



Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

THE PASET REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND MOZSKILLS¹ SUB-PROJECT

Call for Proposals (Research Award)

Closing date: 15th November 2021, 23:59hrs CAT

1. Introduction

The [Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology](#) (PASET) is an African-led initiative to strengthen skills in applied sciences, engineering and technology and further socio-economic transformation in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). The [Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund](#) (RSIF) is a flagship program of PASET. The primary objective of RSIF is to train high quality PhD and post-doctoral scientists to address the human resource gap in the fields of applied sciences, engineering, and technology (ASET)² and to contribute to improving research and innovation capacities in those fields in SSA. RSIF supports PhD students, post-doctoral scientists, and universities in SSA to establish a high-quality training, research, and innovation environment and to develop their institutional capacity for the benefit of the continent. RSIF is currently funded by contributions from African governments, the World Bank, The European Union, and the Government of Korea; and implemented by the International Centre of Insect Physiology and Ecology (icipe), Nairobi, Kenya, as the RSIF Regional Coordinating Unit (RCU).

The government of Mozambique through its World Bank funded Project on [Improvement of Skills Development in Mozambique](#), (MozSkills) is contributing USD 6 million to RSIF to finance PhD scholarships in universities in SSA and to support research, and innovation activities. The support for research activities are provided through competitive grants. The main objective is to build research capacity and promote research excellence of participating universities and public research institutes.

2. Research Grants

The grants will support scientific research, and the use of knowledge for development impact.

Two types of research grants available are:

- a. **Type 1 grants:** also referred to as **Research Awards (RA)** will be awarded competitively to faculty members and researchers at Mozambican universities and public research institutes. Applicants may partner with RSIF African Host Universities and International Partner Institutes.

¹ Improvement of Skills Development in Mozambique (MozSkills)

² PASET Thematic Areas include; ICTs including big data and artificial intelligence; food security and agribusiness; minerals, mining and materials engineering; energy including renewables; and climate change.



- b. Type 2 grants:** also referred to as **Junior Investigator Research Award (JIRA)** will be awarded competitively to Mozambican graduates of the RSIF PhD scholarship program who obtain a post-doctoral or permanent position in an academic institution or research centre in SSA.

3. About this Call

The RA Grants aim to advance research excellence and generate innovative ideas that could be commercialized. The grant encourages research into contemporary challenges such as COVID-19 pandemic provided they are aligned with the PASET thematic areas. Mozambican applicants are encouraged to partner with international peers (e.g., African scientists in the Diaspora) in developing their proposals and responding to this call. Applicants should develop research proposals with a scope that is wide enough to support RSIF PhD or other Mozambican students' research projects as part of the grant.

Beneficiaries of the **RA** grant will gain access to high-quality complimentary capacity building and professional development opportunities from *icipe* to foster talent, build networks and encourage cross-disciplinary collaboration.

4. Grant Size and Duration

Each grant is up to **US\$ 90,000** for a **maximum period of 2 years from the time of award**. A total of seven (7) grants will be awarded to successful applicants.

5. Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible, an applicant must:

- a. Be a full-time member of faculty of a university or a scientist/researcher at public research institute in Mozambique. He/She must have at least a PhD or its equivalent qualification.
- b. Applicants are encouraged to have at least one international partner³ in the team. The lead applicant, who must be from a Mozambican university or research institute must demonstrate her/his capacity to undertake the research and elaborate how the research project will advance her/his role as a mentor of graduate students. Female applicants are highly encouraged. Additionally, priority will be given to excellent proposals that integrate female faculty and show gender balance and inclusivity.
- c. Applicants should not be recipients of another research grant from any other source of funding for the very same research project submitted to this call, unless it is for complementary purposes, such as matching support.
- d. Applicants must obtain authorization from their organization of affiliation to submit a proposal to this Call. This may be in form of a letter of support signed by the Dean or Principal of College or School of a higher education institution or head of a private enterprise, whichever the case might be.

³ An international partner may be from one of the universities or institutions already enlisted as an international partner institution or from one of the RSIF African Host Universities (AHUs) (see list on the RSIF website) or other institution with a similar profile.



- e. Submit only one proposal where he/she is the project leader and may also be a co-applicant in only **one** other proposal submitted. The lead applicant should not appear in more than two proposals submitted. The project proposal should have linkages with the RSIF thematic areas.
- f. Ensure that the project team is multi-disciplinary, comprising of at least two (2) and not more than five (5) members (including partners).

6. Proposal Guidelines

- a. The proposal should have: an introduction, problem statement, objectives, expected outcomes and outputs, methodology, description of activities, gender integration, a risk analysis, ethical considerations, team composition, budget, matching support, and references. The scope of the proposal should be wide enough to accommodate at least two RSIF PhD students or other Mozambican PhD students whose research should be relevant to the theme and objectives of the project. To the extent possible, the proposal should outline the topics, which RSIF PhD students could work on for their doctoral studies. The proposal should be no more than 15 pages including references. It should be written in Times New Romans font, size 12, single spacing, normal margins.
- b. The applicant may submit only one proposal where he/she is the project leader and may also be a co-leader/applicant in **only one** other proposal submitted. The applicant should not appear in more than two proposals submitted.
- c. The lead applicant should submit a letter of support from the eligible institution signed by the Dean or Principal/Head of the School or College.

