



## International Center for Refugee and Migration Studies (ICRMS) Call for Proposals 2026

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### Introduction

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The International Center for Refugees and Migration Studies (ICRMS), founded in 2017 with the support of UNHCR, stands as a beacon of commitment to addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by displaced populations. Nestled within the esteemed BUIITEMS, a premier academic institution in Balochistan, ICRMS is a dedicated research and policy center. Our establishment was made possible through a strategic collaboration with UNHCR, with a shared goal of leveraging each other's strengths to build a comprehensive resource base for knowledge and expertise on migration and displacement issues.

In its relatively short history, ICRMS has emerged as a dynamic force, undertaking endeavors aimed at reshaping the discourse on migration. The Center engages in a multitude of activities, focusing on building the capacity of the Afghan refugee population through research initiatives, public lectures, and awareness campaigns. This collaborative effort seeks to address critical challenges faced by refugees in Pakistan, encompassing identity crises, limited educational opportunities, social intolerance, and the imperative need for capacity building.

ICRMS envisions a world where the rights and well-being of refugees and migrants are safeguarded, aligning closely with the principles and priorities outlined by UNHCR. Our mission is rooted in generating interdisciplinary, collaborative, and policy-relevant research on human mobility. This research spans the local, regional, and global levels, aiming to understand how social, political, and economic landscapes shape and reshape patterns of human migration.

### ICRMS INITIATIVES

At the heart of ICRMS's objectives is the commitment to produce actionable research that revisits and reshapes policies. By doing so, we empower policy practitioners to make well informed decisions, fostering inclusive policies that bridge gaps between host and refugee communities. Advocacy and capacity-building initiatives are integral components of our work, enhancing the resilience of refugee communities and promoting social cohesion.

In essence, ICRMS serves as a repository of information on refugees, migrants, and internally displaced persons (IDPs). Through our activities, including research, public talks, advocacy, and capacity building, we contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by displaced populations, facilitating informed and compassionate responses.

### ANNUAL RESEARCH AWARDS 2026

As part of our ongoing commitment, ICRMS is pleased to announce the Call for Proposals for ICRMS Research Grants for the year 2026, inviting scholars and researchers to contribute to



our shared vision of a world where the rights and dignity of every individual, regardless of their migration status, are upheld and protected through production of primary research and policy recommendations. There is total 03 research grants, and each is valued at 0.4 million PKR.

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### Grant Description and Eligibility Criteria

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#### ICRMS Research Grants

ICRMS Research Grants targets academics and experts holding a Ph.D., with at least 5 publications (relevant to the themes/topics) in W, X or Y categories of Higher Education Commission (HEC) recognized journals respectively. The research grant category is aimed at seasoned researchers, emphasizing the importance of their contributions to the field. The selected candidates will receive a grant of 0.4 million PKR.

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#### Research Themes and Areas:

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1. Non-Refoulement, Legal Status, and Protection Gaps: Examining Pakistan's Compliance with International and National Refugee Law in the Context of Afghan Refugees.
2. Legal Stay, Documentation Reform, and Protection Risks for Vulnerable Afghan Refugees under IFRP Phase-III in Pakistan.
3. Forced Return of Afghan Refugees and Its Socio-Economic Consequences: Labour Shortages and Structural Impacts on Pakistan's Economy.

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#### Publication

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ICRMS projects are expected to result in a research project report, and paper published in the International Journal of Refugee, Minority, and Gender Studies, which is affiliated with ICRMS.



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### Copy Right

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Additionally, the copyright for the selected projects will belong to ICRMS-UNHCR, and the work cannot be published or submitted elsewhere. The funding will be released in three tranches, contingent upon the completion of specific deliverables and project milestones outlined in the ICRMS research award and financial proposal guideline submission requirements (Annexure-I).

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### Phases of Research and Expected Deliverables:

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#### **Phase 1: Proposal Presentation (shortlisted applicants)**

1. Preparation of Short Research Project Description (One Pager)
2. Presentation of Proposal in Defense

#### **Phase 2: Preparatory Phase Tasks and Expected Deliverables (April 15- April 17, 2025):**

1. Signing of Contract with ICRMS
  - Submission of Updated CV and a 100-word Biography
  - Attested Copies of Academic Documents and Bank Account Details

#### **Phase 3: Proposal Refinement and Approval Tasks and Expected Deliverables (April 20-23, 2026):**

1. Revision of Proposal based on Evaluators' Feedback and Key Performance Indicators
  - Revised Proposal Incorporating Evaluators' Feedback and Key Performance Indicators.
  - Development of Research Activity Timeline and Milestones

#### **Phase 4: Research Execution Tasks and Expected Deliverables (02 June – December 11, 2026):**

1. Submission of 1st Progress and Financial Report for Release of **First Tranche** of Funding (June 02, 2025)
2. Submission of 2nd Progress and Financial Report and Field Data for Release of **Second Tranche** (September 15, 2026)
3. Revision of Final Draft Incorporating Evaluators' Feedback, (October 30, 2026)
4. Presenting the Research Findings at the Symposium organized by ICRMS (November 17, 2026)
5. Submission of Paper following ICRMS' Journal (IJRMGS) Guidelines (December 15, 2026)



## **Phase 5: Reporting and Documentation Tasks and Expected Deliverables (December 22, 2026):**

1. Creation of 2-5 Minute Video Documentary of the Research Project
2. Preparation of Research Budget Utilization Report
3. Submission of Final Research and Financial Report in Hard Form for Release of Third Tranche of Funding
  - Final Research Report
  - 2-5 Minute Video Documentary
  - Research Budget Utilization or financial Report Submission is Compulsory for the Release of the **Final Third Tranche** (*see the Financial Proposal Guidelines for ICRMS Research Award Annexure 1*)
  - Submission of Final Research Report in Hard Form

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### Selection Process

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#### **1. Call for Proposals Announcement:**

- ICRMS issues a formal Call for Proposals, inviting scholars and researchers to submit their research proposals based on the specified thematic areas and eligibility criteria.

#### **2. Proposal Submission:**

- Interested applicants submit their research proposals, along with required documents such as CVs, workplan, timeline, and research proposal, to the designated submission portal.

#### **3. Initial Screening:**

- The submitted proposals undergo an initial screening process to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and adhere to the specified format by the relevant ICRMS staff.

#### **4. UNHCR Screening:**

- The initial shortlisted proposals are sent to UNHCR and ICRMS evaluators for further screening and those aligned with institutional mandate and research novelty are nominated for proposal defense.

#### **5. Proposal Defense:**

- Applicants fulfilling eligibility criteria and nominated by evaluators are invited to defend their proposals in front of the expert review panel, comprising representatives from ICRMS, UNHCR, and academic evaluators who will



assess and shortlist research proposals based on the presentations delivered during the Research Proposal Defense. During the session, applicants present their research project, workplan, address panel members' queries, and provide additional clarifications.

**6. Final Selection:**

- Score sheets completed by the expert panel during the Proposal Defense session, along with those filled by the ICRMS evaluators, will be compiled and aggregated to determine the final list of shortlisted candidates based on the highest scores.

**7. Notification of Results:**

- Selected applicants are notified of their successful selection and provided with detailed instructions regarding the next steps, including the signing of contracts, submission of additional documents, and commencement of the research project.

**8. Publication of Results:**

- ICRMS announces the selected research projects publicly and publishes the list of selected applicants on its official website.

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Submission Deadline

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April 9, 2026