KISII UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR, RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

THE UNIVERSITY INTERNAL RESEARCH FUND
Call for Research Proposals for Early Career Researchers Fund
2017/2018

Background

The mission of Kisii University is to train high level human resource that meets the development needs of the country and international labour market, and to sustain production of high quality research and consultancy, and dissemination of skills and competences for the advancement of humanity. In order to realize this mission, the university academic staff must be actively involved in research. To support this endeavour, the University is initiating the Early Career Researchers Fund for researchers within five years of their award of their doctoral degrees. The Early Career Researchers Fund is meant to support research activities that would enhance the growth of early career researchers together with their mentors. It is anticipated that this would form a starting point for researchers to contribute to increased knowledge pool resulting from increased University led research and an increased publication to increase a greater visibility of the University in the development agenda. Success in research that has significant impact on society and produces economic growth comes from collaborative cross-disciplinary ventures. To enable such ventures, early career researchers must show evidence of continued research collaboration with their mentors.

The Early Career Research fund would enable recent Doctoral graduates to jump start their research career by giving them opportunities to partner with their mentors to conduct ground breaking research in areas of mutual benefit to the University but related to the applicants Doctoral studies. Topics should be related to the SDGs and vision 2030, with a special emphasis on South-West Kenya. As of necessity, the researcher should demonstrate on-going collaboration with a mentor. Further, a training component for undergraduate and master's students should be included in the proposal. This is key to ensure that as early career researchers are supported by their mentors, they are also supporting their students, this way; the research fund will have a multiplier effect that is necessary to grow the research capacity of the University. The key objective of the internally funded research calls for proposals is to enhance the research capacity for implementing an innovation systems approach to find solutions to problems facing South-West Kenya. And as part of that objective, the University also seeks to empower earlier career researchers to horn their research skills. To be considered for funding, research proposals are expected to be robust, original, innovative, meet eligibility requirements and be in line with the University's strategic plan 2009-2019.

Objectives

- ✓ To empower early career researchers to horn their research skills
- ✓ Promote a robust research culture in the University
- ✓ Enhance research uptake
- ✓ Enhance mentorship and coaching in research and innovation

Overall Theme	**RESEARCH FOR SUSTAINABLE TRANSFORMATIVE DEVELOPMENT**
Subthemes	✓ Agriculture, and Environmental Conservation ✓ Science and Technology ✓ Socio-Economics and Culture ✓ Law and Governance ✓ Education ✓ Health ✓ Community Development ✓ Gender, Development and Peace ✓ Business and Economics
Eligibility	✓ The proposal must fall into the theme of the call and be in line with the University's strategic plan 2009-2019. ✓ Applicant is eligible to make only one application as a lead applicant ✓ Applicant must have obtained their PhDs within the last five years; those who have successfully defended their PhD theses will also be considered. ✓ Applicant must have relevant qualification and experience in the subject area of the proposed project ✓ Applicant must produce letter of support from their mentor indicating their willingness to support applicant to conduct this research study.

Proposal Format	**Content and Form of the Proposal Submission**
	The proposal should include **a statement of objectives**, a mentor and their institution and a list of students to be mentored within the research proposal. An indication on how the research proposal, if funded will support the relevant faculty in building a robust research culture. Each proposal should include the following components as a minimum:
	The proposal should include:-
	1) Title Page
	    • Title Page One - including project title, author and **collaborator(s)** their research institute, designations and discipline of study.
	    • Abstract
	2) Introduction
	    • Background to the problem
	    • Statement of the problem.
	    • Justification
	    • Objectives
	    • Hypothesis / research questions
	3) Literature Review
	4) Materials and Methods/Research Methodology
	5) Expected output
	6) Work Plan
	7) Budget
	8) References
	9) Appendices should include:-
	✓ Applicant's brief curriculum vitae (one page)
	✓ 1 page of the research path proposed by the applicant.
	✓ Mentors Letter of support
	    Budget –A justification for each line item requested for funding should be provided.

Maximum Funding Level	All proposals will undergo a blind peer review process and successful research projects shall be funded up to a maximum of **KES. 1,000,000**.
Submission	**Both hard and soft copies of the proposals should be sent to:** The Registrar, Research and Extension, Kisii University or through research@kisiiuniversity.ac.ke. Soft copies should be sent as word documents while two hard copies should be double spaced, times new roman, font 12, spiral bound, and not exceeding 30 pages.
Important Dates	• **Deadline for submission of the full proposal 2nd February 2018.** • Award of funds 4th May 2018.
Important Dates	✓ Incomplete proposals and proposals submitted after the deadline will not be reviewed. ✓ Grants will be awarded for a maximum period of two years. ✓ Applicants who have received funds from other sources for the same proposal must justify their application for the University internal research grants. Failure to disclose award of such funds may result in disciplinary action taken against the applicant. ✓ Travel funds may not exceed 20% of total budget request ✓ Plagiarism reports must accompany the application and should generally be less than 20 percent ✓ For any clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the Office of the Registrar, Research and Extension before the submission deadline: **research@kisiiuniversity.ac.ke**