RESEARCHERS & INNOVATORS GUIDEBOOK

Developed by The Research, Development and Innovation Authority (RDIA)
October 2024

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Introduction

Saudi Arabia has set ambitious goals to become a global leader in Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) over the next 20 years, in alignment with its transformative Vision 2030.

The Kingdom seeks to significantly increase RDI investment, enhance the sector's contribution to GDP, attract top local and international researchers, and elevate its standing in global RDI rankings.

The guidebook provides an overview of the significant progress Saudi Arabia has made in the RDI sector, showcasing the Kingdom's journey toward becoming a global RDI hub. More importantly, it consolidates key information in one place, including national priorities, key stakeholders, beneficiaries, policies, guidelines, and available resources such as programs and grants. It serves as a strategic tool for guiding stakeholders and beneficiaries through the many opportunities within the RDI landscape, supporting the Kingdom's ambition to lead on the global stage.

At the core of the RDI ecosystem are government entities, academic institutions, and private sector organizations, all working together to drive the national agenda forward. While established researchers are the obvious beneficiary, the guidebook also supports a broader group, including students, aspiring researchers, innovators, and entrepreneurs. It is designed to enable these beneficiaries at various stages of their academic and professional journeys, research projects, and entrepreneurial ventures.

The Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) plays a pivotal role in coordinating and implementing the national RDI strategy. As the custodian of the strategy, RDIA ensures alignment among stakeholders and drives collaboration to advance the Kingdom's objectives in the RDI sector.

Although this guidebook provides a comprehensive overview, it is not exhaustive. Rather, it offers a foundation for stakeholders to explore the wide array of opportunities within Saudi Arabia's RDI sector, furthering the Kingdom's ambition to be at the forefront of global innovation.
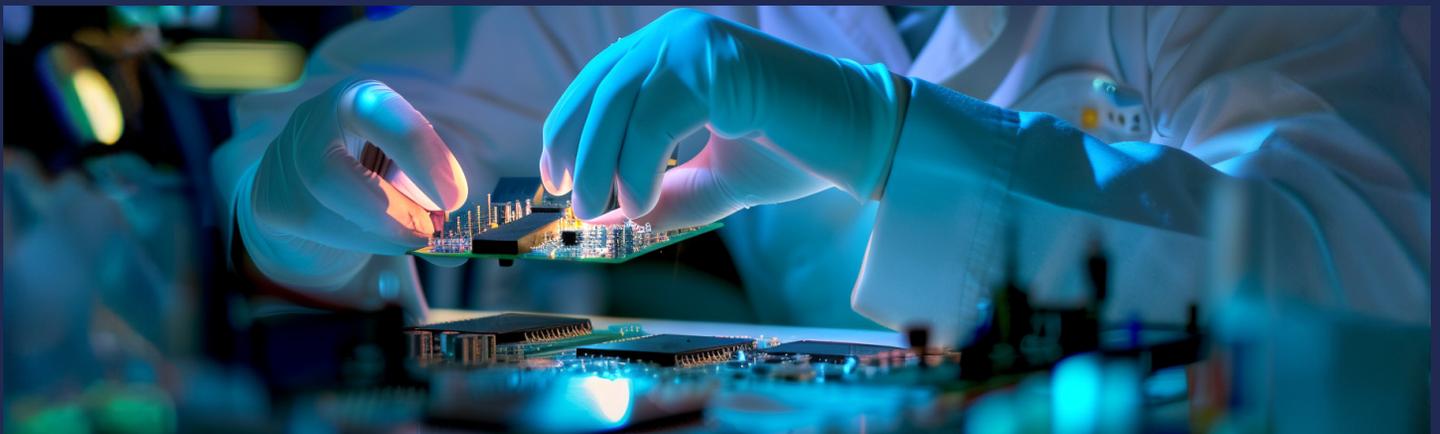
RDI Landscape in KSA

RDI Sector Overview

Recognizing the pivotal role of Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) as a catalyst for economic growth in leading nations, Saudi Arabia has made RDI a key priority within its Vision 2030. To spearhead these efforts, the Supreme Committee for Research, Development, and Innovation was established in March 2021, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince. The Supreme Committee is tasked with defining national RDI priorities and policies, setting budgetary ceilings, and overseeing their implementation.

