



UI-RESEARCH NEWS

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Developing International Research Collaborations: Advice to Early Career Researchers in Africa

Alex Ezeh

One of the most pressing questions for many Early Career Researchers (ECR) in Africa is that of developing collaborations with global partners. Especially for someone who has completed their entire university education at the same institution where they now serve as a faculty member, this question can be daunting. It becomes even more overwhelming if the university is not in the top tier within the country and therefore, the ECR has limited access to research-active senior faculty to serve as research mentors and role models. In these circumstances, how does one begin to develop a niche in building international research collaborations?

The early career academic contemplating these important questions does not need any convincing of the importance and value of such collaborations for meaningful research engagement in Africa today. They understand the opportunities it creates for real mentorship, access to research funds, and publications in top international journals. It is the pathway to becoming an independent senior investigator who is able to attract and manage research grants and lead research teams, and it offers the highest levels of fulfilment for any academic.

A 2014 World Bank report noted that, in 2012, international research collaborations accounted for much of the research output in Sub-Saharan Africa: from 79% in southern Africa to 70% in east Africa and 45% west and central Africa. Despite the importance of such collaborations, it is not uncommon to complete a doctoral program without any idea on how to develop such partnerships. Even early career academics at top African universities with active international research collaborations may feel completely excluded as such collaborations center around a few individuals and teams that often operate within what may be seen as tightly closed systems. So how does one break through these, often gendered, "old boys clubs" in international research collaborations as an ECR? I offer six thoughts to ponder; some may not be immediately relevant to many ECRs.

First, recognize that international research collaboration is not charity. Despite clear inequity in access to resources between researchers in the global north and those in the global south, you have to see international research collaborations as operating largely on the principle of mutuality – mutual interests and benefits. While a northern-based principal investigator may come across as if they are doing you a favor by collaborating with you, the truth often is that they need you more than you need them, and without you, such a project may not happen. Therefore, you must be clear on what you are bringing to the partnership and value it appropriately. Why should a partner work with you? Defining and recognizing your core strengths will help maximize your chances of success whenever there are opportunities for new research partnerships.

It will also help you to know when to say NO to a partnership. Learning to say NO to partnerships that could muddle your credibility is one of the best decisions you can make as an ECR. Credibility, they say, is gained by the spoonful but lost by the bucketful. Use [my IDP Science Careers Website](#) to identify your core skills, interests, and values, and let these guide your decisions on what collaborations to pursue. If you do not have practical research skills, seek opportunities to develop them. One place you can always say no, is to partnerships that seek to involve you after the fact – i.e., after the proposal is written and the grant is secured. Your engagement in such instances could be relegated to that of a glorified research assistant who manages data collection for the PI. Instead, focus on partnerships where you are involved in co-developing the proposal; focus on partnerships where you bring intellectual input to the content and scope of the work. This creates ownership and forces you to be vested in the research beyond data collection.

Second, make the best of every opportunity. Treat every opportunity as something that could potentially make or break you and give it your best. Strive to deliver more than you promised, and if you are falling behind, be the first to acknowledge that to your partner and request for rescheduling of timelines and deliverables. Some say opportunities come wrapped as work. If you are slothful, those opportunities will quickly pass you by.

Third, be proactive in seeking out opportunities. Many times, it is easy to sit back and expect opportunities to land in our laps. Unfortunately – or rather, fortunately – it generally does not work that way. Rather than complaining about the steel walls that separate you from the teams you know that are doing good research at your institution, reach out to them and make yourself a resource they can count on. Offer your strengths and skills, even when they are not being compensated. It is the period of sowing which generally precedes reaping. If you are at a university where no research is happening, look to faculty at other universities in your country that are working in your area of interest. Write to the lead (or another member whose work is most related to your interest) and introduce yourself and your interests. Write with some confidence, not as a suppliant; write as a professional, not the Text Message or WhatsApp grammar and shorthand. Be concrete in your inquiry or your ask. If you can find someone to make the introduction for you or have someone review your draft letter before sending it, even better.

Proactiveness extends to all other areas as well. When you attend a conference, seek out people whose work you have read and liked to request for a meeting. Attend sessions where such people are presenting and walk up to them and introduce yourself and say something you know about their work that you have read, especially a more recent work. Ask for their card and offer to write them about your interest in potential collaboration or mentorship. Follow up later. Look out for funders attending the meeting or conference and write them before hand to request for a meeting at the conference or to visit them after the conference (especially if you are attending from another country or state). Look out for other ECR doing work in your area of interest; they are more likely to be looking for international collaborators as well! Simply reaching out to introduce yourself and request for a meeting can open a lot of doors for you. If the meeting is accepted, do your background work. Google the person or organization, read everything you can about them and their interests and go ready to engage, particularly about your interests and how you see them aligning with theirs. Follow up with a thank you note, and any commitments made at the meeting.

Fourth, your success in being proactive will be greatly enhanced if you also have something to show that you are more than just talks. If a potential collaborator looks at your CV, they will want to see that you have not attended 20 conferences with zero publications. They would like to see that you have turned most of your opportunities into real outputs – that your conference presentations have become publications. That small research grants have resulted in quality publications and that you are busy and actively engaging with others. When you write to people, they are likely to google your name to see what they can find about you. Of course, they will also balance this with the stage you are in your career. If you got your PhD within the last 2 years, most people will give you the benefit of the doubt if you have little on your CV. The longer the duration since your PhD, the more people expect to see publications on your CV.

Fifth, invest in people. One action you can take that will most likely transform your career is to graciously welcome opportunities to mentor others. No matter your stage in the academic ladder, there is someone else you can help, support or mentor. The more you respond to the needs of others who look up to you for guidance, the more you are able attract and draw people around you that will begin to create a team you can work with. The larger the team you have around you, the more relevant you will be as a potential partner in any international research collaboration. Most international research collaborations require multi-disciplinary research teams that can effectively respond to every aspect of the research program. If you remain an individual researcher, your appeal as a potential partner will remain very limited. And, it is always too late to try and assemble a team when an opportunity arises.

Finally, take a long-term view of collaborations and partnerships. You will be most successful if you can sustain research collaborations beyond a single project or paper. The quotation: *“There is no limit to what you can accomplish as long as you do not care who gets the credit”* is apt for ECRs. As researchers, it is very common to overstate our contributions to any initiative and as an ECR, it is very easy to see the many ways a senior colleague has taken advantage of you. Dwelling on this will only stunt your growth. See the benefits of partnerships beyond financial and publication gains; consider training, networking and other growth opportunities too. Look ahead, learn the lessons there is to learn, and move on to become a better mentor yourself!

World Bank 2014. A Decade of Development in sub-Saharan African Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Research. World Bank Group, Washington DC.
<https://myidp.sciencecareers.org/>

Alex Ezeh

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Drexel University

Sept. 2020

PREVENTION OF SPREAD OF COVID-19

The novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) is a new strain of the virus that has not been previously identified in humans. SARS-CoV-2 is the virus that causes coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The Federal Ministry of Health, through the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), has activated a national Emergency Operations Centre at the highest level and is leading the national response. A National Rapid Response Team has been deployed to support affected State Governments with response activities.

