

Call for Proposals

Academic Transformation Fund (ATF) Under the Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project

The **Higher Education Acceleration and Transformation (HEAT) Project** is an initiative aimed at developing and transforming the higher education sector. Implemented over the period from **July 2023 to June 2028**, the project identifies key areas for improving institutional capacity, enhancing academic quality, and conforming higher education outcomes with national development necessities and global trends.

Academic Transformation Fund (ATF)

A core component of the HEAT Project is the **Academic Transformation Fund (ATF)**. The ATF is designed to support higher education institutions by providing **competitive research grants** to faculties, academic units, research entities, and interdisciplinary research teams.

The overarching goal of the ATF is to:

- Stimulate innovation and advanced research
- Introduce new ideas and concepts
- Enhance the country's scientific and technological knowledge base
- Contribute to socio-economic development through impactful research and academic transformation

Purpose of the Call

This Call for Proposals invites eligible institutions and academic entities to submit **Sub-Project Proposals (SPPs)** for funding under the ATF. Funded sub-projects are expected to contribute directly to academic transformation and institutional strengthening.

ATF grants may be used to:

- Support innovative, interdisciplinary, and advanced research
- Strengthen research, teaching, and learning environments aligned with IR4 competencies
- Equip laboratories and research facilities with **state-of-the-art equipment**
- Train academic and technical staff in the effective use of advanced equipment

Eligibility

Eligible applicants include:

- Public and private universities and higher education institutions
- Faculties, schools, departments, or academic entities within universities
- Recognized research centers, institutes, and interdisciplinary research teams

All applicants must meet the eligibility criteria specified in the 2nd edition of **ATF Operations Manual (ATFOM)**.

Proposed Budget

The proposed budget limit for each sub-project must be between BDT 5.0 million and 50.0 million, depending on the categories outlined in the ATFOM.

Submission Windows

Sub-Project Proposals (SPPs) may be submitted in the **five (5) specified windows** given below. Proposals submitted only within the announced windows will be considered for evaluation.



Window No.	Window Name	Duration	Eligible Entities
Window 1	Pandemic/Epidemic Readiness-Related Research and Development (i) Biochemical/virological aspects (ii) Medical and pharmaceutical research (iii) Social adaptation and Institutional readiness during/after pandemic/epidemic.	Maximum 2 Years	Bio-science, Pharmacy, and Social Science Departments of Group A & group B Universities.
Window 2	Improvement of Teaching-Learning Infrastructure, Co-Curricular and Extracurricular Activities	Maximum 2 Years	Departments/Institutes of eligible Public Universities
Window 3	(a) Advanced Research in Priority Categories i) STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) disciplines AHSBL (Arts, Humanities, Social Science, Business, and Law) disciplines ii) Research proposals led by junior researchers iii) Climate change-related research b) Collaborative Research with Industries and Research Institutes University-industry collaborative research for patenting and commercialization of products.	Maximum 2 years	Departments/institutes of all universities
Window 4	Fab Labs, i-labs, Business incubators Proposal shall include the establishment of new Fab Labs, i-labs, business incubator, and upgrading existing Fab labs, Business Incubation Centers tagged with Fab labs and i-Labs Networking with other Fab Labs Establish Fab Lab Bangladesh Network, become a member of Fab Lab Asia Network, and the Fab Foundation	Maximum 2 years	Universities under Group A
Window 5	Establishing Research Coordination and Technology Transfer Offices (RCTTO) The proposal shall include establishing Research coordination and Technology Transfer Offices (TTO) for facilitating business linkage with industry and marketing of research products developed by the faculty/researchers	Maximum 2 years	Universities under Group A

Proposal Preparation

- All SPPs must be prepared and submitted **strictly in accordance with the guidelines, formats, and requirements** outlined in the 2nd edition of **ATF Operations Manual (ATFOM)**.
- Proposals that do not comply with the prescribed format or submission requirements may be **rejected without review**.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to **thoroughly consult the 2nd edition of the Academic Transformation Fund Operations Manual (ATFOM)** before conceiving, designing, and drafting their proposals. Detailed information on eligibility, funding scope, proposal structure, evaluation criteria, and submission procedures is available in the **ATFOM**.

Submission

Sub-project proposals must be submitted both online (please visit: <https://atf.heat.ugc.gov.bd/>) and signed hard copies to the Project Director of the HEAT Project. Three (03) hard copies of the proposal should be delivered to the HEAT Project office located at Bangladesh Copyright Bhaban, Level 10, Plot F, 20/B West Agargaon, Dhaka 1207.

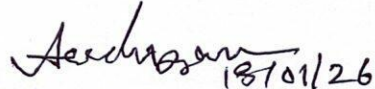
Last Date of Submission: **Online:** 22 February 2026;
Hardcopy: 26 February 2026

Evaluation and Selection

Submitted proposals will be evaluated through a **competitive and transparent process** based on criteria defined in the ATFOM, including relevance, innovation, feasibility, institutional impact, and alignment with HEAT and ATF objectives.

Important Information

Individual teachers and university officials **cannot submit proposals independently**. Proposals must first be approved by the academic committees of the respective departments. Once approved, they should be submitted to the **Planning & Development (P&D) Division/Office** of the university, where they will need **the endorsement and signature of the Vice-Chancellor**. After securing the Vice-Chancellor's endorsement, the P&D office will forward the hard copies of proposals to the **HEAT Project office**.


Professor Asaduzzaman, PhD
Project Director, HEAT