In June 2021, the Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) was established to serve as the central body responsible for regulating and advancing RDI across the Kingdom. RDIA coordinates with research institutions, proposes policy initiatives, and provides funding to stimulate innovation across various sectors.

In 2022, His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, Prime Minister and Chairman of the Supreme Committee, announced the National Aspirations and Priorities for the RDI sector, with the aim of contributing 60 billion riyals (USD 16 billion) to Saudi Arabia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2040. The aspirations and priorities also outline plans for annual RDI investments equivalent to 2.5 percent of the Kingdom's GDP by 2040. Ambitious targets include the employment of 140,000 researchers by 2040 and the creation of approximately 360,000 jobs by 2050. This initiative seeks to create high-value jobs in science and technology and solidify Saudi Arabia's standing as the largest economy in the Arab world.
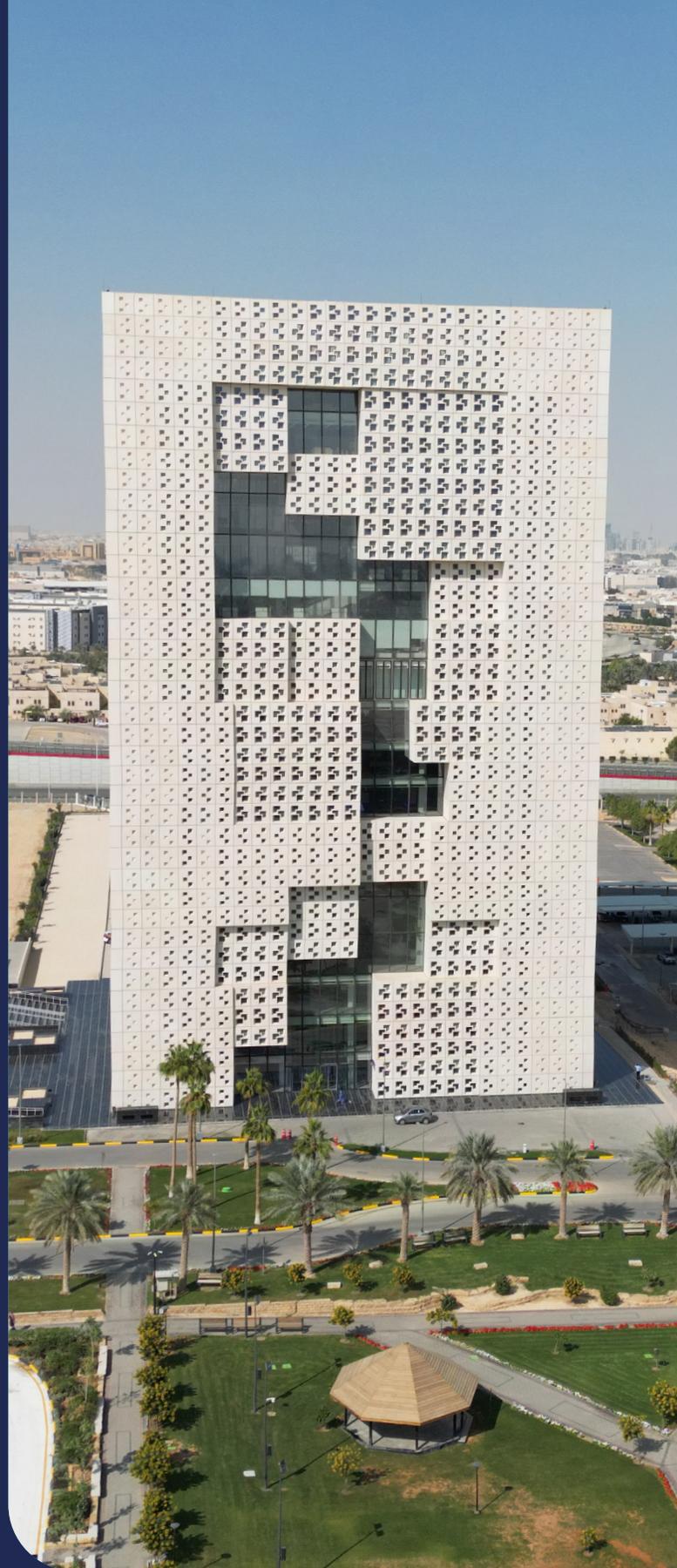
RDI Ecosystem Stakeholders

The success of Saudi Arabia's Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) sector relies on the active collaboration of key stakeholders, each playing a crucial role in advancing the national RDI agenda. Government entities, academic institutions, private sector organizations, and researchers work together to foster a dynamic and innovative ecosystem. This section outlines the significant contributions of these stakeholders and their collective impact on driving scientific, technological, and economic growth in line with the Kingdom's Vision 2030.