As at 1st of May 2020 there were 18 laboratories in NCDC's molecular laboratory network with the capacity to test for COVID-19 in Nigeria, more are still being added. These laboratories were sufficiently equipped with reagents and supplies for testing.

On the 27th of April, President Muhammadu Buhari announced that there would be a phased and gradual easing of the lockdown in these locations. He added that, however, the following additional preventive measures would be enforced:

- Mandatory use of non-medical face mask/covering for all persons while in public spaces. Use of medical latex hand gloves are prohibited
- Mandatory provision of handwashing facilities/sanitizers and extensive temperature checks in all public spaces. Anyone with temperature above 38 degrees Celsius will not be allowed into public spaces and should be told to return home
- Mandatory temperature checks in public spaces
- Prohibition of interstate travel except for essential travels and services
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons outside of a workplace
- Prohibition of gatherings of more than twenty (20) persons at a funeral; all infection prevention and control measures and physical distancing of 2 metres must be adhered to
- Controlled access to markets and locations of economic activities
- Physical distancing of 2 metres between people in workplaces and other public spaces

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

Members of the University Community should undertake simple measures to prevent the spread of the virus, by following these measures:

- Wash your hands frequently with soap under running water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based sanitiser if water is not available
- Cover your mouth and nose properly with a tissue paper when sneezing and/or coughing. Dispose of the tissue properly immediately after use. You may also cough into your elbow if a tissue is not available
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing repeatedly
- Maintain at least 2 metres (6 feet) distance with other people when in public places
- Wear a non-medical face mask/covering when leaving the house
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Ensure routine cleaning of high-contact areas such as toilets, door handles, telephones, light switches etc.
- Consciously distance yourself at least two (2) meters to the next person. Stay 6 feet away, especially if the person around is coughing or sneezing.
- Do not shake hands or hug any person.
- Unnecessary visitors should not be allowed
- An ill person should be asked to stay away from the office
- Offices can practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (for example tables, desk, light switch, sinks, electronics, door handles, toilets, etc.
- If you have recently returned from a place or area within the last 14 days with widespread of transmission and have a fever, cough, or breathing difficulty, stay at home and call your state hotline or the NCDC on 080097000010.
- Self-isolate if you returned from any place or area within the last 14 days with widespread transmission of COVID-19

ABOUT CORONAVIRUS DISEASE (COVID-19)

COVID-19 appears to cause mild to severe respiratory symptoms like fever, cough and difficulty breathing. From current evidence, about 80 persons out of 100 persons with the disease will recover. In about 10- 15% of cases, it will cause severe illness. It appears that death is not a common outcome and occurs mostly in patients with underlying health issues.

There is no specific treatment yet for COVID-19. However, many of the symptoms can be treated. Treatment is based on the patient's clinical condition, but supportive care for infected persons can be highly effective.

The above are precautionary measures to guide and protect us as individuals and entire system at large. Therefore, we are encouraged to kindly observe the prevention measures conscientiously.

NEWS

Countdown to 2030/Stunting Reduction Exemplars Project

SickKids Center for Global Child Health, Hospital for Sick Children collaborates with the University of Ibadan to conduct a Nigerian Research project titled “Countdown to 2030/Stunting Reduction Exemplars”

The Hospital for Sick Children’s (SickKids) Centre for Global Child Health in Toronto, Canada together with the University of Ibadan, Nigeria is undertaking a “Countdown to 2030” study which includes a nutrition-focused subset that will examine the drivers of and barriers to childhood stunting decline at a subnational level (“Stunting Reduction Exemplars”) in Nigeria.

The new and exciting research seeks to document the progress attained, lessons learned and remaining challenges in reproductive, maternal, newborn, child, adolescent health and nutrition (RMNCAH&N) in Nigeria. Maternal mortality rates remain high, with 512 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births (NDHS 2018), accounting for 14% of the global burden of maternal deaths. Furthermore, Nigeria’s stunting rates are the second highest globally, and significant sub-national regional variations exist. There is a clear need to accelerate progress towards achieving improved maternal and child health and nutrition, and the findings of this study will provide a comprehensive situational analysis of Nigeria that can be used to inform policies and programs.

Nigeria is one of the World Bank’s Global Financing Facility (GFF)-supported countries for RMNCAH+N investments. This Investment Case has been integrated within Nigeria’s National Strategic Health Development Plan II (2018-2022) which aims to promote universal access to comprehensive health services. This study will also assess the progress towards targets outlined in the Investment Case and will identify gaps in its implementation and/or related data.

To launch the project in Nigeria, SickKids and the University of Ibadan organized a web-based Nigeria Inception meeting on the 3rd of September, 2020. The meeting brought together government stakeholders (Federal and State-level), UN agencies, World Bank, WHO, local academics and NGOs and Civil Society Organizations to highlight the scope and objectives of the study, and to hear from attendees on the successes and challenges experienced with respect to RMNCAH+N and to identify ways forward.

The meeting was highly participatory and contributory and well attended by notable dignitaries such as the Honorable Minister of State for Health (Dr. Adeleke Mamora) and Director, and Technocrats from the Federal Ministry of Health, Vice-Chancellor, University of Ibadan (Prof. Idowu Olayinka) and the University of Ibadan research team, Co-Director (Prof. Zulfiqar Bhutta) Sickkids Center for Global Child Health and the Sickkids team, Prof. Adenike Grange, (former Minister of Health of Nigeria) amongst others.



Prof. Abel Idowu Olayinka
Vice Chancellor University of Ibadan

The Vice-Chancellor in his opening remarks, noted that the University of Ibadan does not take for granted the opportunity to collaborate on the project and is still sustaining her mandate as a leading research institution in Nigeria evidenced by the current “Times Higher Education (THE)” World University Ranking 2021 released on 2nd September 2020, where University of Ibadan emerged among top 500 (401 – 500 band) universities in the world, the best in West Africa. He emphasized that the current collaboration between the University Ibadan and the Hospital for Sick Children’s (SickKids) Centre for Global Child Health in Toronto, Canada is a bold effort to address the developmental challenges in Nigeria



The Honorable Minister of State for Health,
Dr. Adeleke Mamora

The Honorable Minister of State for Health declared the meeting open and emphasized the commitment of the government of Nigeria in ensuring the success of the project. He also expressed his gratitude to the Countdown team, SickKids Canada and University of Ibadan for engaging with such a diverse group of stakeholders.

The project, which will run for 2 years, will be conducted nationally and in 5 states (Niger, Ogun, Abia, Kano and Yobe) across the northern and southern geo-political zones and would utilize mixed-methods which will include a systematic review, analyses of national and subnational coverage and trends in RMNCAH+N indicators and outcomes, policy/program analyses, qualitative field work, descriptive and advanced analysis to determine the drivers of stunting decline in exemplary regions and the risk factors associated with stunting in regions that have not performed as well.

The Principal Investigators and Co-Principal Investigators for the study are Prof. Zulfiqar Bhutta (SickKids Center for Global Child Health), Dr. Emily Keats (SickKids Center for Global Child Health), Prof Adebola Orimadegun (University of Ibadan) and Prof. Ayodele S. Jegede (University of Ibadan).

mCONSULTING AS AN OPTION FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN NIGERIA

POLICY BRIEF

Summary

Mobile phone consultations with healthcare providers (mConsulting) is an innovative way to make quality healthcare universally available. This is particularly critical in countries such as Nigeria where access to healthcare access is less than optimal.

