Makerere University Research and Innovations Grant
Supported by the Government of the Republic of Uganda

By the Grants Management Committee
Introduction

• Research is one of the core pillars of a university; essential for our mission and global ranking

• As we transition to a knowledge economy/middle-income status, the appetite for development research will increase

• With the rise of numerous universities we must lead – Hence Makerere is evolving into a Research-led university

• Until recently, donors have been the main source of funding for research, but the tables are turning
Volume of the world’s research output

(www.worldmapper.org)
Background

• In a first of its kind initiative, Makerere University has after a series of negotiations, received special funding from Government, earmarked for impact Research & Innovations

• This FY, Makerere expects 30 Billion UGX (≈ US$ 8.1 M) - 15 Billion already been received and government has committed to this for atleast 3 years

• Top University Management has responded promptly:
  • A Framework for its management developed and approved by Council

  • A multi-sectoral Grants Management Committee has been appointed after consultations with the Colleges
Objective

• To support R&I initiatives that contribute to better delivery of National Development initiatives, guided by the key national and sector-specific development plans and Global priorities

• The GMC therefore will source, vet, select and issue grants to researchers based on a widely consultative research agenda

• Today we announce the Round 1, No.1 grants which will be crowd-sourcing based
Technical scope

• All technical disciplines in Makerere University as long as the research questions align with national development priorities

• Particular attention will be paid to unfunded or under-funded priorities

• This grant is not meant to supplement existing research projects that already have funding. However, researchers can apply on the platform of existing projects if there is a strong rationale for need: A clear funding gap and justification
Grant Categories

• The first round of this initiative aims to issue 180 to 200 Grants ranging from 50 million UGX to 350 million UGX.

• The GMC retains the discretion to determine the final number of awards to be given and the award categories/amounts and can adjust based on demand, equity considerations, quality of proposals, absorption, accountability.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>No</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cat 1</td>
<td>Up to 350M UGX</td>
<td>Approx. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat 2</td>
<td>Up to 150M UGX</td>
<td>Approx. 50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat 3</td>
<td>Up to 100M UGX</td>
<td>Approx. 40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat 4a</td>
<td>Up to 50M UGX</td>
<td>Approx. 30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cat 4b</td>
<td>Up to 50M UGX</td>
<td>Approx. 30</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Grant principles

• **Results and impact:** A commitment to actionable results within one year and potential for wider impact

• **Equity and inclusion:** All colleges to benefit; women researchers and junior faculty representation ensured

• **Multi-disciplinarity:** Major development challenges require more than the effort of one sector; this should be reflected in the projects

• **Accountability and utilization:** To protect our reputation, accountability and utilization will be of utmost importance
Eligibility

- Academic staff from all academic Colleges of Makerere and senior staff from research-relevant administrative units (Library, Gender Mainstreaming, Quality Assurance, and the DRGT) are eligible.

- A research team PI should meet the following criteria:
  - Must be an academic or research staff of Makerere on permanent or fulltime contract or a senior staff member from the administrative units linked to research (Library, Gender Mainstreaming, Quality Assurance, and DRGT).
  - Be actively in service (not on study/sabbatical leave).
  - Obtain a letter of support from his/her department/school/College (any One).
  - Attach copy of appointment letter or most-recent promotion.
Eligibility

• A researcher cannot be a PI on more than **TWO** applications. A person can be on multiple teams **for no more than 3 applications**

• Researchers encouraged to collaborate with external resource persons from CSOs, government sectors, other universities, research institutions, business and industry as part of their teams

• This grant is meant for academic staff; students are not eligible as PIs but can be part of a team

• Research fellows on projects but are not appointed centrally by Makerere University are not eligible as PIs but can be on a team
The research problem

• Only research problems that align with national or relevant sector priorities/SDGs and are responsive to needs of government, academia or the private sector will be funded

• Three types of research gaps:
  1. Those needing primary research to fill a critical knowledge gap
  2. Those needing an innovation (technology or approach) to address a critical pain point
  3. Those that target research or innovation (R&I) ecosystem enhancement

• Clear articulation of the knowledge discrepancy or the innovation challenge or the capacity discrepancy
The proposed solution

• Articulate of clear objectives and the critical content of the solution (i.e. the ‘research methodology’ or the ‘technical approach’)

• Defend the relevance of the proposed solution to strategic development needs

• Projects based on existing concepts/priorities already identified by the departments are at higher advantage

• Projects that require multi-year implementation should show actions attainable in 1 year
Outcomes, outputs and impact

• Describe clearly the outputs and outcomes anticipated

• The target populations (primary and secondary) to be involved and impacted by the research should be clearly described

• Projects must demonstrate clearly the actionable deliverables expected by 1 year

• Next year’s funding to factor in multi-year projects, competitively and upon proof of actionable deliverables from Year 1
Team composition

• Researchers may apply individually or in teams; teams have added advantage but not absolute

• Individuals or teams should demonstrate that they have the technical expertise to execute the planned study

• For research areas where a multi-sectoral/multi-disciplinary approach is clearly needed, the team should reflect this

• Teams that include an industry, business, sector or implementing agency partner will have a slight added advantage
Provision for capacity development

- Research and innovations that include a capacity-building component will be at an advantage e.g. training, mentorship, equipment, learning through co-design and participation etc.

