



Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education

PASET REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND MOZSKILLS¹ SUB-PROJECT

Call for Proposals (Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Program (ICBP) Grants)

Closing date: 18th November 2021, Midnight 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 to innovation activities include collaborative partnerships involving scientists/researchers and innovators at universities, research centers and private companies through competitive grants to fund innovation projects in ASET fields. The main objective is to strengthen the innovation enabling environment and capacity of Mozambican universities, public research institutes and the private sector to collaborate and foster innovation development in the country.

2. Innovation Grants

Innovation grants are for strengthening innovation environment of universities to enable commercialization of research outputs or ideas and also promote university-industry linkages. The grants also support actual innovation projects, which translate research outputs into commercializable products.

Two types of innovation grants are available:

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.

Mozambique Skills Development Improvement Project (MozSkills), funded by the World Bank



- i. **Type 1 innovation grants:** also referred to as **RSIF Institutional Innovation Capacity Building Program (RSIF ICBP)** will be awarded competitively to Mozambican universities to create enabling environment within the university that encourages innovation and promotes university- industry partnerships.
- ii. **Type 2 grants:** also referred to as **RSIF Cooperability Grants** will be awarded competitively for collaborative innovation projects involving researchers, scientists, and innovators from Mozambican universities, public research institutes and private sector to develop products with commercial potential.

3. About this Call

This Call is for **Institutional Capacity Building Grants (ICBP)**. The grants are for developing innovation- enabling environments in Mozambican universities. The grant support includes capacity building for innovation and entrepreneurship development, transfer of knowledge, protection of intellectual property (IP) and establishment of platforms for university- industry partnerships. Other activities include developing establishment of the Technology Transfer Offices (TTO) in the cases where they do not presently exist and capacity building of TTO staff in specific areas of expertise; on-line courses, workshops and guest lectures on topics related to innovation and commercialization of research results, and, where necessary, review of innovation related curriculum. The Grant will not support physical infrastructure like construction of offices or laboratories nor purchase of major scientific equipment.

4. Grant Size and Duration

Each grant is up to **US\$ 70,000** for a maximum period of **2 years** from the time of award. A total of five (5) grants will be awarded to successful applicants.

5. Eligibility Criteria

- i. The Call is open to Mozambican universities only. The universities may collaborate with private sector (legal entities registered in Mozambique), business incubators, and accelerators or technology hubs.
- ii. The lead applicant shall be from a university. The RSIF International Partners Institutes may be involved in the project to provide relevant expertise.
- iii. The proposal should contain the following sections: background, development objectives, expected outcomes and outputs, methodology, description of activities, ethical considerations, gender considerations, environmental and social management plan, alignment to country strategies and overall socio-economic impact, partnerships, budget, matching support, and references. The proposal should not exceed 15 pages including references. It should be written in Times New Romans font, size 12, single spacing with normal margins. The applicants should describe how they intend to work with other team members at the University to successfully implement the project.
- iv. A university may submit only one application through the office of the vice chancellor.
- v. A university is not a recipient of another grant from any other source of funding for the very same project submitted to this call unless it is for complementary purposes, such



as matching support.

6. Proposed Activities

The expected activities during grant support in order of priority are as follows:

Proposed Activity	Expected outcome
1. Development of Institutional innovation policies, e.g. IP protection and technology transfer policies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Institutional innovation strategy aligned with the overall university strategic plan - IP policy - Other related documents (e.g. Material transfer agreements, non-disclosure agreements, etc.)
2. Organization of internal training workshops on IP protection and Technology Transfer process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Total of at least 6 workshops are expected to be organized during grant's period for faculty and students
3. Development of short courses on innovation and commercialization of research results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least one course should be developed and promoted to staff and students (graduate students should be especially targeted).
4. Organization of guest lecture series on innovation and technology transfer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - At least 6 lectures are expected to be organized during grants period
5. Establishment and capacity building of the TTO office staff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Each institution should provide in kind contribution and allocate an office space and salary for at least one staff member serving as the TTO Officer. In instances where an institution already has TTO established they will choose an activity for capacity building from the option list provided. In both cases the Grant will fund the capacity building.

7. Budget Guidelines

- a. The applicants should use the budget template, which can be accessed from this [link](#): Applicants should indicate a cash or in-kind matching funding of at least 15% of the total grant amount requested from RSIF. This can be shared among the partners in the proposal. The matching funding may be from a variety of sources, including the institution, private sector partner entity or international partner. The budget requested from RSIF should not exceed **US\$70,000**.



- b. Activities that can be financed include direct project costs such as the cost of field work, travel, meetings, services, office supplies, intellectual property management registration, and staff costs.
- c. The applicant’s organization of affiliation may charge **overhead** not exceeding 10% of direct project costs. The organization may wish to waiver overheads or 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 three internationally recognized independent experts.
- ii. Evaluated proposals are submitted to the RSIF Grants Independent Technical Committee (GITC) for the final assessment, selection, and recommendation for award of the grant.
- 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 the projects selected for co-financing shall be published on the RSIF website (<https://www.rsif-paset.org/>) as well as Mozambique’s Ministry of Science, Technology and Higher Education website.

b. Evaluation criteria (Table 1)

Table 1. Criteria for evaluation of proposals

Criteria	Score allocated
i. A clear plan to create an innovation-enabling environment	40
ii. Technical Quality of the proposal, including appropriateness of the budget and timelines for implementation of activities	30
iii. Capacity of the Applicant, partners and members of the project team	30
Total Score	100

9. Ethical issues

In the process of preparing the project 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, in instances where the project application involves human or animal subjects.

10. Risk Management Plan

The applicant should provide a risk analysis and contingency plan. 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 that is provided.



11. Application Guidelines

- i. Complete the online application and submit together with the required supporting documents via the online system at [this link](#).
- ii. 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.
- iii. Reference the Proposal outline for guidance in completing your application. Should there be any challenges navigating the application system, please contact rsifgrants@icipe.org
- iv. The list of RSIF African Host Universities and their respective thematic areas can be accessed at <https://www.rsif-paset.org/calls/host-institutions/>
- v. The proposal must be written in English or Portuguese and must be signed by the project applicant and the responsible persons officially representing the higher education institution as the legal entity involved.
- vi. Applications for the Call should be submitted no later than **Midnight November 18th, 2021 CAT**
- vii. The table below provides a summary of the documents required for completion of the application:

Documents required for RSIF -ICPB application (Link to be provided)	
1.	Project Proposal
2.	Project budget using the budget template
3	Workplan and Result Matrix using template provided
4.	Curriculum vitae of key research team members, max 3 CVs
5.	Letter of support and financial commitment from the university vice chancellor; (in kind contribution is acceptable)
6.	Support letter from the private company indicating their commitment and support for the project

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 on the RSIF websites.
- d. Please, note that the submission of project proposal does not establish any form of legal claim or responsibility of RSIF Fund nor *icipe* as the RCU. All decisions of the Approval Committees 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 condition 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 register in advance [here](#). After registering, 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
Regional Coordination Unit (RCU)
International Centre of Physiology and Ecology (*icipe*)
P.O. Box 30772-00100, Nairobi, Kenya
Telephone: +254 (20)8632000

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