Government Entities

Academic Institutions

Private Sector Organizations

Researchers

Government Entities

Government entities play a foundational role in the success of the RDI ecosystem by setting the strategic direction and providing governance, regulation, and funding.

They are responsible for establishing policies that align with national objectives, and for creating incentives to drive innovation.

Through financial support, infrastructure development, and regulatory frameworks, government entities foster collaboration between various stakeholders, ensuring that the RDI sector thrives in a well-coordinated and supportive environment.

Academic Institutions

Academic institutions drive knowledge creation and talent development within the RDI ecosystem.

They provide the research infrastructure, skilled professionals, and innovative environments necessary to advance scientific discovery and technological development.

By training the next generation of researchers and fostering collaboration with industry and government, academic institutions contribute significantly to the growth and sustainability of Saudi Arabia's RDI sector, helping to bridge the gap between theoretical research and practical applications.

Private Sector Organizations

The private sector is integral to translating research into market-driven innovations that fuel economic growth.

Private sector organizations not only invest in RDI , but also collaborate with academic institutions and government entities to commercialize new technologies and solutions. Their role in fostering entrepreneurship, driving competitiveness, and accelerating innovation is vital for ensuring that RDI activities have a direct and meaningful impact on industry and society.

A strong private sector encourages the commercialization of research, driving innovation and contributing to national development.

Researchers

Researchers are at the heart of the RDI ecosystem, leading efforts in scientific discovery and innovation.

Whether affiliated with academic institutions, government bodies, or private organizations, they are responsible for advancing knowledge and solving critical challenges in science and technology.

Researchers play a key role in driving progress across various sectors, contributing to both the economic and societal development of Saudi Arabia. Their work forms the foundation of innovation, pushing the boundaries of what is possible and positioning the Kingdom as a leader in RDI.

RDI Strategy

In alignment with Vision 2030, the Supreme Committee for Research, Development, and Innovation, chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, has identified four national priority are: Health & Wellness, Sustainable & Essential Needs, Energy & Industrial, and Economies of the Future.

These priorities are vital for addressing the Kingdom's most pressing challenges and ensuring a sustainable future for generations to come. They will serve as a strategic compass for guiding future RDI projects and initiatives. To advance these focus areas, a mission-oriented approach has been adopted as the optimal pathway. Under each priority, several missions will be launched with specific objectives to be achieved. The following pages contain a brief overview of each priority and the missions that have been launched to date.

National Priority 1
Health & Wellness

Health and wellness is perhaps the foremost national priority, aligning with the vision of the Kingdom in placing human well-being above all, given the Kingdom's advanced medical research infrastructure, its leading healthcare system in the region, and its extensive genetic database, among other competitive advantages. Through this priority, the Kingdom aims to improve public health and well-being by addressing prevalent medical challenges, ensuring health equity through digital healthcare, and providing biotech solutions to the global market.

Missions Launched:

- Reduce prevalence of non-communicable diseases by 50% through prevention, better management, and treatment by 2035.

- Reduce incidence of infectious diseases significant to KSA by 50% by 2035.

National Priority 2
Sustainable & Essential Needs

Saudi Arabia aims to be positioned as a global leader in sustainability and the provision of essential needs, such as water, food, and sustainable energy. Key initiatives include the development of environmentally friendly water and desalination technologies, modern and sustainable food production methods, expansion of green spaces, carbon capture and storage technologies, and the generation of low-cost electricity through sustainable means.

Missions Launched:

- Develop technology for sustainable and resilient food systems to achieve more than 50% self-sufficiency by 2040.