While this innovation is likely to improve accessibility to healthcare, it is important to regulate the practice to assure quality and mitigate harm.

mConsulting services have been introduced into Nigeria without the existence of a policy and regulatory framework.

This brief examines its usage, regulations and modes of operation in Nigeria and possible policy responses.

mConsulting in Nigeria?

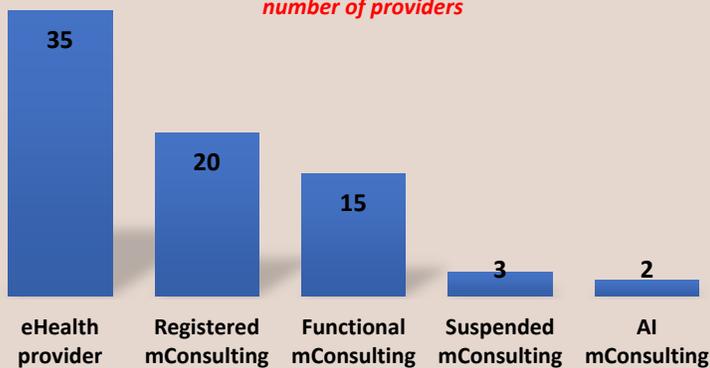
mConsulting is when a person, with a perceived health need, consults a healthcare provider using mobile communication technology, or a provider contacts their patient. This also includes a situation where the person with a healthcare need requests an intermediary, such as a relative or community health-worker, to assist them with mConsulting.

Evidence from other Low and Middle Income Countries (LMIC) indicate that the use of digital and mobile communication technology for healthcare can improve management of communicable and non-communicable diseases. Ultimately, it has the potential of increasing access to healthcare services in low resource settings.

The rapid expansion in the use of mobile communication technology in Nigeria provides an additional platform for mConsulting for improving access to quality healthcare and mitigating health disparities. However, there is limited information about the regulatory framework for mConsulting in Nigeria. This policy brief reports on findings from a study on the current status of mConsulting in Nigeria and offers suggestions on policy options.

A Synopsis of Current mConsulting Situation in Nigeria:

Mapping of mConsulting providers in Nigeria showing total number of providers



Mode of interactions with Clients in Nigeria



mCONSULTING AS AN OPTION FOR IMPROVING ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE IN NIGERIA

More facts on mConsulting in Nigeria...

Cost of mConsulting (n)			
Free	<N2,000	N2,000+	Consultation fee not stated
(2)	(4)	(3)	(6)
Providers' targeted population (n)			
General	>16 years old	Pregnant women/ new mothers	Elderly
(12)	(1)	(3)	(1)

mConsulting referral systems (n)

Referral	Drug prescription	Provide info on hospitals	Follow up	Keep Record
(8)	(5)	(1)	(4)	(8)

No specific national policy on mConsulting in Nigeria

Stakeholders' Views...

Stakeholders hold disparate views about mConsulting policy and regulations in Nigeria. Stakeholders views about mConsulting policy and regulations in Nigeria. Some had no knowledge of any existing policy. Others insisted that there were policies but these were fragmented with differences at national and state levels. Some likened the lack of explicit policies on mConsulting in Nigeria to the general problem that policies are not keeping up with the rapid changes that come with innovation. One stakeholder stated: *"innovation especially when it's very rapid, and especially now in technology, is moving light years ahead of the capacity of regulators to stay up to date."* (IDI/Digital expert 2/male).

Closing the Policy Gap:

First of All: Data privacy and vulnerability of clients' information to data theft remains a grave concern. Currently, cybercrime is a major challenge for law enforcement agencies in Nigeria.

Secondly: Lack of effective regulatory environment potentiates the danger to quality control.

Thirdly: To be effective, mConsulting must have harmonized laws and regulations which operate within a particular Information and Communication Technology (ICT) environment and infrastructure. Such a policy environment includes extant regulations on data collection and security, and ICT regulations on the whole.

CONCLUSIONS

- There are already existing formal mConsulting service platforms in Nigeria which are being utilized by the clients.
- Individual healthcare workers are engaging in mConsulting practices without prior training which may result in negative unintended consequences, including reduction in its potential to strengthen the health system.
- mConsulting is currently being implemented despite the absence of an existing policy.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- A definite policy should be in place to regulate the use of information technology in health which could be incorporated within the existing ICT policy document.
- Policy should assure quality in digital healthcare using the principles that already govern the healthcare consultation such as professionalism and confidentiality.

This Project "Mobile Consulting as an Option for Communities with Minimal Healthcare Access in Low-Resource Settings" was funded by UK MRC Foundation Grant: (MR/S012729/1)

Research Team- University of Ibadan: Prof Akinyinka Omigbodun, Prof Eme Owoaje & Dr Funke Fayehun
Read more: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/2055207620919594>;
<https://theconversation.com/mobile-technology-can-improve-access-to-healthcare-in-nigeria-if-its-regulated-137182>

GRANT AWARDS



Prof Akinyinka Omigbodun
Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, University of Ibadan

1. UKRI GCRF/Newton Fund-COVID-19: Determining trustworthiness and safety of RE mote Consulting in Primary Healthcare (REaCH) for chronic disease populations in Africa. Value of the grant to UI: £289,555.98 Duration: 2020-2022

Nigeria Principal Investigator: Prof Akinyinka Omigbodun

Co-Investigator: Prof Eme Owoaje

Co-Investigator: Dr. Olufunke Fayehun

2. UKRI Digital Innovation for Development in Africa (DIDA) seed grant on Co-produced Mobile Consulting for remote, marginalised communities in Africa. (Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda, and Rwanda). Value of the grant: £25,501.91 Duration: 2020-2021

Nigeria Principal Investigator: Prof Akinyinka Omigbodun

Co-Investigator: Prof Eme Owoaje

Co-Investigator: Dr Olufunke Fayehun

Co-Investigator: Dr Akanni Lawanson



Dr. Olufunke Fayehun
Department of Sociology University of Ibadan

AHRC-DfID Fund:
Data and
Displacement:
Assessing the Practical
and Ethical Implications
of Targeting
Humanitarian
Protection. Value of
the grant to UI:
£29,583.85 Duration:
2020-2022

Nigeria Principal Investigator: Dr. Olufunke Fayehun

GRANT OPPURTUNITIES

Wellcome trust : Epidemic Preparedness: COVID-19 funding call

This call aims to strengthen the evidence base to better prevent and control coronavirus (COVID-19) epidemics and to increase research and response capacity.

It's part of an existing partnership between Wellcome and the UK Department for International Development (DFID) through the [Joint Initiative on Research in Epidemic Preparedness and Response](#) to help low- and middle-income countries prepare for and tackle epidemics.

Career stage:

- Leading a research programme For researchers with a PhD or the equivalent, and significant postdoctoral research experience.

