

Research Grant vs Research Contract vs Consulting

| Characteristics | Grant | Contract | Consultancy |
|-----------------------------|---|--|--|
| Purpose | Support to further knowledge in a particular subject area or field of research | Providing expertise knowledge to solve a problem with industry or government | Data generation, minimal intellectual |
| Initiation | Researcher | Sponsor/Researcher | Sponsor |
| Definition of the Project | Researcher defines the project. | Sponsor and researcher jointly define scope of work, methodology and budget | Sponsor and researcher jointly define scope of work, methodology and budget |
| Timelines | Grant period varies, often multi year and possibly renewable | Results must be generated by certain deadlines | Results must be generated by certain deadlines |
| Milestones/Deliverables | Publication, papers, reports, presentations | Specific milestone research results are defined but not guaranteed | Specific milestone research results are defined and quality control on results expected periodic at defined dates |
| Costing | Generally in accordance with scheme requirements which specify what can/can't be included, upper and lower budget limits, etc. Often institutional administrative overheads are specifically excluded. Researcher specifies the grant budget within guidelines. | Generally fully costed. Should also include a component for institutional overheads, costed on a percentage basis of total cost or by individual line item. Price is negotiable. Researcher time may be costed/priced on a daily or hourly basis, and these should be fully-loaded (i.e., include all salary oncosts). | Depending on the work to be done, generally costed and priced on a daily/hourly basis, though usually there is some scope for additional items such as travel, usually budgeted at cost. Often consultancies can be costed and priced in the same way as Research Contracts. |
| Reports | Annual progress report | Periodic at defined dates | Periodic at defined dates |
| Agreements | Pro-forma award letter, inter-institutional agreements, sub-agreements | Research contract with many detailed provisions some of which are negotiable | Consultancy agreement with many detailed provisions some of which are negotiable |
| Restrictions on Publication | Generally none, however agency may require prior review | Sponsor has rights to review. | Sponsor may have restrictions on publications and, rights to object on proprietary information basis. |
| Intellectual Property | No rights to sponsor; inventors own any IP | University owns IP; grant sponsor option to exclusive or non-exclusive license; authors own copyright in any publication | Sponsor owns the data generate; University owns IP rights to any new test methods/apparatus developed; IP is not usually anticipated. |

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