



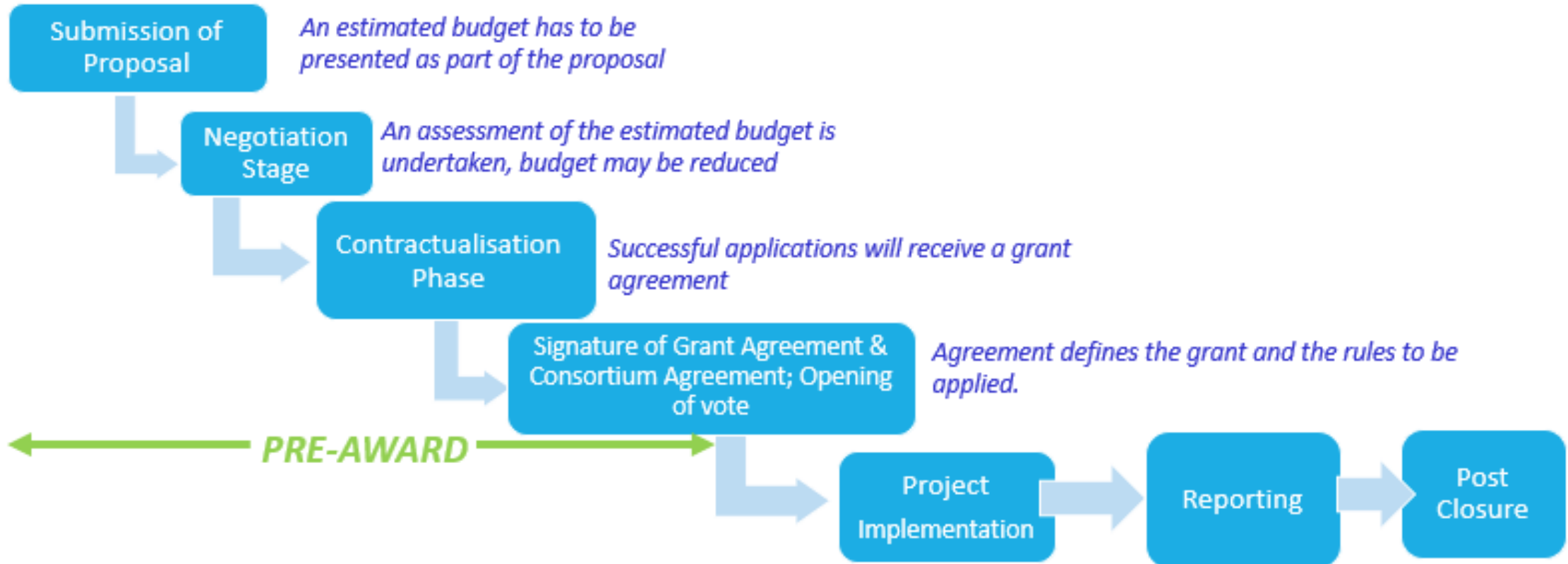
L-Università
ta' Malta

Research Grants Finance Management (RGFM):

Post-Award



The Life Cycle of a Project



External Funds awarded to UM

for academic year October 2024 to September 2025

	2022	2025
Number of Active projects	350	661
Overall value of Active Projects	46.3 m	89.7m
EU funded Projects	119	184
Value	26.7m	47.2m
Govt funded Projects	126	304
Value	13.0m	27.1m
Projects funded by Others	110	173
Value	6.5m	15.4m
Funding Programmes	52	52
Faculties/ Depts	34	41
Lead academics	166	242

Active projects – managed by Post-Award (end Sept 2025)

- Over 430 Active projects worth over €69.6 million. An additional 231 projects (value 20m) were closed this year.
- Eu Funded Projects 138 projects with a value of €39.7 million
- Local and Government Funding 191 Projects with a value of €19.4 million
- Other funds and collaborations over 101 projects with a value of €10.6 million
- 50 funding programs over the year
- 38 faculties/ institutes/ departments
- 194 Lead Academics

Our Aim:

- **Risk Mitigation:** Identifying, tracking and solving financial and regulatory risks (e.g. over/under spending, rectification issues).
- **Compliance:** Ensuring compliance to funder regulations and UM policies.
- **Support:** Providing the support to academics and research Officers to help the implementation of the project in line with all legal, financial, and regulatory obligations. We help academics focus on research and technical delivery objectives. A Bridge between the funding body and the researcher (explaining the terms, leading through the required steps).



Our Objectives



Core Functions of the Post Award

Project Implementation:

- Monitoring of budget, reallocations, amendment requests.
- Processing expenditure requests (personnel, travel, equipment and supplies...).
- Liaising with other depts (HR, Legal, KTO, IT, Aims) on behalf of the PI.
- Managing project overheads.

Core Functions of the Post-Award

Reporting and auditing:

- Tracking milestones.
- Compiling documentation and proof of payments.
- Reconciling costs and income.
- Preparing interim and final financial reports.
- Coordinating internal &/or External audits.

Core Functions of the Post-Award

Compliance:

- Ensuring adhesion to procurement regulations.
- Managing and guiding on contractual changes (extensions, addenda).
- Ensuring all funder obligations are met (tranches, retention).

Core Functions of the Post-Award

Project Post Closure:

- Cost recovery
- Distribution of remaining project overheads - Transitional projects follow pre-agreed residual-balance terms; new projects allocate all indirect costs centrally to UM.

Challenges:



Academics appreciate the outcome (support, success rate) but sometimes dislike the process (controls). They see RGFM as essential support but dislike the imposition of required documentation and bureaucracy.




On the other hand, for those responsible for the Financial reporting and Auditing the RGFM is an essential safeguard. Management strongly supports the necessity of the process to safeguard the UM reputation and mitigate institutional and financial risks.


Thank you for your attention.

If you have any questions, now is the right time to ask!

Contact me on the details below for further info:

 Antoinette Bonello

 (+356) 2340 4989

 antoinette.bonello@um.edu.mt