

MACR EARLY-MID CAREER RESEARCH (EMERGE) GRANT 2026 (MACR EMERGE Grant 2026)

BACKGROUND

The Malaysian Association for Cancer Research (MACR) was established with the aim of bringing together like-minded researchers to advance cancer research in Southeast Asia through a variety of activities, including its flagship conference series, the International Conference on Drug Discovery and Translational Medicine (ICDDTM) and the MACR International Scientific Conference (MSC).

MACR aspires to become the leading association in cancer research in Southeast Asia, serving as a cross-boundary platform for networking and dissemination of latest research discoveries among scientists, healthcare professionals, and stakeholders.

The MACR Early-Mid Career Research (EMERGE) Grant (MACR EMERGE Grant) 2026 is a competitive programme targeted at early- or mid-career cancer researchers who wish to make a meaningful and positive impact on cancer care. TWO grants worth RM30,000 each will be awarded to support cancer research in Malaysia.

SCOPE

1. The funding ceiling is RM30,000 per grant.
2. The grant supports fundamental, translational, and clinical research that has the potential to better elucidate the pathobiology of cancer or enhance cancer prevention, diagnosis, survivorship, or care.
3. The grant serves as a stepping stone for early- or mid-career researchers (see the definitions given under “Who can apply”) to develop initial ideas into larger-scale projects.
4. The proposed project must be completed within TWO years (or 24 months) at a research, academic, or healthcare institution in Malaysia.
5. The grant can be used for only research materials and is not intended for the following:
 - a. Travel expenses
 - b. Equipment purchases
 - c. Salaries, allowances, or honorariums
 - d. Article processing charges
 - e. Proofreading or language editing services
 - f. Indirect administrative costs or overheads
6. The grant will be disbursed directly to the Principal Investigator’s institution by MACR. If the project involves human participants or animals, ethics approval must be obtained before the funds are disbursed.
7. MACR will withdraw funding if:
 - a. The Principal Investigator leaves the administering institution, and no Co-Investigator can be identified from the same institution to lead the project.
 - b. The Principal Investigator resigns from the project.

WHO CAN APPLY

1. Two grants are open for application:
 - a. One is open to all cancer researchers regardless of MACR membership.
 - b. The second grant is reserved for MACR members.
2. The Principal Investigator must be an early- or mid-career researcher holding a non-contract position at any of the following institutions in Malaysia:
 - a. A higher education institution
 - b. A research institute
 - c. A non-academic healthcare organisation
 - d. A not-for-profit or non-governmental organisation
3. Career stage definitions:
 - a. Early-career: Within five years of completing postgraduate or specialist training.
 - b. Mid-career: Having more than five years but fewer than 15 years of research experience after completing postgraduate or specialist training and NOT currently holding a senior position, e.g. Professor. Senior Lecturers and Associate Professors are eligible.
4. The Principal Investigator must hold at least a Doctor of Philosophy degree or an equivalent academic or professional qualification.
5. The Principal Investigator must have a proven track record in cancer research, having authored at least ONE original research article in cancer research within the past three years. For early-career researchers, articles published during postgraduate studies are acceptable.
6. Co-Investigators:
 - a. A minimum of one Co-Investigator and a maximum of three Co-Investigators shall be appointed.
 - b. For non-Malaysian applicants currently employed at Malaysian institutions, at least one Co-Investigator must be Malaysian.
 - c. For early-career researchers, at least one Co-Investigator must be a senior researcher, i.e. having more than ten years of research experience.
 - d. For the grant reserved for MACR members, the Principal Investigator must include at least one Co-Investigator who is an MACR member and can be appointed to lead the project should the Principal Investigator resign.

THE SUBMISSION PROCESS AND TIMELINE

1. Proposals must be prepared using the provided template, which can be downloaded from this [link](#).
2. Complete proposals must be submitted via Google Forms at this [link](#) before **11:59 PM, 31 July 2026**.
3. A supporting letter from the administering institution must be enclosed with the application. The letter should include a statement confirming the Principal Investigator's eligibility, particularly their status as non-contract staff and their career stage.
4. All Co-Investigators must provide supporting letters confirming their participation in the project.
5. Any inquiries regarding the submission process should be sent to the MACR Secretariat (macr.official@gmail.com).

6. The application timeline:

IMPORTANT DATE	ACTIVITY
1 APRIL 2026	Call for application
31 JULY 2026	Application deadline
AUGUST - OCTOBER 2026	Review of applications to assess eligibility and quality
NOVEMBER 2026	Announcement of grant awardees via email; award ceremony during 4th MSC 2026

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Project proposals will be evaluated according to the following scheme:

1. Clarity and quality of project overview: 15%
2. Research objectives and scientific rationale: 15%
3. Background, significance, and impact: 20%
4. Research plan, methods, and feasibility: 25%
5. Novelty and expected outputs: 15%
6. Budget justification: 10%

PROJECT PROGRESS

The Principal Investigator is required to submit a progress report every six months to MACR and a final report within three months of project completion. Templates will be provided by the MACR Secretariat.

Half-yearly project progress will be assessed against proposed milestones; similarly, the final report will be assessed based on proposed output. At the one-year mark, MACR will require the Principal Investigator to present a progress report verbally.

MACR will not review progress reports submitted by Principal Investigator to the administering institution for the purpose of internal monitoring.

Any publication(s) resulting from the proposed project should include an acknowledgement of the funding support provided by MACR. Copies of publications should be sent to the MACR Secretariat (macr.official@gmail.com). MACR may use the publications(s) for publicity purposes, including dissemination via its website and social media platforms.

Where applicable, project data should be deposited in a public database, in keeping with global initiatives supporting open access and open science.

EXPECTED OUTPUT

One original research article at least submitted to a journal indexed in Journal Citation Reports (JCR).
(The manuscript(s) need not be reviewed by MACR prior to submission or publication.)

OR

Filing of an intellectual property or a copyright.
(MACR may claim 50% ownership of the intellectual property.)

DISCLAIMER

MACR reserves the right to modify these guidelines at any time and to reject any proposal without providing an explanation. Funding is highly competitive and not guaranteed.

MACR is purely a non-governmental organisation and accepts no liability for research misconduct, accidents, or damages arising from the funded project. The administering institution bears full legal responsibility.