



TAITA TAVETA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

(A constituent College of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology)

Call for Research Proposals

2015-2016 Financial Year

1. KEY DATES

Application Stage	Date
Issuance date	Friday 30 th October 2015
Deadline for applications	Monday 30 th November 2015
Notification of results	December 2015
Commencement of Activity	January 2016

2. OVERVIEW

TTUC is calling for Research Proposal for her academic, research and interested non-teaching staff for the financial year (2015-2016). The purpose of this TTUC research fund is to provide support and develop research capacity, generate scientific solution to the community and country challenges, provide policy recommendations and advanced technological and social innovations for economic development.

The funding is targeted to address Scientific, Technological and Innovative priority areas in relation to the development agenda of TTUC strategic plan, TTUC Policies and Kenya Vision 2030.

The research funding support is competitive and no applicant is guaranteed an award.

3. RESEARCH GRANTS

TTUC plans to award research grants for the 2015/2016 Financial Year, typically in the range of KES 200,000 to 400,000 per year. Funding will be provided for up to 1 year in all priority themes. Grants will be paid in quarterly tranches subject to ongoing quarterly monitoring of the project and acceptance of a short quarterly report.

4. THEMATIC AREAS

1. Mining and Mineral Processing
2. Geotechnologies
3. Oil and gas engineering
4. Information and Communications Technology (ICT)
5. Basic and Applied Sciences
6. Environmental health and safety
7. Occupational health and safety
8. Public health
9. Supply chain management
10. Material science
11. Technoinnovation
12. Nanotechnology
13. Human rights and social justices
14. Economics and social studies
15. Biostatistics and Data science
16. Biomathematics and Bioinformatics
17. Education
18. Hotel management and hospitality
19. Human-wildlife conflict
20. Cloud computing
21. Agriculture and food security
22. Mathematics modeling
23. Financial mathematics
24. Engineering
25. Biotechnology
26. Conservation and Natural resources management

Applicants must nominate a priority theme. Applicants should take in account relevant policy documents such Vision 2030, Science, Technology and Innovation and TTUC strategic plan when developing their research proposals.

5. ELIGIBILITY

This is a competitive research grant programme managed by TTUC for **members of staff only**. The proposals must be issues driven towards problem solving in the society and country and compliant to the theme above. This fund does not provide funding specifically for the sole purpose of hosting, organizing or attending conferences or workshops; producing research publications; consultancy fees for projects that do not meet the definition of research; or specifically for travel to conferences/workshops and/or meetings.

This fund will not provide financial support for the conduct of individual researchers' masters or doctoral projects. However if your proposed research project is eligible for support, then any

nominated masters or doctoral research that convincingly forms an integral part of the proposed research project may be included.

6. PROCESS OF ASSESSMENT OF THE APPLICATION

6.1 OVERVIEW OF PROCESS

In the review process of the Research Grant applications, TTUC University Research Committee (URC) will conduct a high quality process of assessment involving both internal and external experts from public and private institutions to ensure transparency, accountability and quality.

Applicants will be assessed on a competitive basis according to assessment criteria below.

Applications must be received by 5pm Monday 30th November 2015.

- Applications will be assessed by TTUC (URC) for eligibility of the applicant(s).
- Consistency with application requirements, including adequate fit with the chosen priority theme. If an application is ineligible or incomplete, it will not be considered. All decisions are final and there is no appeal.

Applications that satisfy the basic requirements will be subject to the following assessment processes:

- All applications will be initially reviewed by URC against the assessment criteria and a shortlist of proposals for possible funding will be developed.
- Shortlisted applications for each theme will then undergo external peer review by at least one independent peer reviewers.
- Upon receiving the recommendations of the external peer reviewers, the URC will reconvene and make final determinations, based on peer review findings and URC's own ranking.

NB: University Research Committee members or peer reviewers to declare any existing or potential conflicts of interest.

6.2 INSTRUCTIONS TO APPLICANTS

It is imperative that the proposed research project is presented clearly; technical jargon and acronyms (except those in wide use such as ‘HIV/AIDS’) should be avoided.

The assessors judging the applications will evaluate their merit against the assessment criteria outlined in table below among others:

ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

SN	CRITERION	ASSESSMENT NOTES
1	Significance and Innovation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research addresses an important problem. Anticipated outcomes will advance the knowledge base of the discipline. The project aims and concepts are novel and innovative. New methods or technologies will be developed.
2	Policy relevance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The research project is relevant to the strategic goals of the TTUC, Vision 2030 and/or ST&I. There is a demonstrated demand and/or a need for research on this topic within the local community and Kenya at large.
3	Research Design & Methods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses are well developed, integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project. The research approach is clearly justified and the methodology is highly likely to result in meaningful findings. The design combines robust qualitative and/or quantitative methods with innovative thinking. Useful outputs will be produced. A logical and feasible work plan is presented.
	Research Team or Researcher	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The track record of all research team members supports the proposed activity. Capacity to undertake and manage the proposed research is shown. Prior track record in collaborative work, especially with industry, is an added advantage
	Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The project contributes to capacity building to undertake research. The activity will generate opportunities for departmental researchers.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Budget and value for money 	The proposed budget is appropriate (Has balance between content and requested amount of funding) and offers value for money.

