



বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় মঞ্জুরী কমিশন

Govt. of the People's Republic of Bangladesh  
Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project  
University Grants Commission of Bangladesh  
Secondary and Higher Education Division  
Ministry of Education  
([www.heat.ugc.gov.bd](http://www.heat.ugc.gov.bd))



## Academic Transformation Fund (ATF) Call for Proposal

**Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT)** project is the second-generation project in the higher education sub-sector. The duration of the project spans from July 2023 to June 2028. The main objective of HEAT project is to carry out essential reform agenda in higher education including digital networks and resources, innovation and patenting, quality assurance and accreditation, competitive research grants for boosting advanced research focusing on competence building in graduates for IR4 and beyond, and improvement of teaching and learning environment and practices. The Academic Transformation Fund (ATF) is one of the major components of the HEAT Project.

The **Academic Transformation Fund (ATF)** aims to support higher education institutions by providing additional grants to entity/faculty for equipping labs and research facilities with state-of-the-art equipment, train researchers in their use, and carrying out innovative and advanced research. Its goal is to enhance the scientific and technological knowledge pool of the country, spur innovation, bring new ideas and concepts in social sciences, arts and humanities for socio-economic development.

**Invitation for Proposals:** The universities, entities and research teams are invited to submit sub-project proposals (SPPs) in prescribed format under five windows mentioned below. Drafting and submission of SPPs shall have to be strictly in accordance with the guidelines and formats given in the **ATF Operations Manual (ATFOM)**. Proposal submitting entities and faculty members are requested to consult the **ATFOM** thoroughly before conceiving and drafting the proposal.

### Description of ATF Windows:

Window Number and Name	Duration	Eligible Entities
<b>Win-1</b> <b>Pandemic Readiness Related Research and Development:</b> (i) Biochemical/virological aspects (ii) Medical and pharmaceutical research (iii) Social adaptation and Institutional readiness during/after pandemic.	Max. 3 years	Bio-science, Pharmacy and Social Science Departments of Group A & B Universities defined in ATFOM.
<b>Win-2</b> <b>Improvement of Teaching-Learning Infrastructure</b>	Max. 2 years	Departments/Institutes of eligible <b>Public</b> Universities
<b>Win-3</b> <b>a) Advanced Research:</b> i) Advanced Research in Priority Areas • <b>STEM</b> (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) disciplines • <b>AHSBL</b> (Arts, Humanities, Social Science, Business and Law) disciplines ii) Research proposal lead by Junior Researcher iii) Climate change related research <b>b) Collaborative Research with Industries and Research Institutes:</b> University-industry collaborative research targeting patenting and commercialization of research products.	Max. 3 years	Departments/Institutes of all eligible Universities
<b>Win-4</b> • <b>Fab Labs, Innovation-labs, Business incubators</b> Proposal shall include establishment of new Fab Labs, i-labs, upgrading existing Fab labs, Business Incubation Centers tagged with Fab labs and Innovation-Labs. • <b>Networking with other Fab Labs:</b> Establish Fab Lab Bangladesh Network, become member of Fab Lab Asia Network and Fab Foundation.	Max. 2 years Max. 2 years	Group A Universities
<b>Win-5</b> <b>Establishing Technology Transfer Office (TTO):</b> Proposal shall include establishment of TTO for facilitating business linkages with industry and marketing of research products developed by the faculty/researchers.	Max. 2 years	Group A Universities

**Budget:** Budget for the sub-project ranges from BDT 50.0 Lac to 1000.0 Lac depending on the windows as described in the ATFOM.

### Submission of Proposal:

- Sub-project proposals should be submitted both in (i) online at <https://heat.ugc.gov.bd/> and (ii) signed hardcopies to the Project Director, HEAT Project. **Three (03)** hard copies of the proposal should be submitted to the office of the HEAT Project (Bangladesh Copyright Bhaban, Level-10, Plot F, 20/B West Agargaon, Dhaka 1207) by February 10, 2025.
- Only Departments/ Faculties/ Institutes/ Centers of a university and representative of university management/ authority, shall be eligible to submit sub-project proposals. No individual teacher/official of a university shall be eligible to submit a proposal in individual capacity. Proposals should be submitted to the Planning & Development (P&D) Division of the respective universities through academic committee to obtain endorsement/signature of the Vice-Chancellor on the proposals. After obtaining endorsement/signature of the Vice-Chancellor on the proposals, the P&D office will send the proposals to the office of HEAT project.

*Asaduzzaman* 23/12/24.  
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