Where your host organisation is :

- Anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China)

Level of funding:

Up to £2 million

Duration of funding:

Up to 2 years

Epidemic Preparedness: COVID-19 funding call

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Scheme at a glance

Career stage:

- Tooltip ,Leading a research programme

Where your host organisation is based:

- Anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China)

Level of funding:

Up to £2 million

Duration of funding:

Up to 2 years

Who can apply

You can apply to this funding call if you can swiftly begin to investigate new approaches for preventing and controlling COVID-19. Your proposal should focus on helping low- and middle-income countries prepare for and deal with the epidemic.

These awards are open to individuals or teams of up to five members. You can be based anywhere in the world (apart from mainland China). We particularly encourage applications from lead applicants based in [low- and middle-income countries](#).

You can apply if you're based at:

- an academic research organisation
- a not-for-profit or government body
- a private sector organisation.

You must be able to accept our [standard grant conditions](#).

Teams may be based in the same or in different organisations.

Your proposal

The scope of this call is broad. Examples of areas you may want to research include, but are not limited to:

- Clinical research, such as understanding the natural history of the disease, optimising clinical management, or population cohort studies including vulnerable populations.
- Treatments (supportive and specific), understanding impact in moderate to severe cases and on clinical recovery and outcomes.
- Pathogenesis:
 - immunopathology and pathophysiology of the disease and its complications
 - host factors predisposing people to more severe disease
 - patterns of viral replication and excretion.
- Epidemiology:
 - molecular epidemiology
 - transmission dynamics
 - long-term protection against disease
 - serology assays for a range of applications.
- Social sciences and ethics:
 - operational response
 - media, communication, and community engagement
 - social and economic impact
 - ethical issues related to clinical assessment of medical countermeasures.

Wellcome and DFID will review these areas of interest periodically and may adjust the focus of this funding call. If you have been invited to submit a full application, we will inform you of any changes.

We will review:

- the vision and scope of your proposal, including the aims, methods and impact your research is likely to have on preventing and controlling this epidemic, and where relevant, to future epidemics
- the track records of all team members, relative to their career stage
- how your proposed research environment supports the planned work
- the plans for sharing your research outputs (and samples, if relevant) and how you will integrate scientific evidence in epidemic preparedness and response programmes
- the extent to which your research and the dissemination of data involves genuine participation of researchers and stakeholders at a national level from low- and middle-income countries (where applicable)
- how it aligns with the priorities set out in the WHO's COVID-19 R&D roadmap.

Depending on your proposal, we may also review how it will:

- increase in-country research and response capacities in low- and middle-income countries and empower countries to carry out research and be leaders in outbreak response
- influence decision-makers, including international organisations, governments and ministries of health, to bring about policy change.

We will also consult with the [MRC UKRI \(opens in a new tab\)](#) and the [European Commission \(opens in a new tab\)](#) on the applications they receive through their calls.

Who can't apply

We will not consider proposals that address vaccine development.

You can't apply to carry out activities that involve the transfer of grant funds into mainland China.

What we offer

This call provides flexible funding of up to £2 million. Awards can last up to 2 years.

You should ask for a level and duration of funding that's justifiable for your proposed research.

You can hold an award on a part-time basis.

The support includes:

- staff
- materials and consumables
- animals
- equipment
- access charges
- overheads
- travel and subsistence
- overseas allowances
- fieldwork expenses
- inflation allowance
- open access charges
- clinical research costs
- other costs

What we don't offer

We don't fund:

- salary costs for any applicants or staff who are already funded by their organisation
- costs for capital build or refurbishment.

We don't fund [overheads](#) unless they're included on this page.

Stages of application

5. Email an expression of interest to us You must send your expression of interest to us as soon as possible. We'll contact you within two working days of receiving your email. If suitable, we'll invite you to submit an application. Email epidemics@wellcome.ac.uk with a brief outline of your proposal including information about the lead applicant, team members and collaborators (500 words maximum).
6. Submit your invited application You must submit your application through Grant Tracker. If you're applying as a team, the lead applicant must submit the application form on behalf of the team. We'll only accept one application from each lead applicant. Other applicants can be included in more than one application. View the [Sample application form for Epidemic Preparedness: Covid-19 funding call \[PDF 253KB\]](#) 'Details of proposal' section

Provide the following information in no more than 2,000 words:

- background and justification
- aims and key deliverables
- details for planned activities
- timetable and milestones (as appropriate). 'Outputs management' section

Provide information on how the evidence, knowledge and tools generated will be used to inform preparedness and response globally. 'Additional information' section

You can provide up to the equivalent of two A4 pages of extra information. If you provide more than this, we will ask you to reduce the amount of information. You can either:

- embed it in your upload for your 'Details of proposal' section – any text (such as legends, labels, or captions) will be excluded from the word counter
- upload it under 'Additional information'.

Dates

There are no deadlines. Expressions of interest should be submitted as soon as possible. We may close this call to new applicants at any time.

For more information visit the Official link [HERE](#)

West African Research Center Travel Grant 2020 (\$1500)

The WARC Travel Grant promotes intra-African cooperation and exchange among researchers and institutions by providing support to African scholars and graduate students for research visits to other institutions and regions on the continent.

WORTH

The WARC Travel Grant provides travel costs up to \$1,500 and a stipend of \$1,500.

Travel grant funds may be used to:

- attend and present papers at academic conferences held on the continent of Africa
- visit libraries or archives located in Africa with resources necessary to the applicant's academic work
- engage in collaborative work with colleagues at another African institution
- travel to a research site in Africa.

ELIGIBILITY

- This competition is open only to West African nationals, with priority given to those affiliated with West African colleges, universities, or research institutions.

DEADLINE: October 15, 2020

To apply and more information [visit here](#)

R2HC ANNUAL FUNDING CALL

R2HC aims to improve health outcomes by strengthening the evidence base for public health interventions in humanitarian crises.

This grant programme is an 'Open Call', with proposals sought for research that will strengthen the **public health** evidence base in humanitarian settings, and contribute to more effective interventions in **humanitarian** response.

This Call is now open.

If you have applied before, please [login to apply here](#). If you have **never** applied before, please [register to apply here](#).

Opportunity Details

Area of work

Disabilities, Disease (Communicable & Non-communicable), Ebola, Gender-based Violence, Health Systems & Services, Injury & Rehabilitation, Maternal and Child Health, Mental Health and Psychosocial Support, Nutrition, Sexual and Reproductive Health

Funding amount up to £4,500,000

Application deadline: 27 Oct 2020

RESEARCH GRANTS ON EDUCATION: SMALL

Applications Opens August 3, 2020 at 12:00pm CT

Full Proposal Deadline: November 3, 2020 at 12:00pm CT

Program contact: Jasmine Janicki
smallgrants@spencer.org

Download (PDF)

The Small Research Grants Program supports education research projects that will contribute to the improvement of education, broadly conceived, with budgets up to \$50,000 for projects ranging from one to five years. We accept applications three times per year.

This program is "field-initiated" in that proposal submissions are not in response to a specific request for a particular research topic, discipline, design, method, or location. Our goal for this program is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.

Travel Grants for Early Career Researchers

The [Communications journals](#) (Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Environment, Materials, and Physics) are pleased to introduce the 2020 training grants for early career researchers. In previous years, the Communications journals organized travel grants; due to the ongoing pandemic, we are changing our focus. The programme aims to help promising researchers attend a training course or workshop of their choice, that they would otherwise have not been able to attend due to a lack of funds.

