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# FAQS & INFORMATION PACKAGE

Strengthening Human Rights and Peace Education and Research in Southeast Asia

# *Research Grants Schemes*

*Amplifying Voices, Co-creating Change*



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# Research Themes



**Digital Rights and Technology** [research topics under this theme can be around the growing concerns over digital surveillance; digital dictatorship; rights based digital economy; Artificial Intelligence (AI) ethics and accountability; and technology-facilitated disinformation, conflict and peacebuilding in the context of ASEAN/Southeast Asia]



**Environmental Justice and Climate Change** [national and regional frameworks, mechanisms and accountability; the right to a healthy environment; vulnerable groups and inclusive adaptation; gendered dimension of climate justice; digital and physical protection mechanism particularly for environmental human rights defenders (EHRDs); green transitions and land rights; and intersections of climate change with displacement/ethnic and resource tension/conflict and climate-related security risks in the context of Southeast Asia]



**Democracy and Civic Spaces** [repression and SLAPP; intergenerational and grassroots activism and movements; digital democracy; youth-led movements; and academic freedom in the context of Southeast Asia]



**Migration, Displacement and Development** [labour migration and the rights-based development; scam centers and forced labour; human rights of climate refugees and climate migrants; gendered impact of environmental migration and human trafficking; and nexus of conflict induced migration, displacement and trafficking; and demand-side aspects of human trafficking]



**Peace, Conflict and Human Security** [rise of transnational organized crimes; Myanmar crisis; ethnic and religious polarization; self-determination movements; Women, Peace and Security; and peacebuilding and conflict transformation in the context of Southeast Asia]



**Gender, Intersectionality and Inclusivity** [rights of marginalized and vulnerable groups- indigenous communities and women, and LGBTQI+ and ethnicity and disability; and inclusive digital spaces/citizenship in the context of Southeast Asia]





*This experience has shaped me as a researcher and development worker in ways I hadn't imagined. I'm acquiring essential skills—the tools to gather and analyze information. Yet, it's the immersion in Akha culture that truly resonates, calling for deep respect and ethical awareness.*

**Ms. Phonevilay Soukhy | Grantee, RGP 2024**

# **RGP 2023-2024** *Testimonials*

*SHAPE-SEA has truly empowered my research journey as a grantee. The programme provided not only research funding but also logistical support throughout the study, and I am very grateful for that. I had to comply with several requirements, but with SHAPE-SEA's guidance and mentorship, I was able to become one of the lucky grantees.*

**Mr. Lemar Vertudazo Pugoy | Grantee, RGP 2023.**



# *Frequently Asked Questions*

[Click to Read the RGS 2026 Concept Note](#)

*For more information, e-mail us at [info@shapesea.com](mailto:info@shapesea.com)*



## 1. What are the specific criteria for eligibility as an emerging scholar (ES) applying for the RGS 2026–2027?

**Answer:** Applicants applying under the emerging scholars category must be a lecturer and/or researcher affiliated to a university or an academic institution/research centers in Southeast Asia. Research projects of emerging scholars can be collaborative in nature with a maximum of three members in the project and/or covering more than one Southeast Asian country.

Applicants eligible for emerging scholars grants must have a maximum of five years of academic/research experience from the time the applicant started their academic career. In the case of collaborative research, at least the principal investigator (PI) must have a maximum of five years of academic/research experience from the time the applicant started their academic career.



## 2. What are the specific criteria for eligibility as an M.A/PhD student applying for the RGS 2026–2027?

**Answer:** Applicants applying under MA./PhD students' categories must be a citizen of one of the Southeast Asian/ASEAN countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam).

At the time of the application for RGSs 2026–2027, the applicant must be an M.A/PhD student enrolled in one of the universities in Southeast Asia with their research project (as part of the academic requirement) just started or soon to be started.



### 3. Can a research project cover more than one theme, and how flexible is the scope in terms of addressing issues at the local, national, or regional levels?

**Answer:** Yes, research projects can cover more than one theme, and the scope is flexible, encompassing issues at the local, national, or regional levels. The program encourages interdisciplinary approaches and perspectives.

