

# GOOD DESIGN RESEARCH



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## Factsheet April 2026

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### 1. What is Good Design Research (GDR)?

GDR is an initiative by the DesignSingapore Council (Dsg) that supports both design and non-design organisations in developing unique value propositions to seize new opportunities in emerging global trends, through practice-based applied research so as to gain a competitive edge.

As part of the GDR initiative, a grant amount of up to SGD \$50,000 is awarded to successful applicants to support actual qualifying project costs on a co-funding basis.

### 2. Who can apply for GDR?

To be eligible for the GDR grant, design and non-design organisations must meet the following criteria:

- i) Be incorporated in Singapore for three years or more at the time of application registered and operating in Singapore
- ii) Either have in-house design research capabilities, or are prepared to procure design research services

### 3. How does GDR work?

#### a. What are the qualifying costs and support rates?

The GDR grant scheme supports actual qualifying project costs on a co-funding basis, **capped at SGD \$50,000.**

The grant amount claimable is based on actual qualifying costs incurred during the project.

The qualifying costs are:

- i) Material costs: Materials required for research and/or development of validated Proof of Concept.
- ii) Third party costs: Costs incurred in engaging professional services to conduct research, develop, and document the validated Proof of Concept.
- iii) External venue rental costs incurred in direct relation to the project.
- iv) Specialised equipment and software costs: Costs incurred in purchasing equipment and software to develop the validated Proof of Concept\*.
- v) Internal manpower costs: Basic monthly salaries of qualifying personnel\*\*.

In addition to the above, the scheme subsidises an **audit fee based on actual expenditure, capped at SGD \$500 per application.**

\* This excludes generic equipment such as laptops and tablets.

\*\* Internal manpower costs are capped at the lower of (i) 20% of the total grant quantum, or (ii) a 70% support rate. Qualifying personnel include employees directly working on the Project, undergraduate and post-graduate students from local Institutes of Higher Learning whose salaries are paid by the Grant recipient and are directly working on the Project, and secondees from related parties or public research institutes whose salaries are paid by the Grant recipient and are directly working on the project.

Applicants must provide an itemised breakdown of the full project cost.

Dsg reserves the right to determine if the activities and corresponding cost items submitted are eligible for funding.

#### b. What conditions will I be held to?

To qualify for the grant, the applicant shall fulfill the following conditions:

- i) Carry out and complete the research project.

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- ii) Conduct a mid-point presentation and submit all mid-point presentation materials on the research area(s).
- iii) Develop the project's Proof of Concept and validate the Proof of Concept with the targeted end user(s).
- iv) Conduct a final presentation and submit all final presentation materials on the Proof of Concept.
- v) Submit a Project report.
- vi) Submit an external audit report.
- vii) At the discretion of Dsg, accede to requests for assets (images, write-ups, quotes, content etc) and participation in media activities (interviews, events etc) for the purposes of promoting GDR.

Note: Dsg has sole and absolute discretion in determining when the above conditions have been satisfactorily fulfilled. Awarded applicants will own all necessary rights including intellectual property and licenses.

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## 4. What are the assessment criteria for GDR?

Dsg will make an award or no-award decision based on an assessment of the applicant's project as detailed in the GDR application form. The criteria for assessment are as follows:

Categories	Evaluation Criteria
<b>Clarity of Research Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal demonstrates clear research statement.</li><li>• Good understanding of problem context.</li></ul>
<b>Strength of Research Method</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal incorporates human-centred methodologies with plans to validate Proof of concept.</li><li>• Robust ecosystem thinking.</li></ul>
<b>Commitment Towards Continuity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal demonstrates commitment in next steps after Proof of Concept completion.</li><li>• Potential to scale beyond immediate beneficiaries.</li></ul>
<b>Potential Positive Impact</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Project outcomes carry potential to generate positive impact on People, Planet and Profit in an interconnected manner. These three Ps are known as the triple bottom line of a healthy, sustainable business, where People refers to impact on society, Planet refers to impact on the environment and Profit refers to economic impact.</li></ul>
<b>Ethical Considerations</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Proposal has given thought to ensure a responsible implementation of both process and outcomes.</li></ul>

## 5. How will the funds be disbursed?

### a. 30% of approved grant quantum.

Upon the acceptance of the GDR grant and submission of the following items by the successful applicant:

- i) Updated project proposal (if any).
- ii) Signed Letter of Award.
- iii) Advance Request Form: This form enables Dsg to disburse grant monies prior to the completion of the GDR project.
- iv) Direct Credit Authorisation Form: This form is signed by the applicant's bank to verify the applicant's bank account.

### b. Remaining 70% of actual qualifying costs, capped at the approved grant quantum, with an additional SGD \$500 subsidy for audit fees.

Upon successful completion of the development of the Proof of Concept that is approved by Dsg and submission of the following items by the successful applicant:

- i) Final Claim Form: This form consists of all actual expenditure spent by the successful applicant for the GDR project.
- ii) Practitioner's Report: This report template is submitted by the Auditor upon completion of the GDR project.
- iii) Final Project Report.

## 6. How do I apply?

You may apply for the grant at any time, at the following [link](#).

You will receive a notification of eligibility in about 2 weeks from the date of application, and the results of the application within 3 months.

For further enquiries regarding the Good Design Research initiative, please write to [goodesignresearch@designsingapore.org](mailto:goodesignresearch@designsingapore.org).