Grants of up to €500 are available to promising early career scientists, whose research is focused upon one of the subject areas covered by the Communications journals, to support the registration costs of attending the training. If you wish to [apply](#) please first read the guidelines below.

The training grants are part of the Communications journals' ongoing commitment to supporting the achievements and skills development of early career researchers.

Eligibility criteria

The grants are open to researchers who meet the following eligibility criteria:

- Postdoctoral scientist with up to 5 years research experience or currently completing a PhD.*
- Conducting research within the areas of biology; chemistry; Earth, environmental or planetary sciences; materials science; or physics.
- Has been accepted for, applied to, or plans to attend a specific training course or workshop that will take place before the end of 2021. The course/workshop must provide a certificate of attendance/completion to be eligible for funding.
- Can demonstrate that they have no other funds to cover attendance.
- Can provide the contact information for a suitable sponsor, such as the current or last PI/head of department.

* If you do not meet these criteria but feel that you should be considered due to a contributing factor (such as a leave of absence) please tell us why when you submit your application.

Assessment

Developing scientific skills through subject- and technique-specific training courses and workshops is an important factor in career and scientific development. The grants will be awarded to researchers who the judging panels agree have outstanding potential and would benefit from the opportunity to enhance their skill set and interact with instructors and other early career researchers through attendance of training courses and workshops. Assessment will be made based on the following criteria:

- Has the applicant demonstrated that without the grant they would not have the necessary funding available to attend the course/workshop?
- Is the applicant undertaking research that the assessment panel feels has outstanding potential and will directly benefit from the skills gained on the course/workshop?
- How does the applicant stand to benefit from attending this particular training course or workshop?
- Is the applicant looking to gain interdisciplinary skills?
- Has the applicant been working within a scientifically emerging country or in difficult circumstances?

Judging panel and timeline

The winners will be selected by a [judging panel](#) consisting of both professional editors and practising scientists. An editorial steering group will select a longlist of applicants who best meet the criteria above and who should be considered within the final assessment. These candidates will then be assessed by the full judging panel who will select the winning applicants.

Key dates

- The deadline for applications is October 26th 2020.
- The winners will be announced in early December 2020.
- Applicants should plan to attend a training course or workshop before the end of 2021.

Apply

To submit an application please visit our [apply](#) page.

Women Funding and Grants for Sports

The ONSIDE Fund is looking to support feminist organising and hyper local solutions. Groups will access unrestricted funds to support girls and women* in exercising their right to play, thus advancing gender justice in sport at all levels, from the grassroots to the global.

ONSIDE Vision: All girls and women* exercise their right to play.

ONSIDE Mission: Drive a sustained feminist movement that re-imagines and transforms sport.

* This fund actively looks to support all cis, trans, non-binary and all other underrepresented groups and communities such as black, indigenous, mestizas, people of colour, LGBTIQ+, refugees, and migrant girls and women with or without disabilities.

Principles

- o ONSIDE Fund supports feminist organising
- o ONSIDE Fund believes that girls and women taking action in their communities are at the centre of change
- o ONSIDE Fund commits to participatory and equitable approaches to decision-making, re-granting and learning.

Funding Information

- o The ONSIDE Fund will provide unrestricted re-grants of up to \$10,000 USD to groups that meet the eligibility criteria.
- o Besides financial support, the ONSIDE Fund, as a continual initiative, is committed to creating a long-term community-engagement platform.

Through a digital learning hub, the ONSIDE Fund will create dialogue spaces for re-grantees to mobilise a global community that shares learnings, challenges and successes.

The participation of organisations in this learning hub will not be limited to their re-grant period.

Eligibility Criteria

- o Grassroots, community-based organisations, collectives, and groups led by girls and women and governed by feminist principles.
- o Applying organisations and collectives do not need to be registered and must have an operating budget of less than 150,000 USD.

Priority will be given to:

- o Groups clearly led by girls and young women under the age of 30;
- o Groups that demonstrate participatory models including meaningful leadership roles and active decision-making functions for girls and young women;
- o Groups serving more marginalised communities including indigenous girls, trans girls.

Apply by 12th October.

Click link to apply <https://www.advance-africa.com/Women-Funding-and-Grants-for-Sports.html>

Evaluation of Hygiene and Behaviour Change COVID-19 projects

We're delighted to launch a call for applications to deliver an evaluation on the actual inclusion of disabled and older people in up to four projects

funded by the Hygiene Behaviour Change Coalition, which was set up to mount a rapid response to contain and limit the spread of the COVID-19 in low and middle income countries.

PENDA will accept submissions from applicants, preferably led by research institutions from low- or middle-income countries, to deliver this evaluation.

Further details can be found in the guidelines below. The application process will include two stages, with the first being the submission of Expressions of Interest by interested applicants.

Details on the call for applications, eligibility, guidance and application formats are here:

[Application Guidance](#)

[Application Form](#)

[Due Diligence Form](#)

[Grant Terms and Conditions](#)

The deadline for expressions of interest is: 12:00 GMT 7th October 2020, applications should be submitted via email to penda@lshtm.ac.uk

Shortlisting for second round should be completed and successful applicants notified by 12th October. Dates are subject to change.

Visit <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/penda#grants>

Call for proposals in East, West, and Southern Africa: Generating and mobilizing innovative knowledge for regional education challenges

CALL FOR Proposals

PROGRAM(S) Technology and Innovation

DEADLINE November 06, 2020 by 23:45 (EST)

TOPIC(S) BASIC EDUCATION, ACCESS TO EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE, PUBLIC EDUCATION

DURATION 31 months

FUNDED BY IDRC and the Global Partnership for Education

REGION(S) Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mozambique, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

CONTACT kixcalls@idrc.ca

BUDGET CA\$750,000-\$1,200,000 per grant

STATUS Open

TYPE Grant

Eligibility

This call is open to individual Southern organizations or consortia of up to three organizations. The applicant organization/lead institution must have legal corporate registration and the capacity to administer foreign funds.

Proposals from consortia must name one lead organization that can subgrant to additional organizations. The lead organization must be a Southern organization based in Africa. Other consortium members may include members from within the region; national, regional, or international offices of multi-lateral organizations or international NGOs; or other organizations from outside the region.

This call is NOT open to individuals, governments, or organizations interested in using this grant to conduct research on the for-profit provision of core education services.

Scope

The Global Partnership for Education (GPE) and IDRC invite proposals for regional grants from individual organizations or consortia of multiple organizations for national, sub-national, or regional level projects to generate and mobilize knowledge to support national education systems in developing country contexts in addressing shared policy challenges related to improving access, quality, and the performance of their systems.

Projects funded through this call will:

- Scan for and identify relevant approaches and innovations to address shared policy challenges;
- Adapt and test those approaches to assess how to scale positive impacts in GPE-member countries; and
- Mobilize knowledge and build capacity to improve the uptake of approaches in policy and practice.

This call is designed to respond to the demands of GPE member countries for knowledge and innovation. Proposals should address one or more of the following four policy challenges shared among GPE member countries in East, West, and Southern Africa:

- Strengthening in-service teacher mentorship and support
- Increasing access to early childhood care and education for rural and marginalised children
- Increasing access to quality education for rural and marginalised children; and
- Strengthening utilisation of learning assessments

More details

Please refer to the detailed call for proposals for more information about the call objectives, eligibility, timelines, selection criteria, review process, application guidelines, and regional challenges.