- Decrease the withdrawal of non-renewable water by 90% and the cost of water production by 50% by 2035.

National Priority 3
Energy & Industrial

Energy and Industrial is a crucial priority, leveraging the Kingdom's natural resources and competitive advantages in these sectors. The goal is to develop alternative energy technologies, such as green hydrogen, solar, and wind power. In addition, Saudi Arabia aims to advance high-tech, high-value industries, promote the sustainable and competitive development of the mining sector, and secure a leadership position in the global energy and industrial landscape.

Missions Launched:

- Develop cost-effective technologies to achieve 80-85% conversion of crude oil to chemicals by 2030.

- Achieve net-zero emissions by 2060.

National Priority 4
Economies of the Future

The Economies of the Future priority leverages KSA's competitive advantages and leadership in innovation. Through investments in visionary projects like NEOM and the Red Sea Project, and with the support of a talented pool of young Saudi innovators and cutting-edge digital infrastructure, this priority aims to foster breakthroughs in digital technologies, reimagine urban living with human-friendly, carbon-neutral cognitive cities, explore deep-sea opportunities, and establish the Kingdom as a global leader in space exploration.

Missions Launched:

- Going beyond Smart Cities, to establish 5 Cognitive Cities in KSA by 2040.

- Create a safe AI that learns and realizes autonomous work by 2050.

- Develop a programmable fault-tolerant quantum computer by 2040.

These national priorities highlight Saudi Arabia's unwavering commitment to sustainable development, technological innovation, and tackling global challenges. By maintaining a strategic focus and making continuous investments in RDI, the Kingdom aims to secure a prosperous future for its citizens while contributing to the advancement and well-being of humanity.

RDIA Mandate

The Research, Development, and Innovation Authority (RDIA) plays a pivotal role as the custodian of Saudi Arabia's RDI sector. To manage the national priorities and oversee the execution of the associated missions, RDIA is empowered to set objectives, select flagship projects, and develop strategic plans, while fostering collaboration among nationally and internationally stakeholders. A key component of RDIA's approach is the integration of academia with the private sector, start-ups, and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). By facilitating collaboration and knowledge exchange across these entities, RDIA aims to unlock innovative potential, stimulate economic growth, and ensure a sustainable future.

RDIA fulfills four key roles:

Role 1
Activate Ecosystem

RDIA activates the RDI ecosystem by driving the growth of human capital, developing infrastructure, promoting investment, and fostering commercialization. RDIA also monitors progress toward RDI objectives, adjusting activation requirements as needed, and informs national strategy updates based on these efforts.

Role 2
Administer & Disburse

RDIA oversees the administration and disbursement of funding by leading grant management processes, advising the Ministry of Finance and Vision Realization Programs on public sector spending for RDI activities, and distributing RDI initiative funds to private sector participants.

Role 3
Drive Missions

RDIA drives the execution of missions by guiding mission owners, enabling key initiatives, approving delivery plans, managing contracts, allocating funds for major expenditures, and monitoring mission progress. RDIA reports mission updates to the RDI Supreme Committee to ensure alignment with strategic goals.

Role 4
Steer RDI Nationally

RDIA steers the national RDI agenda by setting and continuously updating the national RDI strategy, providing insights to inform policymaking, proposing regulations, and establishing standards. Additionally, RDIA monitors the performance of key metrics and reports findings to the RDI Supreme Committee and the Center of Government.

Enabling Policies & Guidelines

The Guidebook outlines the national priorities and governance framework defined by the RDI strategy. It also emphasizes RDIA's role as custodian, ensuring the strategy's implementation and fostering collaboration among all stakeholders, including government entities, academic institutions, private sector organizations, and researchers. A key instrument supporting these stakeholders is the development and dissemination of policies and guidelines that address specific topics, processes, and standards.