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7. SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL

Interested applicants are asked to download the application form from www.ttuc.ac.ke. **The proposal should not exceed 20 pages.** The application must be submitted in both hard and soft copies by **5pm on Monday, 30th November 2015** to the following office:

The Deputy Principal, (Academic, Research and Outreach), Taita Taveta University College
P.O. Box 635-80300, VOI and email to dp-aro@ttuc.ac.ke

NB: Late submissions will not be accepted

8. ENQUIRIES

For further information, please contact research.outreach@ttuc.ac.ke.

Note that the ARO division will not enter into discussion on the technical merit or relevance of your proposed research.

9. APPLICATION COMPONENTS

The information below provides brief outline of your proposal.

9.1 SYNOPSIS

Provide a short synopsis summarizing the overall project.

9.2 PROPOSAL TITLE

Provide a short descriptive title in plain English.

9.3 RESEARCH QUESTION(S)

Please ensure the questions are clearly articulated, unambiguous and focused.

9.4 RATIONALE AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

State the rationale for the research, indicating the need for the work, its significance and innovation. Highlight what gap in knowledge or development problem this research is seeking to

address. Describe likely benefits of your research activity in economic, environmental and social terms.

9.5 POLICY RELEVANCE TO DEVELOPMENT

Provide a short statement outlining why the project is important to development broadly

9.6 RESEARCH ACTIVITY DESIGN AND METHOD

Methodology should be clearly described, including underlying activities in stages where appropriate, and linked to the research aim and objectives within the time frame of the project. Innovative approaches will be favorably considered.

9.7 OUTPUTS/DELIVERABLES

Each application must detail a set of interim and final outputs or deliverables. An indication of the expected delivery time should be included in the Work plan.

Researchers are expected to:

- produce both academic (e.g. submissions to refereed journals and conference presentations) and policy relevant materials (e.g. policy briefs)
- publish in open access journals or make pre-publication versions of their work available
- be available to deliver policy relevant seminars/workshops

9.8 CAPACITY BUILDING

Applications should outline the potential capacity building outcomes resulting from the research project.

9.9 BUDGET

A breakdown of all costs associated with the research project must be provided. There must be a clear justification for the level of funding sought for researcher salaries.

The following set of reporting requirements must also be met:

- A **Quarterly Report**. This report will be a brief (five page maximum) administrative, financial and activities report to indicate progress of the project, comparing actual accomplishments with goals established for the reporting period.

- A **Final Report** of findings and conclusions. This report must be succinct and targeted. Hence it should not exceed ten pages and should include a short summary of the research project, the key findings and any recommendations coming out of the project.

10. SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS

Successful applicants will be required to sign a Grant Agreement with TTUC that defines the project to be implemented, specific activities and outputs, timeframe and the respective financial and other responsibilities and obligations of each party. Grant Agreements must be signed before any funds can be paid.

Work must commence in the **first two months** of signing. A delay of more than two months without approval will result in the grant being cancelled.

Extensions of time will only be granted in unforeseen and unexpected circumstances beyond the researcher's control.

11. INFORMATION OWNERSHIP, CONFIDENTIALITY AND INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

TTUC receives all applications for funding in confidence. Intellectual property rights with respect to information contained within applications submitted to TTUC remains with the applicant until varied in accordance with the terms of any contract entered into between TTUC and the successful Grantee.

All information contained within applications, once received by TTUC and during the process of assessment, will only be disclosed to TTUC staff directly involved with the administration of the grant, internal and external advisers, panel members, and external referees or disclosed as required by law.

Disclosure of any information contained within an application to persons other than those referred to above, or the use of information contained within an application other than in connection with TTUC activities and archiving requirements, will require the express written permission of the Principal Investigator.

Applicants who have not been awarded funding may agree in writing to the disclosure of information contained in their applications to specified persons or for specified purposes.

TTUC has the obligation to protect intellectual property emerging from research funded from its sources fully or partly by the prompt filing of appropriate patent applications. TTUC will partly claim ownership of any intellectual property created as a result of any project which is funded by the research grants. However, TTUC wishes to be able to publish and use all or part of selected research reports. Accordingly, under the terms of the contract, the Grantee will be required to grant to TTUC a permanent, irrevocable, royalty-free license for this purpose. This arrangement benefits both the Grantee and TTUC. The Grantee may publish their research results independently elsewhere and TTUC has the right to use the results of the research project where applicable and appropriate.