How can we conduct meaningful human rights research in environments that normalise injustice, restrict civic space, and maintain institutional silence?





**4. Is there a preference for certain research methodologies, and what level of familiarity with research tools is expected from the RGSs applicants?**

**Answer:** The program does not prescribe specific research methodologies, but applicants are expected to showcase a good grasp of research tools and analytical frameworks relevant to their proposed studies. However, assessment of the research proposals will be done based on the academic level of grant categories (M.A, PhD and Emerging Scholars).





**5. How will the applications be evaluated during the selection process, and what are the key elements for consideration in the research proposals during the process?**

**Answer:** During the selection process, the committee will assess proposals based on key elements including clarity of research problem; defined objectives and questions; proposed methodology; contribution to existing knowledge; commitment to gender equality and environmental protection; and scope for timely project completion and output delivery within the stipulated timeline.





**6. What types of outputs are expected from the RGSs 2026–2027 projects, and how will the research outputs be disseminated such as through academic conferences, seminar/colloquium and SHAPE-SEA's digital library?**

**Answer:** Expected outputs include an academic paper/article, a policy brief and a public presentation of research findings. The research findings will be presented at at least one academic conference or seminar/colloquium, and published in SHAPE-SEA's digital library.



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Annual Regional Lecturer Workshop on Transformative Human Rights Education and Research in Teaching the Right to Development, Migration and Gender

Law  
Course : Intro to Law  
LEVEL :  
Semester

**7. Is there a preference for certain Southeast Asian countries, and how does the program ensure a fair distribution of grants across the region?**

**Answer:** The program is open to applicants from all Southeast Asian countries, and efforts are made to ensure a fair distribution of grants across the region.

**8. What kind of support will be provided to applicants in terms of navigating the application process, and are there any specific resources available for preparing the research proposals?**

**Answer:** SHAPE-SEA provides detailed information and guidelines about the procedures including proposal format and requirements on its website (<https://shapesea.com/>). For specific inquiries, applicants can contact the program through [comms.shapesea@gmail.com](mailto:comms.shapesea@gmail.com) or [info@shapesea.com](mailto:info@shapesea.com)



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**9. Can applicants propose a mentor of their choice, and what role does mentorship play in the RGSs, particularly for emerging scholars?**

**Answer:** SHAPE-SEA will facilitate mentorship arrangement for emerging scholar (ES) grantees. Researchers can nominate/propose a mentor of their preference, or request SHAPE-SEA to facilitate. Mentorship plays a crucial role in guiding and monitoring research projects, ensuring academic excellence including timely completion of research projects and impact.

**10. I am a non--Southeast Asian emerging scholar/student affiliated with an academic institution/university based in Southeast Asia. Am I eligible to apply for RGSs 2026-2027?**



**Answer:** Not eligible. The applicant must be a citizen of one of the ASEAN countries. For emerging scholars, if the project is collaborative with more than one researcher, the co-investigators/researchers (except for the principal investigator/researcher) can be non--Southeast Asian emerging scholars but must be affiliated to an academic institution or research center/ university in the region. One objective of the research grant is to strengthen the capacities of the researcher's host academic institution.



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**11. I am a Southeast Asian emerging scholar/student based outside of Southeast Asia. Am I eligible to apply for RGS 2026–2027?**

**Answer:** Not eligible. One of the objectives of the research grant is to strengthen the capacities of the researcher's host academic institution.

**12. I applied to the SHAPE--SEA research grants programme previously, can I still apply for RGSs 2026–2027?**

**Answer:** Applicants applied for SHAPE-SEA research grants previously are also eligible to apply for RGSs 2026–2027. We see it as a continuing process of learning. Applicants must ensure that they fulfil other requirements in order for the application to be considered.



ANG CỘNG SẢN VIỆT NAM QUANG VINH MUÔN NĂM



**13. I am not affiliated with any university/academic institutions based in Southeast Asia (Freelance researcher or NGO), am I eligible to apply for RGSs 2026–2027?**

**Answer:** You are not eligible for M.A & PhD research grants. For emerging scholars grants (ES), you are not eligible as a lead researcher, but eligible as a co-investigator/ co-researcher. The lead researcher/ principal investigator must be a citizen of one of the ASEAN/ Southeast Asian countries, and affiliated to a university/ academic institution or a research center in the region.