This section provides an overview of three key enabling policies and guidelines:

Research Ethics & Scientific Integrity

Open Access to Government Funded Research Infrastructure

Technology Transfer Process

Research Ethics & Scientific Integrity

RDIA places great emphasis on adhering to the rules of research ethics and scientific integrity in the research and projects it oversees or funds. This commitment enhances the quality of research outputs and protects the rights of researchers. Furthermore, ensuring integrity in research and publications originating from KSA positively impacts its global reputation in the scientific community and plays a role in improving its standing in international rankings. RDIA follows a defined process across three levels to enforce these rules:

Level 1: Organizational Level

RDIA has approved a "Regulation for Research Grants Funded by RDIA" to govern the funding process and ensure the effective utilization of grants and support provided in a manner that aligns with national priorities and global leading practices.This regulation outlines the responsibilities of researchers regarding scientific integrity in their proposals, and specifically requires them to comply with the following:

- Examining the scientific integrity of submitted proposals.
- Complying with intellectual property laws and RDIA's guidelines on scientific integrity.

Additionally, RDIA has also established a "Grant Monitoring and Compliance" department, tasked with ensuring adherence to these regulations, and providing recommendations on whether grants should be renewed or discontinued based on compliance.

For more information

Level 2: Contractual Level

At this stage, for each research grant, a contract is signed between RDIA, the research institution, and the principal researcher, outlining the following responsibilities:

- Adherence to all laws, regulations, and guidelines stipulated in the "Regulation for Research Grants Funded by RDIA".
- Observance of scientific integrity and intellectual property protection.

- Confirmation that the research is original and has not been previously published.

Level 3: Procedural Level

RDIA follows a two-stage process to ensure scientific integrity for the grants it provides:

- **Pre-funding stage:** Research institutions and researchers are required to verify the integrity of their research proposals. This verification is a precondition for funding approval.

- **Pre-publication stage**: Before any research results can be published, RDIA requires prior approval from the R&D Unit within the research institution. This unit is responsible for ensuring compliance with RDIA's guidelines and verifying that the citation levels in the research meet the required standards.

By maintaining rigorous oversight at these three levels, RDIA ensures that research conducted under its funding meets the highest standards of ethics and integrity, contributing to KSA's growth and reputation in global research and innovation. For specific research conducted on living organisms, researchers are required to adhere to additional regulations set by the "Law of Ethics of Research on Living Things" approved in Royal Decree No. M/59 dated August 24, 2010. This Law aims at setting the general principles and controls necessary for dealing with living things, parts thereof or their genetic material in research, It also considers applicable Sharia.

For more information

Open Access to Government-Funded Research Infrastructure

Saudi Arabia has set bold ambitions to become a global leader in Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) over the next 20 years. In this context, robust research infrastructure is a critical enabler of RDI, with access to it being essential for driving innovation, achieving scientific excellence, and generating socio-economic impact.

Over the past decades, KSA has invested significantly in research infrastructure managed by host organizations like higher education institutions or research organizations. However, access to this infrastructure is not optimal. To address this, a policy document was introduced in 2023 on "Open Access to Government-Funded Research Infrastructure". This policy sets out national principles to be used as a reference by all host organizations in KSA and external users seeking access. It also aims to help achieve the following objectives:

- Facilitate RDI players access to government-funded research infrastructure.

- Optimize use of existing government-funded research infrastructure.

- Enhance efficiency of government spending on research infrastructure.

- Maximize return on investment in government-funded research infrastructure.

- Promote open innovation, reducing RDI ecosystem fragmentation.

- Attract top national and international researchers and scientists.

- Harmonize guidelines on open access to government-funded research infrastructure across the Kingdom.

For more information

Additionally, RDIA has launched the National Open Access Research Infrastructure Gate. This platform connects researchers and innovators with the available research infrastructure in KSA. They can explore the laboratories and services available at the host organizations and send access requests.

For more information

Technology Transfer Process

Technology Transfer (TT) is defined as the process of commercializing research outputs from universities and research centers. This process involves identifying, protecting, and promoting these outputs to businesses for further development into products and services. Technology Transfer is crucial for enhancing social welfare, promoting economic growth, and facilitating the exchange of knowledge and skills between organizations. Technology Transfer Offices (TTOs) serve as the bridge between academic research and commercial application, playing a vital role in protecting intellectual property, facilitating collaborations, and ensuring that innovations reach the market effectively.

