

APPENDIX A

RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME ON COMPETITION LAW CALL FOR APPLICATIONS 2019

The Research Grant Programme on Competition Law (RGPCL) is now open for applications for the 2019 fiscal year. Applicants are advised to read and understand the **Competition Act 2010**, the **Competition Commission Act 2010**, the **Commission's Strategic Research Areas** and the **Objectives** of the RGPCL before submitting their applications.

The RGPCL is to fund research studies, market surveys and case studies **on competition law and economics in Malaysia**. The application of RGPCL is only open to Malaysian citizens. Both undergraduate and postgraduate students are also encouraged to apply for the grant.

Objectives

The objective of the RGPCL is to promote a deeper understanding of and to develop a body of knowledge on competition law and economics in Malaysia by;

- (i) Funding research in the area of competition policy and law in Malaysia;
- (ii) Using the findings of the research to develop informed and evidence-based competition policies, laws, guidelines, codes of practice and to design competition advocacy activities;
- (iii) Enabling the dissemination (nationally and internationally) of academic as well as popular articles and publications on competition issues and practices of specific relevance to the Malaysian economy; and
- (iv) Providing an opportunity for academics and the civil society to participate and contribute ideas and knowledge to the promotion and development of competition policy making.

Eligibility

Applicants shall be Malaysian citizens with proven research capacity in any discipline. They may be faculty, post-doctoral or doctoral researchers attached to public or private universities, undergraduates; staff of think tanks or civil society organisations or freelance researchers. Civil society organisations may submit applications in the name of the organisation, represented by a member of the staff or the Chief Executive Officer. The applicants should submit detailed curriculum vitae, information/documentation demonstrating proof of research experience and successful research outcomes, together with letters of recommendation from at least 2 referees.

Research Proposals

The applicants may submit more than one research proposals, individually or in collaboration with others. Preference will be given to research areas that fall under the Commission's Strategic Research Areas (refer to Appendix E). Preference will also be given to evidence-based research studies and surveys with findings that are likely to be published in academic journals or publications for popular consumption. Research outcomes must lead to recommendations for policies, laws, strategies, guidelines, codes of practice or competition advocacy activities that will spread awareness of competition issues and promote competition culture in the country. Research proposals should be submitted in accordance with the **Guidelines for Research Proposals** (refer Appendix A) attached together with **Application Cover Sheet** (refer Appendix B) which can be downloaded from the Commission's website. Research proposals and applications which fail to follow the prescribed format will be automatically disqualified.

Selection Process

The Sub-Committee on RGPCL will establish the RGPCL Panel of Experts to assist in the review and evaluation of the research applications. The final decision on the awarding of grant will be made by the Commission. If necessary, the RGPCL Panel of Experts may interview an applicant as part of the review and evaluation process.

The successful applicants will be notified by email and have to sign a contract with the Commission before commencement of the research. Applicants must agree to abide by the conditions imposed in the contract including the intellectual property rights condition stated below.

The unsuccessful grant applicants will be notified of the reasons for the rejection of their research proposals. Such research proposals may be amended and re-submitted for re-evaluation. In the event that the re-submitted research proposal is not selected in the second round evaluation, the proposal is not eligible for further resubmission and evaluation. The decision of the Commission is final and no appeals will be entertained.

Selection Criteria

Among the criteria that will be used to screen and shortlist research proposals are the following:

1. The research proposal falls within the scope of the Commission's Strategic Research Areas or in any other areas that the Commission thinks necessary and relevant.
2. The research proposal demonstrates originality and examines a significant issue in the context of existing knowledge and literature on competition issues;
3. The research proposal proposes appropriate strategies for conducting the research, including a plan for systematic and critical analysis that will produce objective and reliable results;
4. The research proposal shows feasibility for completion within the established time frame and budget;
5. The proposed research study results in research product(s) that will be useful, applicable and have impact on competition advocacy and policy making.
6. The research proposal includes a proposed plan for dissemination of the research products that will further the aims of the RGPCL.
7. The qualifications, expertise, previous research experience and successful completion of previous researches of the principal researcher and collaborators

are convincing and suggest that a similar successful outcome will be achieved in the current proposed research.

Intellectual Property Rights

The results of the research funded under the RGPCL will be freely disseminated through the internet and other means at the sole discretion of the Commission. The Commission aims to widely spread the research results including findings, papers, data, ideas, tools and resources in the spirit of openness, transparency and sharing of knowledge and experiences. The Commission need not seek the permission of the researcher(s) for the dissemination of the research results in any form but will duly acknowledge the authors of the work. Copyright for the report and research is solely with the Commission. Researcher(s) may reproduce the result of the research in the form of publication without prior permission of the Commission provided that the publication must duly acknowledge the Commission as the copyright owner. The researcher must also send copies of the publication to the Commission.