You are strongly encouraged to read the [detailed call for proposals document](#) before applying. [Register for a webinar about this call](#) on September 17, 2020.

Please e-mail your questions in advance to kixcalls@idrc.ca by September 10, 2020.

Please consult the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) Interested in applying?

[Click to Apply online](#)

Addressing gender and diversity gaps in clinical research capacity at the EDCTP Regional Networks of Excellence

EDCTP awards funding to collaborative clinical research projects conducted in sub-Saharan Africa on poverty-related infectious diseases, based on open, competitive and independently reviewed calls for proposals.

The EDCTP2 programme is supported under Horizon 2020, the European Union's Framework Programme for Research & Innovation.

Open date: 18 September 2020, 00:00

Close date: 19 October 2020, 17:00

Budget €2.0 million

[Click for more](#)

FELLOWSHIPS

Postdoctoral Social Scientist in the Field of Private Wealth Research

for a project led by Professor Jens Beckert. The project is funded by the Leibniz Prize of the German Research Foundation (DFG). The starting date for the position is January 1, 2021, or by agreement. To read more about the "Wealth in Germany: Structures, Continuities, and Fractures" project, please go to www.mpifg.de/projects/leibniz-research-group.

The successful candidate is expected to have a background in quantitative research, an excellent PhD in Sociology, Political Science, or Economics, a publication record appropriate for an early-career researcher, an outstanding knowledge of quantitative methods and database building, and an excellent command of German and English.

Opportunities exist for the holder of the position to work on a habilitation and to teach within the International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE; <http://imprs.mpifg.de>). The position is initially limited to three years in accordance with the German Fixed-term Employment in Higher Education and Research Act (WissZeitVG), but there is an option to extend by a further three years following a positive midterm evaluation. Pay and benefits are in accordance with the German public service wage agreement (TVöDBund).

The Max Planck Society is committed to improving the opportunities for women in science and explicitly encourages women to apply. We support our employees in achieving work and family life balance. We are also committed to employing more people with disabilities and encourage such applicants to apply.

The closing date for applications is November 1, 2020. Please apply online by going to www.mpifg.de/karriere/ausschreibungen_en and uploading a two-page statement of your interest in the research topic and in this project specifically, your CV, copies of your certificates, a list of publications, a journal article of your choosing, and the names and addresses of two referees. Please upload the files in a single PDF document.

Contact Dr. Ursula Trappe Head of Administration trappe@mpifg.de

DAAD AgEcon Scholarships 2020/2021 for young professionals from developing countries (EUR 850 monthly stipend)

<https://www.opportunitiesforafricans.com/daad-agecon-scholarships-2020-2021/?amp>

TRIALECT

https://trialect.com/gynecological-endoscopy-and-3d-laparoscopy/program-details-brief?utm_source=Trialect&utm_medium=Fellowship&utm_campaign=Pelvic_Endoscopy_Laparoscopy

International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI) Training Fellowship 2021

The Biosciences eastern and central Africa – International Livestock Research Institute (Beca-ILRI) Hub (Nairobi, Kenya), in partnership with its UK-based partners the John Innes Centre (JIC), the Earlham Institute (EI) and Oxford Nanopore Technologies (ONT), launches an intensive training programme in genomics and bioinformatics, called **Third-generation genomics and bioinformatics for agribiosciences in Africa**.

Application Deadline: 31st October 2020 **23:59 UTC**.

About the Award: The partners have long-standing experience in developing capacity to apply agricultural biosciences in Africa. We are aware of the current bottlenecks in scientific research for the improvement of African agriculture, one of which is the lack of skills in biological data analysis. Therefore, in 2018, together with our partners at JIC and EI, we launched the *ABCF Bioinformatics Community of Practice (BixCoP)*, an eight-month residential training which gave 14 early-career scientists from eight African countries the chance to gain and apply critical skills in bioinformatics data analysis, including programming (Linux and shell scripting/Python/R), NGS analyses, quantitative genetics and phylogenetics. We also ran a Train-the-Trainer module to formally prepare the trainees in how to distribute their expertise in their own communities. This training was widely praised for its quality.

The world of genomics is shaken by a revolution brought about by a new generation of portable, versatile, third-generation sequencing devices that are radically upscaling the ability for researchers to generate and analyze high-quality genomic data, inducing a paradigm shift in the way we look at full genomes and their variation. Cognisant of these advances, the Beca-ILRI Hub now proposes a new training program to equip African scientists with the skills to deploy third-generation genomics, particularly for agribiosciences. The training will largely focus on Nanopore sequencing platforms, but a general background on other sequencing platforms will be provided. The training is designed in three phases, the first two phases being residential in ILRI (Nairobi, Kenya), and a third phase being conducted remotely at the participants' home institutions. Below is a summary of the activities envisioned as part of this programme:

1. **Develop phase:** during four months, participants will be exposed to in-depth training modules on molecular biology and bioinformatics skills for 3rd generation sequencing (high molecular weight DNA extraction protocols, Unix command line, Python programming, 2nd and 3rd generation genomics, theory and practice of genome assembly, etc). These training modules will comprise formal lectures and a significant fraction of hands-on sessions. Besides the series of lectures delivered by internationally recognized scientists, a team of tutors (including trainees from the 2018-2020 BixCoP) will provide ad-hoc supervision to trainees during individual and group exercises.
2. **Demonstrate phase:** intertwined with the *Develop* phase and extending for 1.5 month beyond it, this phase will see the trainees engage in project-based learning, building on the skills learnt during the *Develop* phase, and demonstrate their use in real-life research projects in genomics for agriculture or conservation co-designed with the training team.
3. **Deploy phase:** during this last phase of the training, the trainees will return to their home institution, where they will launch a small third-generation genomics unit and implement a research project to address agricultural challenges with direct relevance to their home country or region. Wherever possible, this project will be integrated into research partnerships with ILRI or another OneCGIAR institute in the home country. Trainees will benefit from the support of highly experienced mentors from the Beca-ILRI Hub, its UK-based partners, and the One CGIAR consortium.

This training project will offer **a dozen fellowships only**: in line with our experience with the Bioinformatics CoP program, we will focus on the quality of the training program and the internal cohesion in the cohort of trainees, rather than on numbers. With support tailored to the trainees all through to the *Deploy* phase, we expect that this training will have ripple effects, with trainees returning to their home institutions to become emerging leaders in the fields of genomics and bioinformatics: "train the few to impact the many".

Therefore, applications will be rigorously screened, aiming at recruiting the best candidates in the most committed home institutions with the most promising and impactful research projects. Within this framework, reviewers will pay careful attention to achieving gender and geographic balance.

