

# Makerere University Research and Innovations Grant

Supported by the Government of the Republic of Uganda

By the Grants Management Committee



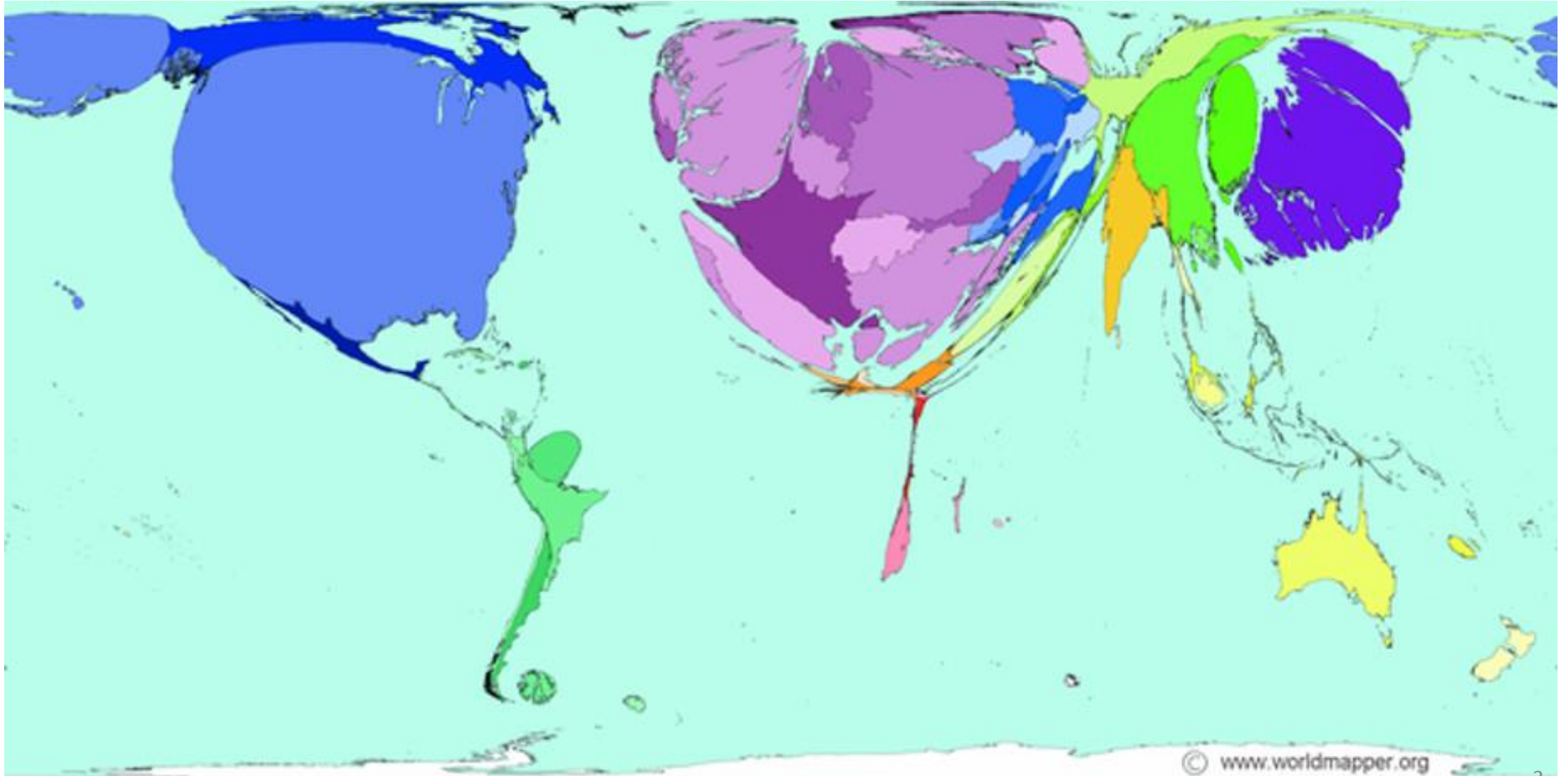
# Introduction

- Research is one of the core pillars of a university; essential for our mission and global ranking
- As we transition to a knowledge economy/middle-income status, the appetite for development research will increase
- With the rise of numerous universities we must lead – Hence Makerere is evolving into a Research-led university
- Until recently, donors have been the main source of funding for research, but the tables are turning



# Volume of the world's research output

([www.worldmapper.org](http://www.worldmapper.org))



# Background

- In a first of its kind initiative, Makerere University has after a series of negotiations, received special funding from Government, earmarked for impact Research & Innovations
- This FY, Makerere expects 30 Billion UGX ( $\approx$  US\$ 8.1 M) - 15 Billion already been received and government has committed to this for at least 3 years
- Top University Management has responded promptly:
  - A Framework for its management developed and approved by Council
  - A multi-sectoral Grants Management Committee has been appointed after consultations with the Colleges

# Objective

- To support R&I initiatives that contribute to better delivery of National Development initiatives, guided by the key national and sector-specific development plans and Global priorities
  - The GMC therefore will source, vet, select and issue grants to researchers and today we announce **Round 1**

