

National Parks Board Research Collaboration Opportunity

Questions Related to RCO-CUGE-2020-02: Effects of Planting Schemes on Particulate Pollution Exposure Along Tropical Urban Streets

1. Is NParks looking for NTU researchers in general to submit proposals (i.e. this is an open call)?

Answer: This is an open call that all Singapore-based research and academic institutions and industry are welcome to submit proposals.

2. Is NParks looking for NTU researchers in general to partner with on specific proposal(s) already prepared/received by NParks (i.e. NTU researchers will be co-PIs or collaborators); or?

Answer: We do not have an existing proposal. This is a call for new proposals to meet the challenges and deliver the outcomes we described.

3. Is NParks looking for Specific groups of NTU researchers to participate (i.e. this is a limited closed call rather than an open call)?

Answer: This is an open call.

4. This call will be closing in about 3 weeks' time on 17 Jul 2020 – which is indicated as an extended deadline. This means that this call had probably been launched much earlier. May we please find out when this call had been launched?

Answer: Launched on 22nd April 2020

5. It could be challenging for researchers to develop a robust proposal within 3 weeks. Would it be possible for an additional extension in deadline?

Answer: No. We regret that you did not manage to see the opportunity when it was first published in April, but the funding is only available for projects within a limited window.

6. Is 20% indirect costs included in the overall project budget cap of \$420,000?

Answer: Yes. Any applicable indirect costs, including relevant GST charges will have to fall within the budget cap.

7. How many proposals is NParks prepared to fund under this RCO?

Answer: Only one project will be funded.

8. Have you already decided your preferred study region of greenery vegetation or we can be open for any place in the proposal? It seems to me this project is quite specific and I am curious whether NParks has some location where you would like to investigate?

Answer: No, we don't have a preferred region. For more information please do refer to the project details in our website.

(Link- <https://www.nparks.gov.sg/Cuge/Programmes-Schemes/Research%20Programme/Research%20Collaboration%20Opportunity>)

9. Have you already discussed with some research groups who can potentially do this project?

Answer: We don't hold discussions with research groups for this project.

10. May I know how the payment is done for the project? What's the usual schedule followed and is it possible to change the schedule by negotiation?

Answer: The payment is by reimbursement only (6 months interval) except for the 20% upfront payment. The expenditure details and justification for the 20% must be submitted along with the first reimbursement. No, this cannot be negotiated.