Type: Training

Eligibility: In order to guide potential applicants, we set out the following requirements, listed in no particular order:

1. The **call** is open to citizens of African countries affiliated with a research institution on the continent. Applicants will have to demonstrate active support from their home institution. By "support", we mean administrative and financial support, *exempli gratia* commitment to discharge the applicants from professional tasks they would have to conduct during the period of the training, financial support to help the returning trainee set up their research project in the *Deploy* phase, commitment to provide the trainee with a conducive environment for those research activities as well as forthcoming local training activities led by the trainee in coordination with the programme's managing team, etc.
2. The applicant's home institution should already have a minimal molecular biology lab, with basic equipment for DNA extraction and quality checking, polymerase chain reaction (PCR) and gel electrophoresis.
3. The applicant's home institution should commit to equip itself with a MinION starter pack or any other sequencing device enabling native single-molecule sequencing, as well as commit to support the returning trainee with the other start-up costs for their *Deploy* project (cf. section "Costs/Funding" above).
4. Applicants must have a well-thought project in mind, through which they will make use of long-reads genomics as soon as they return to their home institution (*Deploy* phase)
5. Applicants must have earned a MSc in biological sciences, genetics, bioinformatics, biostatistics, biotechnology, agricultural sciences, or other related fields.

Eligible Countries: African countries

To be Taken at (Country): Nairobi, Kenya

Number of Awards: 12

Value of Award:

- Thanks to funding from the UK's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) and Department for International Development (DfID, now FCDO), the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Oxford Nanopore Technologies, **all costs pertaining to the residential training (Develop and Demonstrate phases) will be met by the program**, including return flight tickets from the country of residence, accommodation costs in Nairobi and a monthly allowance covering subsistence costs.
- **Costs falling outside the residential training period (i.e. Deploy phase) will not be covered by the training program.**
- It is expected that the trainees' home institutions will demonstrate their involvement in the training program by making a formal commitment to support the returning trainee in establishing a minimal third-generation sequencing platform based on the Oxford Nanopore MinION system (or any other third-generation sequencing technology) throughout the *Deploy* phase. The initial setup costs of this will depend on the focus and scale of the platform, but are likely to be in the range of US\$ 5,000 to 10,000, not including staff costs.
- Please note these are funds the applicant's institution (together with its potential collaborators and partners) commits to invest in their own research platform, NOT a fee to be paid for the applicant to participate in the programme. These funds do not need to be available yet at the point of application, but a commitment letter signed by the relevant authority within the applicant's institution must be enclosed.

- Applicants are advised to start the process of getting this commitment from their institutions early enough to get it approved in time for the application deadline.
- **We encourage developing collaborations with in-country projects led by ILRI or another OneCGIAR institute**, to tackle research questions with direct impact of third-generation sequencing technologies on agricultural production. Such type of work include projects on the development of genetic resources for underutilized crops and breeds, on in-field disease diagnostics, on the discovery of genomic structural variations linked with disease or productivity traits, etc.

Duration of Award: 8 months starting April 2021

How to Apply: Applications will be received online only. Applicants are asked to fill in the form at (URL)[1] and upload the following supporting documents:

5. A curriculum vitae (maximum 3 A4 pages: please be aware that we will only read the first three pages in case the uploaded file is longer).
6. Transcript of the highest degree earned in any of the fields named in item (6) of the list in the previous section
7. A personal cover letter (maximum 1 A4 page) addressed to Head of Capacity Development highlighting key features of the applicant that make them the right fit for this programme
8. A support letter (maximum 1 A4 page) signed and stamped by a senior person from the home institution, e.g. a director, head of department or group leader able to commit research funds, indicating support as exemplified in item (2) of the list in the previous section.

In case of any questions that are not addressed by the present application guidelines, potential applicants can direct such questions to (provide an online Q/A space through which potential applicants can post questions and we reply "in the open")

[Visit Award Webpage for Details](#)

Benefits

The stipend amounts for Fellows are individually determined, according to the needs of the scholars and the Center's ability to meet them. Fellowships are supported by the Center's own endowment, private foundation grants, contributions from alumni and friends, and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The Center seeks to provide half salary up to \$65,000 with the expectation that the Fellow's home institution covers the remaining salary.

Deadlines

If College-level review is required, your College will communicate its earlier internal deadlines.

Type	Date	Notes
Internal Deadline	Monday, June 29, 2020 – 9:00am	If you wish to be considered for VPR nomination, please submit your Expression of Interest (see How to Apply) to stratprg@uoguelph.ca .
External Deadline	Wednesday, October 7, 2020 – 11:59pm	If your nomination will be submitted by a nominator other than the VPR, please submit directly to the sponsor by the external deadline. Please also submit a copy of the full nomination and OR-5 to research.services@uoguelph.ca .

For Applications, please visit / Source: Official Website [HERE](#).

Hans Fischer Fellowship Hans Fischer Senior Fellowship

Target Group: Up to 9 Hans Fischer (Senior) Fellowships will be awarded to outstanding international scientists who intend to explore innovative, high-risk topics in their research areas together with a TUM research group. Applications are invited from all areas of the TUM research portfolio.

Objective: The Fellowships last 3 years starting on May 1, 2021, with the expectation that the Fellow will spend a total of at least 9 months at TUM (which can be divided individually into several stays). In this way, TUM-IAS intends to further a lasting and productive connection on an international level.

Funding: Hans Fischer (Senior) Fellows receive €50,000 for travel, housing and research-related costs, as well as support for one doctoral candidate at TUM. For Fellows with family responsibilities, the TUM-IAS offers flexible funding and various other kinds of [provisions](#). In addition, Hans Fischer Fellows receive an award of €30,000. Hans Fischer Senior Fellows receive an award of €60,000.

Regional Fellows (Africa/Eastern Europe¹): To promote regional diversity, the TUM-IAS will award one of the Hans Fischer or Hans Fischer Senior Fellowships to a candidate from a home institution in Africa or Eastern Europe. Candidates for this Fellowship will undergo a separate evaluation, taking into account local evaluation factors. The Fellow will then receive the regular Hans Fischer (Senior) Fellowship benefits. For the Regional Fellowship, the tandem application rule (see below) does not apply.

¹ For this purpose, Eastern Europe includes the following countries: Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine.

Siemens Hans Fischer (Senior) Fellows: TUM-IAS invites nominations for Hans Fischer and/or Hans Fischer Senior Fellowships that focus on the research fields of [Simulation and Digital Twin](#) and the [Future of Autonomous Systems/Robotics](#). Up to 2 Fellowships can be awarded in the course of this call.

IAS@Cluster of Excellence: TUM-IAS invites nominations for Hans Fischer or Hans Fischer Senior Fellowships by the Coordinators of the Cluster of Excellence [e-conversion](#). Nominees are jointly hosted by a TUM and a LMU

National Humanities Center Fellowship 2021-2022, Canada

Description

The National Humanities Center welcomes fellowship applications from scholars engaged in advanced humanities research regardless of citizenship or national origin. Each year, several scholars from countries other than the United States come to the Center, in North Carolina, as part of the cohort of Fellows and contribute to the rich intellectual and diverse environment of the fellowship program.

Each year, the National Humanities Center welcomes scholars from across the humanities and all over the world. During their time in residence, Fellows are given the freedom to work on their projects while benefiting from the exceptional services of the Center. The stunning Archie K. Davis building offers private studies, light-filled common areas, and verdant grounds. The Center also provides scholars with exceptional library services, breakfasts, and lunches in the dining area, and administrative support in organizing seminars and study groups.

