المجلس العربي للعلوم الاجتماعية | Arab Council for the Social Sciences | Conseil Arabe pour les Sciences Sociales

Small Grants Program
Artificial Intelligence: Technology, Society and Learning in the Arab Region
Cycle 2 - 2026

Frequently Asked Questions

In terms of nationality and citizenship, who is eligible to apply to this program?

This call is open to:

1) Citizens of an Arab country (defined as a country belonging to the League of Arab States).
2) Refugees and/or stateless individuals from Arab countries residing in the Arab region.
3) Researchers residing outside the Arab region who hold Arab citizenship or are refugees and/or stateless individuals from the Arab region, and
4) Applicants residing outside the Arab region who carry a non-Arab passport but are originally from an Arab country.

Residents of the Arab region will be given priority.

Must the researcher reside in the Arab region throughout the project duration?

No, applicants are not required to reside in the Arab region during the project.

I have an MA degree. Am I eligible to apply to this program?

It depends. This program targets junior and senior scholars holding a PhD degree in the social sciences or humanities as well as activists with more than five years of work experience in their field with at least a Master's degree in the social sciences or humanities.

Does the budget include a stipend for the researcher? And can I hire a research assistant to help me with the project?

Yes, the budget may include a stipend for the researcher and you can hire a research assistant. However, both the stipend, research assistance or consultancy fees should not account for more than 25% of the overall budget.

Am I allowed to seek additional funding from other institutions for this project?

Yes, you can have additional funding however, the budget in the application should clearly indicate whether other sources of funding are already available or have been applied for and which items would be fully or partially covered by other sources. The Selection Committee and the ACSS staff will review each budget on a case-by-case basis.

In case, after receiving the grant, the grantee is offered funding from any other sources, he/she is obliged to communicate the exact terms and conditions of the offer to the ACSS Secretariat and seek approval. The ACSS will examine the offer and reach an agreement with the grantee that is to his/her best interest. In principle, however, the grantee cannot accept any funding from any other organization for the items covered by the ACSS during the grant period. In case the second offer covers the same items as those covered by the ACSS, the grantee may then have to choose between the two grants. The ACSS will contact the other funding agency to make sure that the terms are clear to all sides.

What does the budget cover? What does it NOT cover?

The budget may include fieldwork expenses (field accommodation, travel and transportation related to the research, and living expenses), and purchase of research equipment and other supplies. The budget may also include consultation fees for project development, a stipend for the principal investigator and research assistance, all for up to a maximum of 25% of the proposed budget (equivalent to $1,000). The budget cannot include travel expenses for conference or workshop participation or registration fees. The overall budget cannot exceed USD4,000.

The Grants and Fellowships Unit at the Arab Council for the Social Sciences will review each budget on a case-by-case basis. Please note that the total and detailed approved budget may not necessarily correspond to the one requested.

What are examples of possible outputs?

Outputs may include, but are not limited to, research papers and/or articles for publication, archival studies, book manuscript, blog or e-zine essay, proposal for funding a new project, chapter in a book or dissertation, pedagogical resources and digital archives or databases. In addition, the ACSS requires grantees to produce a working paper within the ACSS Working Papers Series.

What do you mean by ethical considerations?

Applicants must demonstrate that they are aware of the ethical implications of their project starting from field-work to dissemination of findings. Ethical considerations include obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, respecting participants' rights, avoiding harm, and being mindful of cultural and research contexts. Researchers must address these in their proposals and follow ethical guidelines for archival materials if their research is based on archival research.

Click here to access the ACSS Research Ethics for the Social Sciences in the Arab Region – ACSS Guidelines.

What are the criteria according to which my application will be assessed?

The committee evaluates proposals based on the following evaluation criteria:

- Research proposal's contribution to knowledge (significance, quality, and originality)
- Feasibility and clarity of the proposed research plan (realistic timeframe and appropriate research methods)
- Applicant's competence (academic credentials, existing and potential publications)
- Expected outputs and planned publications.
- Ethical Considerations

Do I have to participate in the Eighth ACSS Conference that will be held in Spring 2027?

Yes, this is a grant requirement. The ACSS will cover accommodation and travel cost for your participation at the conference.

If my application is not accepted by the selection committee, will you let me know the specific reasons for rejection?

No, due to the high number of applications we receive, we will not be able to explain reasons for rejection.