7. Budget Guidelines

- a. The applicants should use the budget template, which can be accessed from this [link](#). Applicants should indicate cash or in-kind matching funding contribution of at least 15% of the total grant amount requested from RSIF. The matching funding may be from a variety of sources including international partner organizations. The budget requested from RSIF should not exceed **\$90,000**.
- b. Activities that can be financed include direct research costs (equipment and consumables), faculty and student participation in short courses or/and training; fee for conferences; intellectual property (IP) protection, and knowledge transfer and dissemination.
- c. The applicant's organization of affiliation may charge overhead not exceeding 10% of direct project costs. The organization may wish to waiver overheads and consider it as in-kind support to the project. See budget template for more details.

8. Evaluation Process and Criteria

a. Evaluation Process

- i. All proposals are evaluated against the criteria stated below. Each proposal is reviewed by at least 3 internationally recognized independent experts.
- ii. Evaluated proposals are submitted to the RSIF Grants Independent Technical Committee (GITC) for final assessment, selection, and recommendation for award.



- iii. The Mozambique Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education will make the final decision on the selected projects to be funded in line with the recommendations of the RSIF GITC, and the PASET Executive Board will be notified of the decision.
- iv. The list of selected projects shall be published through Mozambique's Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, International Bureau of Education and on the RSIF website.

b. Evaluation criteria (Table 1)

Table 1. Criteria for evaluation of proposals

No.	Criteria	Max Score
1	<p>Scientific/technological quality of the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sound scientific quality, including methodology and originality of the proposed project. • Clarity of the goals and objectives of the project • Clarity of the work plan and budget. 	40
2	<p>Contribution to national or regional development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential contribution to country strategies/ goals, economic development, environment and societal impact • Innovativeness, usefulness, and practicality of the research to be undertaken to solve key developmental challenges for Mozambique. • Gender considerations including likely impact on men and women including gender balance in the research team. 	30
3	<p>Mentoring potential of the applicant:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scope of proposed research proposed is able to accommodate at least 2 PhD students • Quality of scientific publications • Demonstrated capacity to mentor PhD students. 	20
4	<p>International collaborators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research experience and capacity of international partners relevant to the project ▪ Quality of scientific publications ▪ Potential for professional mentoring 	10
	Total Score	100

9. Ethical Issues

In the process of preparing the grant application, the applicant is obliged to observe ethical principles and rules and describe how ethical issues in the application will be addressed. The applicant should indicate plans to obtain ethical approval from relevant bodies if the proposed project involves human or animal subjects.



10. Risk Management Plan

The applicant should provide a risk analysis and contingency plan, including specific risks related to COVID-19 measures. This should include the potential physical, environmental, political, economic, and social risks expected from the conduct of the research and mitigation strategies. The proposal should be submitted along with the completed environmental and social screening template provided.

11. Application Templates

- i. Complete the online application and submit together with the required supporting documents at this [link](#).
- ii. Refer to the Proposal Outline template for guidance when completing your proposal application.
- iii. Please, contact rsifgrants@icipe.org, if you encounter any challenges with the online system.
- iv. The online system will accept the following file types doc, docx, pdf, rtf, zip, rar, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp, tif. The maximum file size accepted for any single file is 5 MB.
- v. Refer to the [list of approved RSIF African Host Universities](#) and the respective approved thematic areas to establish partnerships.
- vi. The proposal must be written in English or Portuguese.
- vii. Applications should be submitted no later than **15th November 2021, 23:59hrs CAT**
- viii. The table below is a checklist of the documents required for a complete application:

Documents required for RSIF -RA application	
1.	Complete proposal using template provided
2.	Budget using the budget template
3.	Workplan and Result Matrix using template provided
4.	A letter of support signed by the Dean or Principal of College or School.
5.	Curriculum vitae of key research team members
6.	Letter of support from collaborating international partner (s)

12. Additional Information

- a. Successful applications are expected to be announced no later than four months from the closing date of this call.
- b. Letters rejecting or accepting proposals, with statements of opinion, will be sent to all applicants within three months after the application deadline.
- c. The summaries of successful proposals will be published through Mozambique's Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education, International Bureau of Education and the RSIF website.
- d. Please, note that the submission of project proposals does not establish any form of legal claim or responsibility of RSIF nor *icipe* as the RCU. All decisions of the PASET Executive Board are final and are not subject to further claims or revisions, with exception of administrative mistakes.
- e. All selected applicants will be required to sign a Project Grant Agreement with *icipe*. The Agreement provides general and specific terms and conditions for the efficient and effective management of the grant.
- f. All applicants are encouraged to review the Project Grant Agreement and the RSIF Research and Innovation Grants Manual which can be found [here](#).



13. Contact Information and Support

A webinar session to provide clarifications on the Call has been prepared. Register in advance [here](#). After registration, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. For more information visit <https://www.rsif-paset.org/>.

Further enquiries can be sent to rsifgrants@icipe.org
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