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RUFORUM Graduate Research Grants

OVERVIEW

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) is a network of African universities committed to fostering transformative change in higher education, research, and innovation. As part of its mission to strengthen postgraduate training and research in agriculture, RUFORUM provides Graduate Research Grants (GRGs) to empower academic staff and their students to address pressing challenges in agriculture and related fields across the continent.

The RUFORUM GRGs are designed to enhance the capacity of academic staff in African universities to supervise graduate students effectively while contributing to impactful, demand-driven research. These grants are pivotal in bridging the gap between academia, industry, and the broader community, ensuring that research outcomes have tangible societal and economic benefits.

Since RUFORUM's inception, the GRG initiative has been instrumental in fostering collaborations among universities, communities, and stakeholders, thereby enhancing the relevance and application of research in addressing real-world challenges such as food security, climate change, and sustainable development.

KEY OBJECTIVES

The RUFORUM GRGs aim to achieve the following objectives:

1. Strengthen academic staff's ability to supervise and mentor graduate students effectively, thereby building a pipeline of skilled researchers and professionals.
2. Encouraging innovative research approaches to solve contemporary challenges in agriculture, natural resources, and rural development.
3. Supporting research that directly engages and benefits local communities, ensuring that academic work translates into practical solutions and development impact.
4. Facilitate collaboration and knowledge-sharing among academic institutions, researchers, and other stakeholders within Africa and beyond.
5. Provide a platform for postgraduate students to develop expertise and leadership skills through supervised research projects

FUNDING DETAILS

- *Grant Amount:* Typically ranges between \$60,000 and \$80,000, depending on the scope and scale of the project.
- *Funding Period:* Projects are funded for a period of 2 years.
- *Covered Costs:* Includes student tuition & welfare, supervisor fee, research equipment, laboratory analyses, fieldwork expenses, and dissemination of findings

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- *Target Audience:* Academic staff members affiliated with RUFORUM member universities.
- *Qualification:* Applicants must hold a PhD degree and be actively involved in teaching or research.
- *Project Scope:* Research must align with RUFORUM's priority areas, see website for details.

- *Supervision*: Applicants must be willing to supervise graduate students as part of the funded research activities.

APPLICATION PROCESS

1. *Call for Proposals*: RUFORUM issues a call for proposals on its website (www.ruforum.org) and through member universities.
2. *Proposal Submission*: Applicants submit detailed research proposals, including objectives, methodology, budget, and expected outcomes, to the RUFORUM Information Management System (RIMS)- <https://rims2.ruforum.org/>.
3. *Review Process and Selection*: Three external reviewers rigorously review proposals based on relevance, innovation, and potential impact.
4. *Award Announcement*: Successful applicants are notified, publicised on the RUFORUM website and provided with guidelines for grant implementation.

REPORTING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Grant recipients are required to:

- Submit six monthly progress reports detailing achievements and challenges and a final report upon project completion.
- Share research findings through RUFORUM's platforms, journals, or conferences.
- Ensure financial accountability through detailed expenditure reports submitted every six months and auditing required every 12 months.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For inquiries, please feel free to contact:

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