Once a company expresses interest in a technology, a TTO facilitates an introduction between the inventors and the company. This crucial step allows the company to delve deeper into the Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of the innovation. TRL is a framework used to assess the maturity of a particular technology as it progresses from concept to market readiness. It was originally developed by NASA and is now widely used across various industries to evaluate the development stage of a technology. The TRL scale consists of nine levels, each representing a different stage of technological development. Saudi Arabia's RDI Strategy seeks to drive the TRL of each key technology to level 5 or 6 (out of 9).

In 2023, RDIA developed "A National Guideline for Technology Transfer Offices in Saudi Arabia". This guideline serves as a blueprint to provide guidance on the best practices for technology transfer. It is not intended to be a comprehensive or definitive answer to all questions related to technology transfer activities. Rather, it is a starting point for KSA universities and research centers wishing to establish TTOs and for existing TTOs looking to improve their knowledge of best practices. The blueprint is divided into three sections:

Section 1:

Defines technology transfer, TTOs, and Intellectual Property (IP), and details their importance in the innovation journey. This section provides context by giving examples of a TTO success stories.

Section 2:

Discusses key considerations for setting up a TTO. It details how TTOs can achieve financial sustainability and forge sustainable long-term partnerships.

Section 3:

Provides key considerations for operating an effective TTO. It offers best practices related to TTOs' operating models, including roles, governance model considerations, organizational structure, policies, processes and procedures, and tools and technologies.

The blueprint is intended for a broad audience, including TTOs, researchers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers. It acts as a useful resource for anyone involved in the technology transfer process.

For more information

Programs & Grants

Programs & Grants Overview

Government entities, academic institutions, and private sector companies offer a wide range of programs and grants designed to support and empower young students, aspiring researchers, established researchers, innovators and entrepreneurs throughout their academic and professional journeys. To facilitate navigation, these programs and grants are grouped into three main categories based on their primary focus: people upskilling programs, fundamental R&D grants, and commercialization and startups programs. The following information is not intended to be exhaustive but serves as a solid starting point to explore the opportunities available within the RDI sector in KSA.

People Upskilling Programs

Fundamental R&D Grants

Commercialization & Startups Programs

People Upskilling Programs

This section explores a several programs offered to upskill intermediate and secondary year students in the RDI sector. Young students and future researchers are exposed to valuable learning experiences, focusing on academic development, character building, and soft skills. These programs offer opportunities for students to excel in science and technology which enable access to higher education and research opportunities for a wide range of talented individuals. Participants gain hands-on research experience through workshops, seminars, and courses. Additionally, these programs foster entrepreneurship and research collaboration, providing real-world, practical experience in the RDI sector. For ease of reference, the programs are presented based on the organizations that offer them.

King Abdullah University of Science & Technology (KAUST)

جامعة الملك عبدالله
للعلوم والتقنية

Saudi Research Science Institute (SRSI) Program

The Saudi Research Science Institute offers a six-week summer research program designed for 11th-grade students from high schools across Saudi Arabia. The program provides these talented young students with an opportunity to work in state-of-the-art laboratories under the guidance of renowned KAUST faculty.

For more information

King Fahad University of Petroleum & Minerals (KFUPM)

Inbound Summer Research Program

The Inbound Summer Research Program is open to non-KFUPM students at both the university and high school levels. Interested students must declare a research area and submit a proposal. Once accepted, they are assigned a mentor from the KFUPM and will receive complimentary hospitality during their stay at the university.

For more information

King Abdulaziz & His Companions Foundation for Giftedness & Creativity (Mawhiba)

Mawhiba Research Enrichment Program

The Mawhiba Research Enrichment Program aims to provide students with a comprehensive introduction to the fundamentals of scientific research, including its ethics and intellectual property rights. Participants develop essential skills such as using laboratories safely, handling materials properly, conducting experiments, analyzing data, extracting results, writing scientific reports, generating original research ideas, and learning to write effective research summaries. The program facilitates direct interaction with scientific specialists through hands-on experience in laboratories, enabling students to apply their knowledge in real-world settings. It targets third-year intermediate students (subject to specific requirements) and first- and second-year secondary students from across the Kingdom. The program runs for 4 weeks during the summer. To register for this program, students must first pass the National Program for Gifted Students Identification.