- Students can be included on teams for learning
Sustainability/scalability

• Articulate the sustainability of the project beyond the funding available

• Articulate how the findings of their project will be disseminated to achieve impact at scale

  • Research-based projects: Description of the knowledge translation and dissemination plan

  • For innovation projects targeting social enterprise: Articulate a scaling strategy within the public sector or with relevant implementing partners

  • For innovations targeting commercial interest: Articulate path to commercialization and anticipated patents, designs, trademarks etc.
Ethical considerations and Environmental impact

• For research involving human subjects, articulate the anticipated ethical challenges, subjects protection and ethical certifications needed

• For research involving animal subjects, articulate the anticipated ethical challenges, subjects protection and considerations for animal welfare

• For research that involve changes to the physical environment, explain the measures to ensure minimal damage to the environment, and to monitor and act on such damage
Conflict of interest

• Researchers will declare if there is any conflict of interest regarding their project e.g. if co-funded by an industry partner that may compromise the outcomes of the study

• Teams with strong linkages to GMC members should declare this so that it is duly addressed during the selection process
Budget

- A summary budget and a detailed budget as an attachment

- Budgets should not spread beyond one Financial Year even for multi-year projects

- The budgets will include the following sections:
  - 1.0 Personnel costs
  - 2.0 Travel
  - 3.0 Supplies and services
  - 4.0 Equipment
  - 5.0 Program activity costs
  - 6.0 Dissemination
Budgets

• No overheads allowed
• No salaries for university paid staff but allowances are allowable
• Salaries can be paid for key project staff if they are non-government paid
• Personnel costs (excluding research assistants) should not exceed 33% of the budget
• All statutory deductions to be conducted
• Researchers will attach a detailed Budget and Budget Justification
Workplan

• Researchers will provide a series of milestones for the project clearly demonstrating the deliverables expected at each point within one (1) year.
Submission of applications

• Submission will be via: http://rif.mak.ac.ug. Registration is required.

• If there are challenges, send an email to: info@rif.mak.ac.ug.

• The application form and detailed grant guidelines are available at: http://rif.mak.ac.ug/application.
Rules governing applications

• All applications in English

• All applications should be submitted via the online portal

• Complete applications must be submitted not later than 11.59pm EST on the deadline date indicated
Applicant support

- **Sensitization meeting:** Today

- **Q&A** (Monday 26/08/2019 to Monday 02/09/2019); send questions to info@rif.mak.ac.ug; publication of FAQs (Wednesday 04/09/2019) on the website: http://rif.mak.ac.ug

- **Webinar:** Staff webinar on Friday 6/09/2019

- **College level sensitization:** Dates to be communicated
Review of applications

• A three (3) phase review process:
  • Step 1: Determination of eligibility
  • Step 2: Technical review by a team of credible independent reviewers (Ugandan and international) appointed by the GMC; a cross-disciplinary review approach
  • Step 3: GMC to select from the best scoring proposals the ones to be funded, guided by the scores, funds available in each category, and equity
## Evaluation criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. The problem and its alignment to national/sector priorities</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The proposed solution</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Technical approach and methodology</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Feasibility</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Anticipated results/Impact</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Dissemination plan and scalability</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Team composition</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Capacity building</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Notification of successful applicants/tracking

• Successful teams will be informed by email/telephone to their designated point of contact and profiled on http://rif.mak.ac.ug

• As part of normal grant processes, not all applications will be funded

• The grant website will contain information on the status of the applications at the different stages as ‘group-tracking’
Post award processes

- Due to the urgent need to produce results and ensure accountability, the GMC will conduct a series of post-award activities
  - **Induction**: A brief post-award induction
  
  - **Capacity building**: Elective seminars on 1) Research project management; 2) Financial Management; 3) Research Leadership; 4) Gender inclusiveness and 5) Research translation
  
  - **Release of funds**: In phases based on deliverables & accountability
  
  - **Support and tracking**: A Grants Management Unit is under establishment; it will conduct support and rigorous tracking of deliverables/performance; funds of under-performing projects might be reallocated
Intellectual property

• Intellectual Property derived through the Government grants will be owned jointly by the awardee Teams and Makerere University based on contribution

• For projects that have a commercial value, researchers will clearly delineate any intellectual property included that is their creation and the extent of their claim
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Milestone</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researcher sensitization meeting</td>
<td>Friday 23/08/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issuance of RFA</td>
<td>Monday 26/08/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q&amp;A period</td>
<td>Monday 26/08/2019 to Monday 02/09/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Posting of FAQs</td>
<td>Wednesday 4/09/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Researcher Webinar</td>
<td>Friday 6/09/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Closing date for applications</td>
<td>Friday 13/09/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection – stage 1</td>
<td>Monday 16/09/2019 to Wednesday 18/09/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection – stage 2</td>
<td>Thursday 19/09/2019 to Friday 04/10/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selection – stage 3</td>
<td>Monday 7/10/2019 to Friday 11/10/10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award notification</td>
<td>Friday 11/10/2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Induction of grantees</td>
<td>Tuesday 15th October 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A call to action!

• Available funds are obligated for the current FY and must be spent by 30th June 2020!

• This is our resource. We need to own it and to prove that we can utilize these funds with actionable results
Thank you for listening!

We Build for the Future! *(Pro Futuro Edificamus)*

http://rif.mak.ac.ug

@RIFMakerere