The Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (Rsif)

Is a flagship initiative of the Partnership for skills in Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology (PASET) that bridges the skills gap needed for a science, technology and innovation-led growth and sustainable development in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

Vision
A sustainable pan-African science fund supporting high quality doctoral training and research in African universities and other institutions of higher learning.

Mission
To strengthen the institutional capacity for quality and sustainable doctoral training, research and innovation in transformative technologies in sub-Saharan Africa.

Rsif focuses on five priority thematic areas:
- Data science, including artificial intelligence
- Sustainable food systems including agribusiness
- Minerals, Mining and Material Science
- Energy including renewables
- Climate Change

Rsif design:

The General Fund
- Supports PhD training, research and innovation projects, and institutional capacity building of Rsif African Host Universities and associated organisations.

A Permanent (Endowment) Fund
- To support the General Fund

Window 1
- Scholarships, institutional capacity building, partnerships & networks

Window 2
- Research grants to faculty and Rsif graduates

Window 3
- Innovation grants and creation of innovation environments

Our Objectives
- Build a stock of highly skilled scientists and professionals in applied sciences, engineering and technology (ASET).
- Address imbalances in the number of women and disadvantaged groups in ASET in Africa.
- Build African university capacity to provide relevant ASET training and to ensure continued investment in scaling up the ASET education and workforce.
Rsif by numbers (as of August 2023)
- 291 PhD scholarships awarded (37% women) (24 nationalities)
- 55.7 million USD mobilised for research, training, and innovation
- 174 Research papers published
- 29 International Partner Institutions
- 15 African Host Universities
- 58 Research & innovation projects

Benefits
- Young African scientists and engineers who wish to develop careers in academia, industry, or business.
- African institutions of higher learning that train PhD students and become internationally recognized in applied sciences, engineering, and technology, including excellent research and innovation capacity.
- Business firms that link with Rsif host universities and have better access to new technology and highly skilled graduates.
- Rsif alumni who use their newly acquired training and research skills to build international, regional, and national networks.

Governance
Rsif is governed by African government representatives at two levels, with advice from the Consultative Advisory Group that consists of experts from several ASET fields. icipe is the Regional Coordination Unit that is implementing the Rsif.

Funding (as of August 2023)
- Nine African governments contributing between USD 1-6 million each (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal)
- World Bank and Government of Korea, Government of France, the ACP Innovation Fund financed by the European Union through the Organisation for African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and the Carnegie Corporation of New York

Our African Host Universities

Joining Rsif
Rsif invites new partners across industry, academia, and government. Please, reach out via the contact below.

Contact us
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