For more information

The National Olympiad for Scientific Creativity "Ibdaa"

Every year, Mawhiba, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, organize The National Olympiad for Scientific Creativity "Ibdaa". Ibdaa is an annual scientific competition and takes places based on one of 21 scientific fields Individual scientific or engineering projects are submitted, and the Olympiad seeks to create a competitive, creative scientific environment that stimulates the mind of a pre-college scientific researcher. It also prepares participants for competition and entry into the global knowledge system.

For more information

Fundamental R&D Grants

Research, Development & Innovation Authority (RDIA)

RDIA has developed a comprehensive research grants and funding portfolio aimed at sustaining a world-class national RDI ecosystem. These grants are strategically designed and prioritized to cultivate a vibrant innovation landscape, nurturing highly skilled innovators and supporting groundbreaking research with the potential to transform industries and generate significant value for society.

RDIA offers grants and funding under three initiatives:

1. Saudi Basic Science Initiative:

Under this initiative, RDIA seeks to support basic and fundamental scientific research with the following grants:
- Young Scholars Grants
- Basic Science Grants
- Research Consortium Grants

2. Saudi Applied Research and Technology Initiative:

Under this initiative, RDIA seeks to researchers to convert their scientific activities and ideas from the discovery stage to the development stage with the possibility of market testing and commercialization Grants include:
- Baseload Applied Grants
- Technology Development Grants
- Technology Breakthrough Grants

3. Reactivation and Rebuilding of Existing Labs Initiative:

Under this initiative, RDIA seeks to fund the enhancement of existing labs, increasing the number and quality of research outputs in terms of publications, patents, or ready for commercialization IPs.

For more information

Saudi National Institute for Health (Saudi NIH)

The Saudi National Institute for Health was established by the Ministry of Health as part of Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030. It is taking significant steps to strengthen the Kingdom's biomedical research landscape by funding high-impact research and enhancing collaboration with regulatory bodies.

The Saudi NIH supports scientists in translating laboratory discoveries into practical healthcare solutions, with a strong emphasis on clinical trials and translational research. Its primary goal is to advance the clinical trial ecosystem in Saudi Arabia, serving as a catalyst for progress in the biomedical field.

Clinical trials are essential for the registration of medical products and ensuring they meet the regulatory standards set by the Saudi Food and Drug Authority (SFDA). The Saudi NIH provides grants for high-quality research and offers targeted educational training programs to further develop expertise in this critical area.

For more information

Commercialization & Startups Programs

Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT)

The Center of Digital Entrepreneurship (CODE), operating under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT), is committed to accelerating the growth of Saudi Arabia's digital economy and supporting entrepreneurs at every stage of their journey. CODE plays a pivotal role in creating a thriving ecosystem for digital startups by developing and overseeing a range of programs and services aimed at fostering innovation and reducing startup failure rates. It offers mentorship, funding, technical support and modeling labs, all designed to enable entrepreneurs to succeed.

For more information

National Technology Development Program (NTDP)

The Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (MCIT) plays a pivotal role in fostering Saudi Arabia's entrepreneurship ecosystem through a variety of initiatives and programs, including the National Technology Development Program (NTDP). Aimed at transforming the Kingdom into a global technology hub by 2030, the NTDP has committed over USD 430 million to six new initiatives designed to strengthen the tech ecosystem:

1. Venture Debt:

Allocates USD 150 million to support the growth of high-potential startups in Saudi Arabia by providing flexible debt structures to Series A companies.

2.TechCrew

Supports tech SMEs by subsidizing 50% of salaries for Saudi tech professionals for up to 18 months or offering extended financial incentives.

3. Boost:

Empowers tech entrepreneurs with incubation services, reducing financial risks for founders dedicating time to entrepreneurial projects. A total of $46 million has been allocated to provide individual grants ranging from $1,900 to $3,600 over 12 months to support entrepreneurial activities.

4. Connect:

Assists local tech SMEs in qualifying for large-scale tech projects by covering 50% of the costs to achieve proof of concept, capped at $200,000.

5. Bridge:

Supports high-growth tech ventures with over $100 million in revenue to expand globally, offering up to $1.3 million or 70% of costs for a maximum of 24 months.

6. Relocate: Incentivizes global tech startups and multinational companies to relocate to Saudi Arabia, providing up to $1.4 million for office space, hiring local talent, and relocation grants.

