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 thematic areas**
- Data science, including artificial intelligence
- Sustainable food systems including agribusiness
- Minerals, Mining and Material Science
- Energy including renewables
- Climate Change

**Rsif design**

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

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

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

**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

- **291** PhD scholarships awarded (37% women) (24 nationalities)
- **54.7 million** USD mobilised for research, training, and innovation
- **178** Research papers published
- **29** International Partner Institutions
- **15** African Host Universities
- **58** Research & innovation projects

Why Rsif matters

- **High quality PhD training:** Combining intra-Africa academic exchange and international partnerships for world-class doctoral training.
- **Wider academic and research network:** Research placement at an advanced institution for exposure to cutting-edge technologies and connecting with global research networks.
- **Regional integration within Africa:** Strengthening centers of excellence and innovation ecosystems for the benefit of the whole region.
- **Better economies of scale:** A Pan-African partnership and a jointly pooled science fund that is professionally managed by the Rsif Regional Coordination Unit at icipe.

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

Nine African governments contributing between USD 1-6 million each (Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Senegal).

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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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