

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Student Research Grant Programme 2026

A Joint Initiative of Khulna University and Terre des hommes (Tdh) Bangladesh

Application Deadline: 13 August 2026

1.1 Background

Khulna University (KU), in collaboration with Terre des hommes (Tdh) Bangladesh, is pleased to announce the Student Research Grant Programme 2026 under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two institutions.

The programme forms an integral component of the forthcoming National Conference on Climate Resilience, Child Rights and Participation: Evidence, Policy and Practice, scheduled to be held at Khulna University in December 2026.

The programme aims to encourage postgraduate students to undertake original empirical research addressing critical challenges affecting children, youth and climate-vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. Selected researchers will receive financial support to conduct their studies and present their findings at the national conference.

1.2 Objectives

The Student Research Grant Programme aims to:

- Support original empirical research by postgraduate students.
- Generate evidence to inform policy and practice on child rights and climate resilience.
- Strengthen research capacity among young researchers.
- Promote collaboration between academia and development practitioners.
- Provide opportunities for students to disseminate research findings at a national conference.

1.3 Thematic Framework

Applicants must align their proposals with one of the following five themes. Proposals will be evaluated on how effectively they address the defined scope and provide strategic rationale for the December 2026 conference.

Theme	Scope and Strategic Rationale	Possible Areas of Study
1. Children, Youth & Climate Migration	Scope: Drivers and patterns of displacement; protection risks in transit/destination; access to services; community coping strategies. Rationale: Prioritized to understand the demographic shifts and protection gaps facing the next generation of migrants.	• Climate-induced displacement patterns • Child protection during transit • Access to health/education for migrants • Migration governance and policy frameworks

Theme	Scope and Strategic Rationale	Possible Areas of Study
2. Child Health & Nutrition	Scope: Impacts of environmental degradation and saline intrusion; service delivery gaps; community health behaviors; direct links to child stunting and wasting. Rationale: Essential for addressing the long-term developmental impacts of climate change on child physiology.	• Salinity impacts on maternal/child health • Food security in climate-vulnerable zones • Public health service delivery gaps • Climate shocks and nutritional outcomes (stunting/wasting)
3. Water, Sanitation & Hygiene (WASH)	Scope: Safe water access in saline-affected areas; infrastructure in schools/communities; behavior change; resilient systems; menstrual hygiene in displacement. Rationale: Focused on infrastructure durability and behavioral sustainability in fluctuating environments.	• Climate-resilient WASH infrastructure • Menstrual hygiene in displacement settings • School-based sanitation solutions • Behavior change communication for safe water
4. Youth Participation & Sports for Development	Scope: Youth leadership and peer education; innovative models like "Sports for Protection" to enhance agency and resilience in vulnerable settings. Rationale: Seeks to move beyond passive aid to active youth-led resilience models.	• Youth leadership in community resilience • Sports-based protection and agency models • Volunteerism and community engagement • Peer education for climate awareness
5. Early Warning, DRR & Anticipatory Action	Scope: Child/youth-led early warning; forecast-based monitoring; school safety; links between DRR and child protection; lessons from recent cyclone responses in coastal Bangladesh. Rationale: Analyzes existing response systems to optimize child-centric disaster preparedness.	• Community-based early warning systems • Child-centred disaster preparedness • School safety and emergency frameworks • Lessons from recent coastal cyclone responses

1.4 Eligibility and Financial Parameters

Eligibility Checklist:

- Currently enrolled in a Master's programme at Khulna University.
- Submission of only one proposal (as an individual or part of a team).
- All team members must be enrolled students of Khulna University.
- Every proposal must be endorsed by a Khulna University faculty supervisor.
- Requirement: Research must involve original primary data collection.

Financial Parameters:

- Maximum Grant Amount: BDT 20,000 per proposal (Total of five grants to be awarded).
- Institutional Synergy: As a "seed grant," students are expected to leverage Khulna University's in-kind resources (supervision time, labs, and libraries) to maximize the grant's impact on field activities.

Allowable Expenses:

- Fieldwork and travel costs.
- Primary data collection expenses (e.g., surveyor fees, focus group costs).
- Printing and communication.
- Direct research-related supplies.

1.5 Submission and Selection Timeline

- 19 July 2026: Official Call for Proposals issued.
- 13 August 2026: Deadline for proposal submission.
- 25 August 2026: Announcement of results.
- 27 August 2026: Official Grant Award.
- September–October 2026: Research implementation and primary data collection.
- Early November 2026: Submission of Draft Report.
- Mid-November 2026: Submission of Final Research Report.
- December 2026: Presentation of findings at the National Conference.

1.6 Contact and Administrative Details

Please collect all essential documents (research grant application form and template of research proposal) from the following link or email to director@io.ku.ac.bd
<https://io.ku.ac.bd/>

All submissions must be in English and electronic submissions must be sent to the Office of International Affairs, Khulna University.

Email: director@io.ku.ac.bd

Subject Line: Student Research Grant Programme 2026_Proposal Submission