Additional information for international applicants can be found on the [National Humanities Fellowship](#) website.

Eligibility

Applicants must have a doctorate or equivalent scholarly credentials. Mid-career and senior scholars are encouraged to apply. Emerging scholars with a strong record of peer-reviewed work may also apply. The Center does not support the revision of doctoral dissertations.

In addition to scholars from all fields of the humanities, the Center accepts individuals from the natural and social sciences, the arts, the professions, and public life who are engaged in humanistic projects. For more details on eligibility see the [FAQs](#) section on the Sponsor's website.

professor who are both involved in the Cluster of Excellence e-conversion, and plan to work on a project scientifically relevant to the Cluster. One Fellowship funded by the Cluster can be awarded in the course of this call. For further information, please contact the Cluster's management before submitting the proposal to TUM-IAS.

Tandem Call: Applications for Hans Fischer and Hans Fischer Senior Fellowships (including the Siemens Fellows and the Cluster of Excellence Fellow, not including the Regional Fellows) require a tandem application, i.e. each prospective host must nominate two potential Fellows, at least one of whom must be a female scientist. Both applications will be evaluated individually according to our usual multi-stage evaluation procedure. Tandem nominations can be for the same or for several Fellowship categories (Anna Boyksen, Hans Fischer, Hans Fischer Senior, Rudolf Diesel Industry Fellowship). From the proposed tandem, both candidates may be successful, or one, or none.

Conditions Hans Fischer Fellowship (Early-Career Researchers):

- Eligible candidates must have completed their doctorate within the last 12 years (allowance can be made for special circumstances, such as parental leave).
- Candidates may be asked to provide evidence of employment at their home institute for the duration of the Fellowship.

Application:

The nominee and the planned TUM host submit a joint application including the following documents:

- nomination letter by a TUM professor (Host), including a description of the facilities provided for the Fellow by the TUM Host institute,
- nomination letter by the Dean of the hosting department or another member of the TUM Extended Board of Management (EHP) or TUM-IAS Board of Trustees,
- CV including a list of major publications (please highlight the 3-5 most important publications of the past 5 years),
- statement of purpose jointly signed by the candidate and the hosting professor, describing how the

Fellowship would contribute to the innovation of the scientific or technological environment at TUM, and the specific goals to be achieved. The statement of purpose should also include the following elements: o a budget plan, o a time plan regarding the candidate's projected periods of stay at TUM, o an identification of possible additional (interdisciplinary) collaboration partners both within TUM-IAS and within TUM as well as a short explanation as to why this collaboration would be beneficial, o an outline for an international, ideally interdisciplinary workshop/colloquium, to be organized during the active Fellowship period,

- list of 4-6 international peer-reviewers without any conflict of interest (please see [here](#)), - if applicable, also a list of persons that should be excluded from reviewing the proposal.

For more details, see [the TUM-IAS Nomination Guidelines](#).

Deadline: Applications are to be submitted online ([link to the online form](#)) by **October 27, 2020**.

TUM-IAS explicitly encourages nominations of and applications from women as well as from all others who would bring additional diversity dimensions to the university's research and teaching strategies. More information on TUM-IAS and the [Hans Fischer \(Senior\) Fellowship](#) is available on the TUM-IAS homepage.

PRIZES

African Development Bank (AfDB) AgriPitch Competition 2020 – (US\$120,000 To Be Won)

Asoko Insight is Africa's leading market intelligence and corporate data provider, helping investors, banks, multinationals, and governments to identify and verify clients and businesses across the continent.

Applications are invited for:

Title: African Development Bank - AgriPitch Competition 2020

Location: Nationwide

AgriPitch Competition

- Shortlisted businesses will participate in a virtual AgriPitch Competition from November 16-20, 2020, where winners will be chosen based on different categories under consideration. The African Development Bank will award shortlisted businesses between US\$10,000 and US\$40,000 in the form of grant capital (US\$120,000 in total is committed).
- The African Development Bank is a leading multilateral development finance institution. The Bank has 81 member countries and is headquartered in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire.

Eligibility

This is suitable for

- Companies that are in one of following categories: Youth with early stage Start-ups, Mature Start-ups, and Women Empowered Businesses as per the African Development Bank criteria are eligible to apply for the AgriPitch Competition and Virtual Investor DealRoom

Sector of focus:

- Agribusiness

Applicant Evaluation Criteria

All applicants should consider this criteria carefully as they build out their profile for submission:

Value Proposition and Innovation Rationale (30% weighting):

- How creative is the idea or how creatively the idea solves a problem related to ICT and agri-digitization?
- Gender responsiveness
- Addresses nutrition
- Job creation potential
- Competitive edge

Sustainability and Scalability (20% weighting):

- Sound environmental management systems
- Potential for scaling-up
- Sufficient and qualified staff, including management

Business Feasibility & Traction (30% weighting):

- Clear customer pain / need intensity and market size
- Commercial and technical feasible with strong profit margins
- Existing traction and customers (for matured start-ups)

Professionalism and Presentation of Business (5% weighting):

- Structure and presentation of the business model
- Ease of comprehension of the business
- Strong writing / presentation skills

Investment Appeal (15% weighting):

- Investment pull based on respective early start-up, matured start-up, and all-star stage

Application Closing Date:

20th November, 2020.

Method of Application

Interested and qualified candidates should:

[Click here to apply online](#)

OUR MOTTO

Advancing translational research output and uptake to meet societal needs

OUR VISION

To support researchers with information on funding opportunities, encourage collaboration and provide adequate training/services for the acquisition of knowledge and skills in grantsmanship that will enable carrying out of cutting-edge research

OUR MISSION

To be the flagship of innovative research administration and management in Sub-Saharan Africa, a catalyst for doing and up taking cutting edge research in the society

WHAT WE DO?

Pre-grant application services

- Funding opportunities: disseminate research funding opportunities
- Confirm eligibility of researchers according to sponsor guidelines
- Liaise with funding agencies on behalf of the university
- Interpret sponsor guidelines & regulations
- Register & assist with agency submission websites

Proposal Writing

- Review Request for Applications (RFAs) and Request for Proposals (RFPs)
- Proposal development
- Ensure compliance with submission guidelines
- Institutional support documentation for grants application
- Edit and format grants applications for readability
- Review and sign research proposals on behalf of the University or as a delegate of the University

Budgeting

- Budget templates
- Cost sharing
- Routing and approval

Training

- Provide training opportunities relating to grantsmanship for early career researchers.

Award Services Communication

- Identify and communicate proactively and effectively award parameters and sponsor terms and conditions to researchers and other administrative staff.
- Network with researchers to share and obtain information for effective scientific communication.

Project management

- Provide assistance to researchers and staff on post-award administrative processes
- Liaise with sponsors to ensure compliance with guidelines and to resolve conflicts and concerns (where applicable)
- Initiate and manage partnership agreements, sub-awards and sub-contracts with external collaborators

Fiscal Stewardship

- Provide support to researchers to facilitate the management of research funds and ensure financial management and control on behalf of external Sponsors.
- Ensure the preparation and submission of financial reports to sponsors according to set deadlines
- Coordinate and respond to audits and monitoring visits requested by sponsors in collaboration with other units such as bursary, procurement services and the researcher.

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