**14. Can I submit more than one research proposal? Can I be part of two research projects- one as a student grantee and another as ES co-researcher?**

**Answer:** Yes, you can submit more than one research proposal. However, please note that only one research project under your name will be approved by the Selection Committee.

**15. I am not affiliated with an academic institution that deals directly with human rights and/or peace. Can I still apply for a research grant under RGSs 2026-2027?**

**Answer:** Yes, you can apply. We encourage researchers from other academic disciplines to do research on human rights and/or peace or interdisciplinary research to bring in new approaches and perspectives.



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# The different research grant schemes are as follows:

Scheme/ Category	Eligibility	Application Template
<p><b>RGS for MA/PhD Students</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicants must be citizens of Southeast Asia countries and based in any university in South East Asia.</li> <li>2. The applicants should still be students until the end of the projects (Proven by their semester credits report, recommendation letter, and CV).</li> <li>3. The applicants must complete their projects in 6-7 months, for a maximum grant of THB 30,000 for MA students and THB 60,000 for PhD students for the Ph.D. Thesis Support Programme. It can be used to support data collection and analysis related costs.</li> <li>4. The research will focus on either a national/local or regional issue(s) concerning either human rights or peace (or both).</li> <li>5. Interdisciplinary research or covering more than one country in the region is encouraged, and research proposals meeting this criteria is welcomed.</li> </ol>	<p>Click and download <b><u>Application Form for MA &amp; PhD</u></b></p>



# The different research grant schemes are as follows:

Scheme/ Category	Eligibility	Application Template
<p><b>RGS for Emerging Scholars (ES)</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Applicants must be lecturers or researchers and can apply for either individual or collaborative projects (with maximum of 3 members in one project including the lead/principal researcher). The lead/principal researcher must have a maximum of five years of experience since starting their career as lecturer or researcher; and affiliated with a university/academic institution/research center in Southeast Asia (proven by CV and recommendation letter).</li> <li>2. The applicants will have 6-7 months (depending on the size and scope of the study) to complete their research projects with a maximum grant of THB 100,000 per research project.</li> <li>3. The research will focus on either a national/local or regional issue(s) concerning either human rights or peace (or both).</li> <li>4. Any research covering more than one research theme is encouraged and preferred.</li> </ol>	<p>Click and download <a href="#"><u>Application Form for Emerging Scholar</u></a></p>



**17. I would like to conduct my research in my local language. Is this possible?**

**Answer:** Please note that research proposals, progress reports and summary of findings submitted to SHAPE--SEA must be written in English.

**18. Will the budget/amount stated in my proposal be automatically approved by the Committee?**

**Answer:** Not necessarily. The Selection Committee will carefully assess all the research proposals including their proposed budget to consider for the grant application, and to finalize the grant amount to be awarded for the selected projects.



## 19. Who consists of the Selection Committee?

**Answer:** The selection committee members include subject experts, and academics and members of civil society groups with proven track record in human rights and peace research, education and advocacy related work/programme in the region.



## 20. How long is the Selection Process for RGSs 2026–2027?

**Answer:** The selection process, from the call for proposal to the announcement of results, will take 2 months. Please keep a note of the important timeline regarding the application and selection process for RGSs 2026–2027. All the projects under the RGSs 2026–2027 are expected to start by mid-June 2026.





## ***21. Are there any rules about using the SHAPE-SEA research grants?***

**Answer:** Yes, there are rules about using the SHAPE-SEA research grants.

SHAPE--SEA has a finance policy that each researcher must abide by. Please download the document and read it carefully. Please note that, after the announcement of results, all selected grantees (lead researchers) of the RGSs 2026-2027 are required to attend the Inception workshops (1 online and 1 onsite/BKK). The inception workshops will focus on two priority areas: finance/administrative component of the grant scheme, and academic/ substantive inputs on conducting human rights and peace research.



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