Additionally, the NTDP has launched the Source Tech initiative, which aims to establish technology centers across the Kingdom. This initiative is part of broader efforts to localize application and software development and enhance technical skills.

For more information

The General Authority for Small and Medium Enterprises (Monsha'at)

Monsha'at plays a crucial role in nurturing startups and SMEs through a wide range of programs aimed at helping entrepreneurs overcome challenges and scale their businesses. These programs provide essential support in areas such as mentorship, training, business incubation, and access to networking opportunities for establishing a strong foundation in today's competitive business landscape. Additionally, Monsha'at has developed 15 innovative programs and initiatives designed to offer comprehensive support for research, innovation, and startup development. These initiatives help entrepreneurs turn their ideas into practical solutions and bring their innovations to market.

For more information

Additional Programs & Benefits Offered by Relevant Entities

Saudi Arabia is home to a growing number of incubators and accelerators, including international entities, each offering unique expertise to the local ecosystem. Below is an additional list of organizations that support the startup ecosystem, the commercialization of ideas, and the protection of intellectual property.

▶ MiSK Foundation

The MiSK Foundation invests in and empowers youth through programs and activities focused on fostering entrepreneurship, including the MiSK Accelerator.

For more information

▶ Oxagon Accelerator

As part of the NEOM mega-project, the Oxagon Accelerator is dedicated to nurturing and advancing deep tech startups.

For more information

▶ Flat6Labs Seed Program

This four-month program provides startups with SAR 500,000 in cash funding, strategic mentorship, office space, entrepreneurship-focused business training, one-on-one sessions with subject matter experts, and additional perks and services from partners.

For more information

▶ TechStars

Riyadh TechStars offers a 13-week program where selected companies benefits from TechStars' proven model, which includes funding and fundraising opportunities, workshops, curated resources, mentorship, and access to an extensive network of partners, investors, and alumni.

For more information

▶ Sanabil 500 MENA Seed Accelerator Program

The program provides a USD 100,000 investment from the Sanabil 500 MENA Seed Accelerator Fund (part of 500 Startups) in exchange for 10% equity.

For more information

Blossom Accelerator

The accelerator focuses on improving the overall health of the Saudi population by nurturing startups that address healthcare challenges.

For more information

Taqadam

Taqadam is a global startup accelerator powered by the extensive networks of KAUST and SABB, aimed at driving innovation and startup success.

For more information

The Saudi Venture Capital Company (SVC)

SVC supports entrepreneurs by offering funding and investment with a focus on enhancing the growth of startups through venture capital. This financial support is crucial for early-stage companies, helping them develop products, services, and scale their operations.

For more information

Saudi Unicorns National Program

The program supports and enables high-growth technology companies to reach unicorn status (a valuation exceeding $1 billion). It offers an integrated set of services, including global expansion assistance, talent development, recruitment, investor and private sector connections, mentorship, and access to government resources.

For more information

Saudi Authority for Intellectual Property (SAIP)

SAIP provides essential services for entrepreneurs, including managing patent filings and offering intellectual property protection. Safeguarding intellectual property is critical for protecting innovations and ensuring entrepreneurs retain rights to their creations. Intellectual property (IP) refers to the set of rights that protect human thought and creativity, allowing inventors and creators to earn recognition or financial benefits. The IP system aims to foster an environment where creativity and innovation can flourish by balancing the interests of innovators and the public.

For more information

In some case, researchers pursue patents internationally before registering them in Saudi Arabia. The following offices are recognized for their efficiency, global influence, and the significant volume of applications they process, highlighting the strength and importance of the economies they serve:

United States Patent and Trademark Office

European Patent Office

China National Intellectual Property Administration

Japan Patent Office

Korean Intellectual Property Office

Applying for patents internationally offers a strategic advantage by streamlining the application process, allowing for extended decision-making time, and increasing the likelihood of securing patent grants across multiple jurisdictions. This approach not only reduces costs but also strengthens the applicant's competitive position in the global market.

By leveraging the resources and support provided by these entities, aspiring entrepreneurs in Saudi Arabia can transform their innovative ideas into successful businesses. The combination of funding, mentorship, intellectual property protection, and educational support creates a robust ecosystem that fosters entrepreneurship and drives economic growth in the region.