

## **OPTION 2: GRADUATION PAPER BASED ON GRANT WRITING**

Grant writing is an essential step for research. In the future, for your research endeavors (for e.g., researcher stipend for yourself or for your staff; purchase and acquisition of consumables, equipment, software and/or services) you need to have a stable budget. In order to secure this budget, first, you need to convince your scientific audience that the research you propose:

- is highly original.
- is going to provide a critical body of theoretical/experimental/applied knowledge to fill a well-defined gap in the literature.
- adheres to research ethics.
- is based on clear and well-crafted, well-balanced research designs and on well-defined methods.
- is divided into well-planned and tangible work-loads.
- has a realistic project calendar.
- has a clear set of milestones spread out in a logical fashion throughout the project calendar.
- will be done with a team with a clear division of labor where each member is competent for the proposed research activity.
- has a realistic budget adheres to the set project budget upper limits.

As grant writing is a very valuable skill in science and being a part of a funded project (as the principal investigator, co-investigator or bursary recipient) is highly regarded; “grant writing” is one of the options you can pursue for your graduation thesis.

For this option, you will be following the TÜBİTAK 1002 project format. TÜBİTAK 1002 funding framework is referred to as “the rapid research support”. This program accepts applications year-round, and the scientific evaluations usually commence within 3 months after the application. A panel of judges comprised of experts in that field of study, grade the proposal on the basis of the items listed above. If your project proposal receives a favorable evaluation from the panel of judges, it can be funded up to 60.000TL for max. 24 months.

Therefore, consider grant writing as an alternative for your graduation thesis if you as a group

- have a focused research topic
- ready to carry out an in-depth literature search to identify palpable gaps towards which you can generate solutions with your proposal
- can generate novel and interesting research questions and hypotheses
- carry out detailed feasibility analyses for the project proposal in terms of the workload, project team, division of labor, calendar and, of course, budget.