



Brief to Applicants for the CCCS Research Grant 2021

Topic

1. The Competition and Consumer Commission of Singapore (“**CCCS**”) has launched a research grant on the topic of “Sustainability, Competition and Consumer Protection in Singapore” (the “**Grant**”). Areas of research may include:¹
 - (i) quantifying environmental benefits of business collaborations that may harm competition;
 - (ii) the empirical impact of misleading sustainability claims (i.e. greenwashing) on consumers and competition; and
 - (iii) evaluating the merits of the right to repair movement by weighing sustainability, competition and consumer choice against safety, quality and intellectual property considerations.

Eligibility

2. The Grant is open to all, including academics worldwide.

Award of Grant

3. The successful applicant will receive a total of S\$50,000 in funding for his/her research project.
4. The successful applicant will be notified via email before the end of **February 2022** upon completion of the evaluation process by the CCCS.
5. 30% of the awarded Grant will be paid upon signing of the letter of offer, 30% will be paid upon submission of the interim draft research paper and the remaining 40% of the Grant will be paid upon successful completion of the research paper and acceptable delivery of output of the research.

Application Deadline

6. All applicants are required to complete the CCCS Research Grant Proposal Application Form (the “**Application Form**”) and submit the application by **5pm Singapore time, 17 December 2021**. Late submissions received after the deadline and/or incomplete submissions will not be accepted. Please refer to the section on “Application Guidelines” for more information.

¹ Other areas of research may include broader policy issues associated with sustainability considerations such as whether there is any potential conflict between competition and sustainability goals.

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7. The completed Application Form, and all supporting documents (in Microsoft Word or pdf format) must be submitted electronically to the following email address: cccs_research_grant@cccs.gov.sg. Please ensure that all the relevant materials are submitted together in one zip folder, and the folder is named as: FirstName_LastName_2021.zip.

Application Guidelines

8. All research proposals and papers must be in English.
9. The research proposals must meet the following conditions:
- (i) It must be the original work of the applicant(s);
 - (ii) The proposed research must be for genuinely new work²;
 - (iii) The proposed research has not been published in any manner;
 - (iv) The proposed research has not been presented on any platform prior to application for the Grant; and
 - (v) The proposed research has not and will not receive funding from other sources.
10. All research proposals will undergo a review process and will be assessed by the CCCS based on (i) the relevance and significance of the proposal to competition and/or consumer protection in the Singapore context; (ii) the content of the proposal; (iii) the research approach and/or methodology and (iv) the researcher's relevant expertise and track record. Further details on the evaluation framework is provided in the section on "Assessment Criteria".
11. Decisions made by the CCCS shall be final. The CCCS reserves the right not to award the grant to any of the research proposals.
12. Enquires on the Grant should be sent to cccs_research_grant@cccs.gov.sg.

Assessment Criteria

13. All research proposals will be evaluated by the CCCS based on the following criteria:

S/N	Evaluation Criteria
1	The relevance and significance of the proposal to competition and/or consumer protection in the Singapore context <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Background and importance of the proposal• Relevance to competition and/or consumer protection• Potential impact on Singapore
2	The content of the proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Originality of the proposal• Value-add of the proposal to existing literature

² CCCS will not consider proposals of completed or nearly completed work.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Empirical or other analytical contribution
3	Research approach and/or methodology <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aim and objective of the research approach• Robustness and strength of the methodology• Feasibility of methodology
4	The researcher's relevant expertise and track record <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Track record, credentials• Relevance of area of expertise• Publication or past projects (if any)

Deliverables and Interim Update to the CCCS

14. The applicant will need to provide **measurable and suitable deliverables** associated with the research project as part of the application. The finalised deliverables will be agreed upon between CCCS and the successful applicant, and the successful applicant shall deliver the deliverables within the timeframes stipulated therein.

15. The successful applicant will be required to provide one **interim update** to the CCCS on the progress of the research project at an appropriate interval before submitting an **interim draft research paper**. The interim update will inform CCCS on the work conducted on the research project up to that point in time, any obstacles faced, and the expected progress on the research project going forward. The interim draft research paper will include the following aspects of the research paper: aim and objectives; literature review; research methodology; current progress (incl. preliminary empirical findings and evaluation of those findings); any preliminary recommendations or policy implications.

16. The research project will need to be completed within **1 year** from the date of the letter of award to the successful applicant and CCCS reserves the right to forfeit the remaining 40% of the Grant in the event that the research paper is not submitted on time or not deemed to be acceptable by the CCCS.

17. The successful applicant retains the right to submit his/her research paper for publication in academic journals and/or any other platforms. However, by his/her acceptance of the Grant, the successful applicant will agree to allow the CCCS to publish the research paper on the CCCS's website or any other suitable forum. The successful applicant may also be invited by the CCCS to present his/her research findings at relevant platforms. The successful applicant is expected to acknowledge CCCS's funding in his/her research paper.