



Middle East Research Competition (MERC)

Research Awards Competition

Call for Proposals

MERC is pleased to announce the **10th round** of research awards and invites proposals from qualified researchers. Deadline for receiving proposals in their final format is **15 October 2010**. While open to all research ideas and topics, the program encourages proposals that apply rigorous social science methodologies and theories particularly in the following areas:

- **Public life in the Arab World:** including the public sphere and the development of public life in societies under study and the enhancement of opportunities of public participation for different social groups with emphasis on women, youth, and marginalized groups.
- **Development:** Research on various aspects of sustainable development, both local and national.
- **Knowledge and Educational Capacities:** Research on educational capacities and socialization, including educational reform, educational policy, use of IT, academic curricula, and the role of various actors in the educational field.
- **Social and Political Transformations:** including research on the family, the elderly, childhood, gender socialisation, social reproduction, social mobility, political and civil society.
- **Regional and International Relations:** This includes research on economy and diplomatic relations, post-conflict situations, the psychological and political impact of conflicts and the rehabilitation of victims of conflict.

Eligibility

Residents of Arab countries and Turkey are eligible to apply for the awards. Residents are persons of any nationality whose current and planned future place of professional practice is in the region. Temporary residence outside the region for purposes of advanced study does not preclude eligibility. Research proposals may include non-residents as co-investigators. Former MERC awardees are not eligible to apply.

Research Awards are intended for Ph.D. holders in the early stages of their professional careers. For exceptionally strong cases, research awards may also be made for Ph.D. dissertation research in the region by students from the region.

In the case of projects involving team research, the principal investigator must have a Ph.D. degree.

Proposals can be submitted in Arabic, French, or English. A final proposal should not exceed 20 typed double-spaced pages in length.

Additional pages are needed for an abstract, time-line, budget, and curriculum vitae of all proposed project members.

For the components that the Selection Committee expects to find in good research proposals, please visit MERC website www.mercprogram.org – “call for proposals”.

For Ph.D. dissertation research in the region, students are required to provide at least one letter of evaluation and support by their dissertation supervisor. The supervisor should clearly explain the candidate's academic status (e.g. if candidate has completed course work, is ready to begin field work etc...) as well as his/her strengths and weaknesses.

-A response from the MERC Secretariat can be expected four weeks after the meeting of the Selection Committee in July.

-Final and complete research proposals are due on **15 October 2010**.

-Applications and letters of recommendation for Ph.D. candidates are to be sent electronically to the following email address: contact@mercprogram.org

Note: In view of the large number of proposals received by MERC, only candidates whose proposals are ready for examination by the Selection Committee will be contacted by the Secretariat.

MERC PROGRAM
CENTRE D' ETUDES ET DE RECHERCHES ECONOMIQUES ET SOCIALES
23 Rue d'Espagne
Tunis- Tunisie
Phone+216 71 322 667 Fax : +216 71 326 770
www.mercprogram.org