel of experts representing MEDRC and its regional partners, with additional representatives reflecting national priority research interests and international standards of excellence. Candidates will be scored across comprehensive criteria reflecting the strength of the research proposal, the innovation of the approach, and the potential strategic impact of the project on local and regional water challenges.

Selection criteria will be based on a scored system assessing the following:

- Quality of research proposal
- Applicability of research to local and regional water challenges
- Innovation in the approach and the potential impact on the water sector
- Scalability and sustainability of the proposed project or potential solution

*Funding provided by:*

*In coordination with:*



Government of the Netherlands



#### ***Application Requirements***

Innovation Initiative applicants may apply as either individuals or as a group/team. Applicants must be a resident national of Palestine, in either Gaza or the West Bank, and provide documentation of this to be eligible. Submitted applications must be fully completed, with all required supporting documentation in order to be considered. Applicants must be available for an interview to present their proposal, if requested.

**Apply online at [www.medrc.org/fellowships](http://www.medrc.org/fellowships)**

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## 1.1 ELIGIBILITY

\*Must be a resident national of Palestine\*

Applicants are expected to have:

- completed a Bachelor's degree in a related subject—Master's degree or higher preferred;
- must be fluent in English, capable of reading, writing, and presenting your research in English;
- A clear research proposal, addressing an immediate need or specific problem as identified by the water authorities in Palestine, including but not limited to, water resource management, desalination, hydrology of arid areas, climate change, wastewater reuse, or water and renewable energy topics;
- Resident national of Palestine, residing in the West Bank or Gaza.

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## 1.2 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Submit a completed Application Form with all listed required documents (*rolling deadline*).
- Shortlisted candidates may be invited to take part in an interview for the selection process.
- Successful candidates will be notified of the award grant by MEDRC Water Research.

For those interested in applying for the MEDRC Innovation Initiative, please fill out the appropriate Application Form at the listed website, and submit your research proposal with the required accompanying documents. Applicants must submit a fully completed and signed application packet, including the requested supplemental documentation, in order to be considered for selection.

1. **Application Form** – Signed and fully completed application form submitted online.
2. **Statement of Purpose** – Your statement should be typed, single-spaced, and between one to two pages, and should be signed at the bottom. Describe succinctly your reasons for applying for an I<sup>2</sup> grant, your preparations for this area of research (relevant academic or work experience), and how the funding will help to achieve your project goal. You may also include your future career plans and other aspects of your background such as interests, which may aid the selection panel in evaluating your aptitude and motivation for research.
3. **Resume/CV** – Submit an up-to-date resume/CV listing your relevant work experience and academic achievements, not exceeding four (4) pages.
4. **Proof of Qualifying Degree** – Bachelor's degree, and/or Master's degree (MSc/MBA/MA), and/or Doctorate degree (PhD). Provide a copy of your diploma(s) confirming the conferment of your listed degree(s), or any relevant certificate(s). For those about to complete a degree, a letter from an advisor with an anticipated graduation date is acceptable.
5. **Academic Transcripts** – Official academic transcripts confirming your coursework and your grades for each course. If your institution provides a transcript in a language other than English, you must submit an official English translation of the transcript that is directly provided by the institution, or an official English version of the transcript. Third-party translations services (such as Morningside) must provide the certification.
6. **Letter of Recommendation (Optional)** – Recommendations should be written by people who have directly supervised you in an academic, employment, or community service setting. Letters should directly address your suitability for advanced research on the project topic.
7. **Project Research Proposal** – Full research proposal including budget and research costs, detailing the purpose and scope of your research project, emphasizing its innovative approach and any distinguishing qualities, such as potential impact on local and regional water issues.
8. **Copy of National ID** – documentation verifying you are a resident national of Palestine.