Timeframe for Research

The timeframe for each research study or survey shall be between 6 months to 1 year from the date of the signing of the contract between the grant recipient and the Commission. No application for extension will be entertained unless there are acceptable and reasonable extenuating circumstances such as illness or disability of principal members of the research team.

Budget

Generally, the Commission will allocate up to RM50,000 for each grant and the grant shall be used solely for the administrative costs of conducting the research study or survey. The estimated budget shall be included in the Research Proposal in accordance with the format prescribed in **Appendix D - Guidelines for Budget**. Applicants are advised to take note of line items that will not be covered. However, the Commission

may, on a case-to-case basis depending on the proposed research, grant more than the stipulated amount.

Disbursement of Grant

The grant will be disbursed in three stages but the contract between the Commission and the researchers may require the grant recipient to return the unspent grant fund to the Commission:

- (i) First disbursement of 30% upon approval of research proposal by the Commission and the signing of the contract;
- (ii) Second disbursement of 30% upon the Commission's endorsement of a satisfactory mid-term progress report based on the applicant's proposed research activities and milestones; and
- (iii) Third disbursement of 40% upon the Commission's endorsement of a satisfactory final report. The final report should consist of the executive summary of the findings/outcomes (in English and Malay), full report of the research, training modules on research methodology used, a financial statement on how the overall grant has been spent by the researcher and proof of publication (at least one publication in English or Malay for academic research only).

A fresh grant application may be made for publication of research products in the form of printed books, booklets, brochures, electronic books, etc. after a satisfactory conclusion of the initial research study.

However, the Commission has the right to withdraw and / or cancel further disbursement of the remaining grant payments in the event of non-compliance (i.e. the research has deviated from the scope approved by the Commission).

Application Timelines

The RGPCL is open for applications as advertised accordingly in MyCC's website. Every application will be considered on its own merits. Applications will be closed when the total allocation for the year is exhausted, notification of which shall appear on the Commission's website.

Research Etiquette and Integrity

It is the responsibility of individual researcher to ensure that the research complies with research etiquette and the research is conducted at the highest level of integrity. Plagiarism is strictly prohibited and may result in the termination of research grant contract. The Commission will not be responsible for any consequence of failing to comply with research etiquette and integrity.

The researcher should obtain necessary consent and permission from the relevant authorities before collecting and disseminating their data and information. The researchers are prohibited from using and disseminating confidential information disclosed to them by the Commission in the course of the research undertaking without the Commission's prior instruction or consent.

Submission

The grant application documents should be **printed on white A4 size paper and bound using comb binding. Four (4) sets** of the grant application documents should be sent to:

**Research Grant Programme on Competition Law (RGPCL)
Malaysia Competition Commission
Level 15, Menara SSM@Sentral
No.7 Jalan Stesen Sentral 5
Kuala Lumpur Sentral
50623 Kuala Lumpur**

**Tel : 03-2273 2277
Fax : 03-2272 1692**

Further Information

Only email enquiries will be entertained. All enquiries for further information on the RGPCL should be addressed to rgp@mycc.gov.my.

APPENDIX B
RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME ON COMPETITION LAW
APPLICATION COVER SHEET

1. Date Submitted:
2. Project Title:
3. Name of Principal Researcher (and collaborators, if any):
4. Address:
5. Telephone:
6. Fax:
7. Email:
8. Host, if applicable (i.e. University, Organisation, Association, etc):
9. Address:
10. Telephone:
11. List of Attachments:
 - Curriculum vitae (s)
 - Research Proposal
 - Letters of recommendation from 2 referees
12. Submission of the RGPCL Application Form (Refer to Form 1).

APPENDIX C

RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME ON COMPETITION LAW GUIDELINES FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Research Proposals must be written in **English**, in **word format**, **Arial 12 point font size**, **double line spacing**, **not exceeding 4,000 words** and include the following:

- i. Abstract of the proposed research study.
- ii. Statement of how this research advances the current state of knowledge in the field.
- iii. Proposed research study addressing the following:
 - o Problem statement/policy issue and its importance
 - o Theoretical or conceptual framework for the research
 - o Brief review of relevant research/policy literature
 - o Research questions, hypotheses to be tested
 - o Description of methodology including proposed data, sample (e.g. groups used, exclusions to sample, and estimated sample sizes), selection of variables and rationale for using them, and analytic techniques
 - o Connections between the potential findings and the policy issue
 - o Proposed dissemination plan for the research findings
- iv. References
- v. Brief list of previous and/or current research studies conducted, grants received and research outcomes.
- vi. Gantt chart with tasks and estimated completion dates.
- vii. Estimated Budget.

