

MCA Research Support Scheme

The Scheme is an initiative of the MCA introduced in collaboration with the University of Malta aimed at providing direct support to postgraduate students engaged in research forming part of their masters or doctorate studies.

The Scheme supports research conducted in fields related to the Authority's work.

Funds will be allocated directly to eligible applicants on a competitive basis according to the general guidelines of the scheme. A committee of experts from the University and the Authority will select the research to be funded on the basis of the following criteria:

- quality of the application;
- relevance of the research to be undertaken to the work of the Authority;
- demonstrated need for funding;

Who can apply for the scheme?

All University of Malta students reading for a *postgraduate degree at masters or doctoral level*, full-time or part-time, *may apply*.

What projects will be considered for funding?

The research projects must form part of a thesis or dissertation related to the research topics identified under Schedule 1 and which must be previously approved formally by the University.

How do I apply?

The RSS application should be filled in and sent to reuben.v.abela@mca.org.mt before the closing date. The application will include a brief research proposal and a statement justifying the request for funding.

What costs are eligible under the scheme?

The scheme will provide financial support to cover the administration of research studies. Examples of eligible costs include:

1. *Printing* – expenses related to the printing of questionnaires and other printing material needed for the purpose of conducting the research;
2. *Specialised equipment* – expenses related to the use of specialist equipment, not provided by the University;
3. *Postage* – expenses related to postage of questionnaires and other similar items;
4. *Materials for experiments* – expenses in connection with the purchase of consumables; and

5. *Research related services* – expenses in connection with the use of specialist services, or use of specialist facilities or to learn specialist technique/s directly related to the students' research, but which are beyond those normally provided by the university.

The expenditure/proposed expenditure must be incurred in the current academic year.

What costs are not supported?

The scheme will not cover capital expenditure or other costs not directly related to the research component. Non eligible costs will include:

1. Personal Computers;
2. Services related to transcriptions, translation and proof reading;
3. Binding of dissertation/theses; and
4. Hiring of assistants to aid in data collection.

What is the maximum funding a student may receive?

The maximum funding that may be received is €2,500.

How are the funds paid if I am successful in getting support?

You will need to submit a research report including a claim for reimbursement together with the original receipts.

Where can I get more information?

Contact Mr. Reuben Abela on reuben.v.abela@mca.org.mt