

THE PASET REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND

RSIF RESEARCH AWARD GRANTS

Webinar session Questions & Answers

April 27, 2021

Question & Response
<p>1. Is this Call only for universities hosting RSIF students or open to other universities and research institutions? No, any university can participate in the Call, however, the lead applicant must be a faculty from any one of the selected RSIF African Host Universities. Other universities and research institutes can participate in the Call as collaborating international partners. See list of the selected Africa Host Universities here (https://www.rsif-paset.org/partners/)</p>
<p>2. Do ACE Centers also qualify? ACE Centers which are not hosting RSIF students qualify to be collaborators in the projects closely working with the selected ACE centre/ PhD program hosting RSIF scholars in the university.</p>
<p>3. Are RSIF International Partners like UM6P also eligible? RSIF International partners can participate in the Call as collaborating partners. Faculty from International Partners are encouraged to form partnership with those from RSIF African Host Universities to submit joint applications where the lead is the faculty from RSIF African Host University.</p>
<p>4. Which universities are eligible? See responses to question 1 -3 above.</p>
<p>5. Is it mandatory to have an international partner institution? Yes, each project should identify a collaborating international partner. The International partner can be any university or research Centre within Africa and globally including RSIF selected International Partner Institutions.</p>
<p>6. Is the Call limited to COVID 19 solutions? No, the Call is open to address any key developmental challenges in country and within the region aligned to the PASET Thematic Areas. ¹ The Call, however, encourages proposals which provide solutions to contemporary challenges in Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) such as COVID 19.</p>
<p>7. What is the success rate of past Calls? This will help us prepare our proposals well. In the 1st round the success rate was about 70%. RSIF asserts great importance on two key principles; transparency and quality. We aim to implement an efficient and transparent process that will lead to selection of quality proposals for funding.</p>
<p>8. How many proposals are going to be funded? Based on available budget, RSIF will fund a minimum of 4 and maximum of 10 proposals. The quality of proposals will determine the number to be funded.</p>
<p>9. As an RSIF International Partner Institution, should the lead applicant come from the African Partner University? Or could we initiate this? The international partner institution can initiate the collaboration, however, for proposal submission, the lead applicant must come from the African Host University.</p>
<p>10. How does a university become a member of RSIF? RSIF African Host Universities are selected competitively. A request for applications is published to invite interested universities to apply. There is no current open call for applications for African Host Universities.</p>
<p>11. What does the 15% funding mean (in kind or in cash)? Is it co-financing from the host institution? Yes, the grant requires matching funding of at least 15% over and above the USD 90,000 to be provided by RSIF. The matching funding can be in cash or in-kind and can be provided by the African host universities or shared with collaborating partners.</p>

¹ PASET Thematic Areas: 1. ICT including Big Data and AI. 2. Food Security and Agri Business. 3. Mining, Minerals and Material Engineering, 4. Energy (Including renewables), 5. Climate Change

12. Will the students who will participate in the project as PhD or master's have a PASET scholarship? Will this scholarship be independent from the budget of 90,000 USD or is it integrated in the budget?

We encourage the students to be involved in the project to be beneficiaries of the RSIF PhD scholarship to complement the financial support provided under the scholarship for the student's learning. The grant project will only cater for relevant research costs for the student in the budget of US\$90,000. The other expenses such as tuition fees, living allowances etc will be paid for directly by RSIF under the scholarship award.

13. Is fundamental science encouraged or it is only limited to applied science?

The focus for the grant is on applied science however, it is expected there is a thin line between fundamental and applied science, the result should be research that leads to finding solutions to Africa's developmental challenges.

14. Is there a proposal template to be used for proposal submission?

Yes, the proposal template has been provided as Annex 1 of the application documents which are found [here](#)

15. Is the funds limited to USD 90000 what happens if my proposal might need more funding

The maximum RSIF can provide for implementation of the proposal is \$90,000, applicants are encouraged to source for any required extra funding and provide the same as matching funding.

16. How do we know the results of the selection?

RSIF will publish the final list of selected projects on the RSIF website however, applicants will be informed on the progress of their proposal at every stage of the selection process.

17. How can PhD students be incorporated in the project? i.e can they join the lead person then graduate with a PhD?

PhD students will undertake research as part of the project, they can be involved in conducting their research by investigating either one research objective or research question which can contribute to their thesis proposal to be submitted as a requirement for graduation.

18. There is no host university in Ethiopia, how can someone from Ethiopia participate in the Call for the grant?

See response to question 1

19. How is the funding disbursed?

icipe will sign a grant agreement with the winning proposals. The funds will be disbursed on an annual basis based on the approved budget and workplan.