APPENDIX D

RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME ON COMPETITION LAW GUIDELINES FOR BUDGET

The budget should be submitted under the following line items:

1. Allowances/per diem – principal researcher, collaborators, research assistants, others.
2. Transport – only domestic travel costs will be covered. Domestic air travel must be by economy class actual fare for the shortest routes between the nearest airports.
3. Accommodation – maximum 3-star hotel only.
4. Meeting costs – rental of space, refreshments, equipment, per diem for participants, etc.
5. Communication – postal, courier, telephone.
6. Consumables – paper, printing, photocopying, stationery, CDs, etc.
7. Rental and Procurement – resource materials such as articles, books, software, photographs, fees for access to libraries, information from databases, rental of equipment, etc.
8. Any other direct expenses not specified above.

The following items will not be covered:

- Remuneration for services rendered by the applicant and his/her collaborator(s) in the form of salaries, fees, etc.
- Administrative expenses of universities, think tanks, research institutes, or other organisations to which the applicant and/or collaborator(s) belong.
- Expenses for the purchase of any instruments, apparatuses, or equipment for general use such as personal computers, facsimile machines, copying machines, and others.
- Any other expenses which the Commission deems inappropriate for the research.

APPENDIX E
RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAMME ON COMPETITION LAW
COMMISSION'S STRATEGIC RESEARCH AREAS

The **Strategy Plan for Competition Advocacy & Communications 2018-2020** identifies the priority sectors and stakeholders that will be the focus of competition advocacy activities of the Commission. Hence the strategic research areas that will be funded under the RGPCL include market surveys, case studies and research on competition law and economics related-issues relating to the following priority areas and stakeholders:

Priority Areas:

i. Improving market for basic consumer goods and services

It is important for the Commission to understand and conduct an assessment of basic consumer goods and services market. Shelter, food, transport and utilities account for 68 percent of spending by the average household in the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution. The consumer price index is in an increasing trend above inflation for well over a decade. In some cases, it does not appear to be justified by cost increases or quality improvements. Detailed studies are required to address the competition issues in this market.

ii. Shaping competition policy in an era of digital economy

The rise of platforms based businesses play an increasingly important role in our economy and consumers. The sophistication of online platforms and scale of some of these platforms have offered them a strong position within modern consumers, with little competition. This has raised numerous questions, on how to deal with the challenges of these platforms could bring into the market. Meanwhile, market power such as the increasing use of data and algorithms is being mentioned as a new challenge for the regulators and competition authorities to further studies on the impact to the competition laws.

Researchers may focus their studies on competitive environment of a particular sector, market structure or market concentration, anti-competitive or pro-competitive behavior, laws and

regulations that facilitate competitive environment or create market distortion etc. The researcher may also focus on broader issues such as the impact of competition law enforcement on the economy, the benefit of competition policy for consumers and the need of mergers control regime in Malaysia etc.

Stakeholders:

- i. **The Executive** – for example, studies on the extent to which competition knowledge or culture permeates government agencies and proposals to enhance such knowledge and culture; case studies of government policies and regulations promoting and/or hindering competition culture; case studies of public procurement practices in the priority sectors mentioned above and their impact on competition.
- ii. **The Judiciary** – for example, a critical analysis of judicial pronouncements and decisions in competition cases in other jurisdictions particularly relating to interpretations of concepts and terminology used in competition laws and their relevance or application to Malaysian competition law; comparative studies on the performance of competition tribunals in other jurisdictions and proposals of best practices in the administration of these tribunals.
- iii. **The Legislature** – for example, a survey on the knowledge and awareness level of competition issues and laws among parliamentarians and local councils/assemblies and proposals on how this can be enhanced in Malaysia.
- iv. **Enterprises and Associations of Enterprises** – for example, market surveys/studies on the conduct of specific enterprises or trade associations in relation to competition practices in the priority sectors mentioned above; surveys on competition compliance practices of specific enterprises or trade associations; surveys on the awareness level of competition issues and laws amongst enterprises or trade associations in Malaysia.
- v. **Professionals and Associations of Professionals** – for example, studies on the conduct and practices of professionals and professional bodies in relation to the promotion and compliance with competition laws in the priority sectors mentioned above and comparative studies on the impact of codes of practice of professional bodies on competition to align their activities to competition regulation.
- vi. **Consumer Associations and civil society organisations** – for example, surveys on the awareness of consumers and civil society on competition issues and laws in relation

to the priority sectors and proposals on how to enhance consumer awareness; studies on civil society user organisations in Malaysia and their role in promoting a competition friendly environment in the priority sectors mentioned above.

- vii. **Universities and think tanks** – for example, surveys on the knowledge and awareness level of university graduates on competition issues and laws in Malaysia and proposals to address the issues raised; surveys on university courses and Programmes on competition issues and laws in Malaysia and proposals to address the issues raised.

Date: 9 May 2019