

Student Research Competition 2015

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Introduction

Research plays a vital role to solve environmental, social, and economic issues, and to strive for social change. However, the research activity seems to be absent from our students, mostly at the undergraduate level. At the university level, quality-based education cannot exist without initiating research activities among the students. A university becomes prestigious and well known based on the quality of its research programs, thus achieving the status of a research university. The research university is defined as an academic institution “committed to the creation and dissemination of knowledge, in a range of disciplines and fields, and featuring the appropriate laboratories, libraries, and other infrastructures that permit teaching and research at the highest possible level.”

For this reason, the National University of Management (NUM), Royal University of Law and Economics (RULE), Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), and Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, are implementing a pilot project to promote the research activity called ‘Student Research Competition’. The Student Research Competition is designed to promote an annual **Research Prize** with the following objectives:

- to promote research activities among undergraduate students,
- to improve quality-based education,
- to promote professional presentation and research skills, and
- to promote innovative/creative thinking as well as problem solving.
- to promote public understanding and public participation on specific issues.

Research Prize (SAMDECH TECHO HUN SEN’S RESEARCH PRIZE)

Research Proposal Competition

1. First Prize: 1000\$, gold medal, with certificate.
2. Second Prize: 600\$, silver medal, with certificate.
3. Third Prize: 400\$, bronze medal, with certificate.

The additional prizes may be offered by supporters/sponsors.

Research Full Paper Competition

First Prize: 2000\$, certificate with status of gold champion.

Conditions for the Student Research Competition

Eligibility

The Student Research Competition is opened to all undergraduate students currently studying at universities in Cambodia. The candidates are required to form a team which has at most three members; with both genders represented on each team.

Process of the Competition

The Student Research Competition has two steps: proposal and full paper level. It will be conducted annually with a specific topic. This year, in order to encourage Cambodian youth to pay attention to the city environment as requested by Prime Minister Hun Sen on the National Clean City Day held on February 24, 2015, '*Clean and Green City*' is proposed as the research topic. Therefore, each team is required to answer the question: How can we make our city clean and green?

A. Research Proposal Competition

1. Concept Note Submission

Each team is required to submit a *one-page concept note* and an *application form* to src2015@num.edu.kh within a month after the date of the announcement of the competition. Late submissions cannot be accepted.

Requirements: the concept note must

- be written in English with a length of one page or approximately 450 words
- be type-written in single space with A4 –size paper
- be the original work of the contestant
- contain the title, goal, objectives, methodology, and significance of research.

The **Application Form** will be available on our Facebook page “Cambodian Student Research Competition”. The registered teams will be shortlisted by an independent selection committee based on the *selection criteria*. The shortlist results will be released within two weeks after the concept note’s submission date. The shortlist results will be communicated to the shortlisted teams through direct calling and posting on the Facebook page.

Selection Criteria for Concept Note

The selection committee will evaluate:

- Team eligibility (yes/no)
- English proficiency (20 marks)
- Relevance to the research topic (40 marks)
- Presentation of the idea (30 marks)

- Format/Style (10 marks)

2. Workshop on Research Training

After the shortlist, the selection committee will host the Workshop on Research Training which is designed in order to provide the shortlisted teams with the knowledge of the guidelines of research paper writing, research skills and presentation skills. The shortlisted teams and relevant faculty members are invited to the workshop. The workshop will be held within a week after the shortlist result is released.

3. Research Proposal Submission

Each team is required to submit a research proposal within 30 days after the training. The research paper must:

- be type-written in English
- be within the length of five pages, not including appendices (bibliography, graphs, photographs, or other supplementary materials)
- be written in single space with A4 –size paper
- be the original work of the contestant

The research proposal must be submitted in MS word format via src2015@num.edu.kh . The candidates have to write “Student Research Competition” in the subject of their emails. The selection committee will select only the 10 best research proposals based on the *selection criteria*. The 10 finalists are required to present their research proposal in the student academic conference hosted by a university. The 10-finalist results will be released within two weeks after the submission date. The 10-finalist results will be informed through direct calling to the finalists and posting on Facebook page. The proposals of the 10 finalists will be posted on a website in order to get the online vote from the public.

Selection Criteria for Research Proposal

The selection committee will evaluate:

- Clarity of the research objective (10 marks)
- Soundness of the methodology (20 marks)
- Criticality of literature review (20 marks)
- Expected outcome of the research (10 marks)
- Practical application of the research outcome (10 marks)
- Citation and referencing (10 marks)
- English proficiency (10 marks)
- Format/Style (10 marks)

4. Academic Research Proposal Presentation Conference

The Academic Research Proposal Conference will be arranged within 10 days after the 10-finalist results are released. The 10 teams are required to do oral presentations to audiences and final jurors. Each team will have five (5) minutes to set up their computer for the Power Point Presentation, ten (10) minutes for the oral presentation, and five (5) minutes to respond to the questions from juror and audience. The jurors will give scores to each team based on *selection criteria*. The three teams obtaining the highest overall scores are the winners of the proposal competition. The 10 teams are required to submit presentation slides to the committee at least 5 days before the date of the conference.

Selection Criteria for Research Proposal Presentation

The jurors will evaluate:

- Ability to articulate the proposal (30 marks)
- Organization of the presentation (10 marks)
- Ability to respond to questions/comments from the committee and audience (10 marks)

B. Research Full Paper Competition

1. Research Full Paper Submission

The top-10 teams (10 proposal finalists) of the proposal competition are required to submit a full research paper within 3 months after the date of academic research conference. The research paper must:

- be type-written in English
- be within the length of 15 pages, not including appendices (bibliography, graphs, photographs, or other supplementary materials)
- be type-written in single space with A4 –size paper
- be the original work of the contestant

The research paper must be submitted in MS word format via src2015@num.edu.kh . The 10 finalist candidates have to write “Student Research Competition” in the subject of their emails. The selection committee will select only 5 best papers based on the *selection criteria*. The results of the 5-finalists will be announced within 2 weeks after the submission date. They are required to present their research findings in the student academic conference hosted by a university. The research paper of 5 finalists will be posted on a website in order to get the online vote from the public.

Selection Criteria for Research Full Paper

The selection committee will evaluate:

- Clarity of the research objective (10 marks)
- Soundness of the methodology (20 marks)
- Criticality of literature review (20 marks)
- Analysis and interpretation of research results (10 marks)
- Practical application of the research results (10 marks)
- Citation and referencing (10 marks)

- English proficiency (10 marks)
- Format/Style (10 marks)

2. Academic Research Full Paper Presentation Conference

The Academic Research Conference will be arranged within 10 days after the 5-finalist results are released. The 5 teams are required to do oral presentations to audiences and final jurors. Each team will have five (5) minutes to set up their computer for the Power Point Presentation, ten (10) minutes for the oral presentation, and five (5) minutes to respond to the questions from juror and audience. The jurors will give scores to each team based on the *selection criteria*. The team obtaining the highest overall score is the winner of the competition. The 5 teams are required to design posters for their own team and submit presentation slides to the committee at least 5 days before the date of the conference.

Selection Criteria for Full Paper Presentation

The jurors will evaluate:

- Ability to articulate the paper (20 marks)
- Organization of the presentation (10 marks)
- Ability to respond to questions/comments from the committee and audience (10 marks)
- Poster (Organization: 4 marks; Substance: 6 marks)

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