# Technical scope

- All technical disciplines in Makerere University as long as the research questions align with national development priorities
- Particular attention will be paid to unfunded or under-funded priorities
- This grant is not meant to supplement existing research projects that already have funding. However, researchers can apply on the platform of existing projects if there is a strong rationale for need: A clear funding gap and justification



# Grant Categories

- The first round of this initiative aims to issue 180 to 200 Grants ranging from 50 million UGX to 350 million UGX
- The GMC retains the discretion to determine the final number of awards to be given and the award categories/amounts and can adjust based on demand, equity considerations, and absorption of funds

# Grant principles

- ***Results and impact:*** A commitment to actionable results within one year and potential for wider impact
- ***Equity and inclusion:*** All colleges to benefit; women researchers and junior faculty representation ensured
- ***Multi-disciplinarity:*** Major development challenges require more than the effort of one sector; this should be reflected in the projects
- ***Accountability and utilization:*** To protect our reputation, accountability and utilization will be of utmost importance



# Eligibility

- Academic staff from all academic Colleges of Makerere and senior staff from research-relevant administrative units (Library, Gender Mainstreaming, Quality Assurance, and the DRGT) are eligible
- A research team PI should meet the following criteria:
  - Must be an academic or research staff of Makerere on permanent or fulltime contract or a senior staff member from the administrative units linked to research (Library, Gender Mainstreaming, Quality Assurance, and DRGT)
  - Be actively in service (not on study/sabbatical leave)
  - Obtain a letter of support from his/her department/school/ College (any one)
  - Attach copy of appointment letter or most-recent promotion

# Eligibility

- A researcher cannot be a PI on more than one application but a person can be on multiple teams **for no more than 3 applications**
- Researchers encouraged to collaborate with external resource persons from CSOs, government sectors, other universities, research institutions, business and industry as part of their teams
- This grant is meant for academic staff; students are not eligible as PIs but can be part of a team
- Research fellows on projects but are not appointed centrally by Makerere University are not eligible as PIs but can be on a team

# The research problem

- Only research problems that align with national or relevant sector priorities/SDGs and are responsive to needs of **government**, **academia** or **the private sector** will be funded
- Three types of research gaps:
  1. Those needing primary research to fill a critical knowledge gap
  2. Those needing an innovation (technology or approach) to address a critical pain point
  3. Those that target research or innovation (R&I) ecosystem enhancement
- Clear articulation of the knowledge discrepancy or the innovation challenge or the capacity discrepancy



# The proposed solution

- Articulate of clear objectives and the critical content of the solution (i.e. the 'research methodology' or the 'technical approach')
- Defend the relevance of the proposed solution to strategic development needs
- Projects based on existing concepts/priorities already identified by the departments are at higher advantage
- Projects that require multi-year implementation should show actions attainable in 1 year





# Outcomes, outputs and impact

- Describe clearly the outputs and outcomes anticipated
- The target populations (primary and secondary) to be involved and impacted by the research should be clearly described
- Projects must demonstrate clearly the actionable deliverables expected by 1 year
- Next year's funding to factor in multi-year projects, competitively and upon proof of actionable deliverables from Year 1



# Team composition

- Researchers may apply individually or in teams; teams have added advantage but not absolute
- Individuals or teams should demonstrate that they have the technical expertise to execute the planned study
- For research areas where a multi-sectoral/multi-disciplinary approach is clearly needed, the team should reflect this
- Teams that include an industry, business, sector or implementing agency partner will have a slight added advantage



# Provision for capacity development

- Research and innovations that include a capacity-building component will be at an advantage e.g. training, mentorship, equipment, learning through co-design and participation etc.)
- Students can be included on teams for learning



# Sustainability/scalability

- Articulate the sustainability of the project beyond the funding available
- Articulate how the findings of their project will be disseminated to achieve impact at scale
  - Research-based projects: Description of the knowledge translation and dissemination plan
  - For innovation projects targeting social enterprise: Articulate a scaling strategy within the public sector or with relevant implementing partners
  - For innovations targeting commercial interest: Articulate path to commercialization and anticipated patents, designs, trademarks etc.

# Ethical considerations and Environmental impact

- For research involving human subjects, articulate the anticipated ethical challenges, subjects protection and ethical certifications needed
- For research involving animal subjects, articulate the anticipated ethical challenges, subjects protection and considerations for animal welfare
- For research that involve changes to the physical environment, explain the measures to ensure minimal damage to the environment, and to monitor and act on such damage

# Conflict of interest

- Researchers will declare if there is any conflict of interest regarding their project e.g. if co-funded by an industry partner that may compromise the outcomes of the study
- Teams with strong linkages to GMC members should declare this so that it is duly addressed during the selection process

# Budget

- A summary budget and a detailed budget as an attachment
- Budgets should not spread beyond one Financial Year even for multi-year projects
- The budgets will include the following sections:
  - 1.0 Personnel costs
  - 2.0 Travel
  - 3.0 Supplies and services
  - 4.0 Equipment
  - 5.0 Program activity costs
  - 6.0 Dissemination

# Budgets

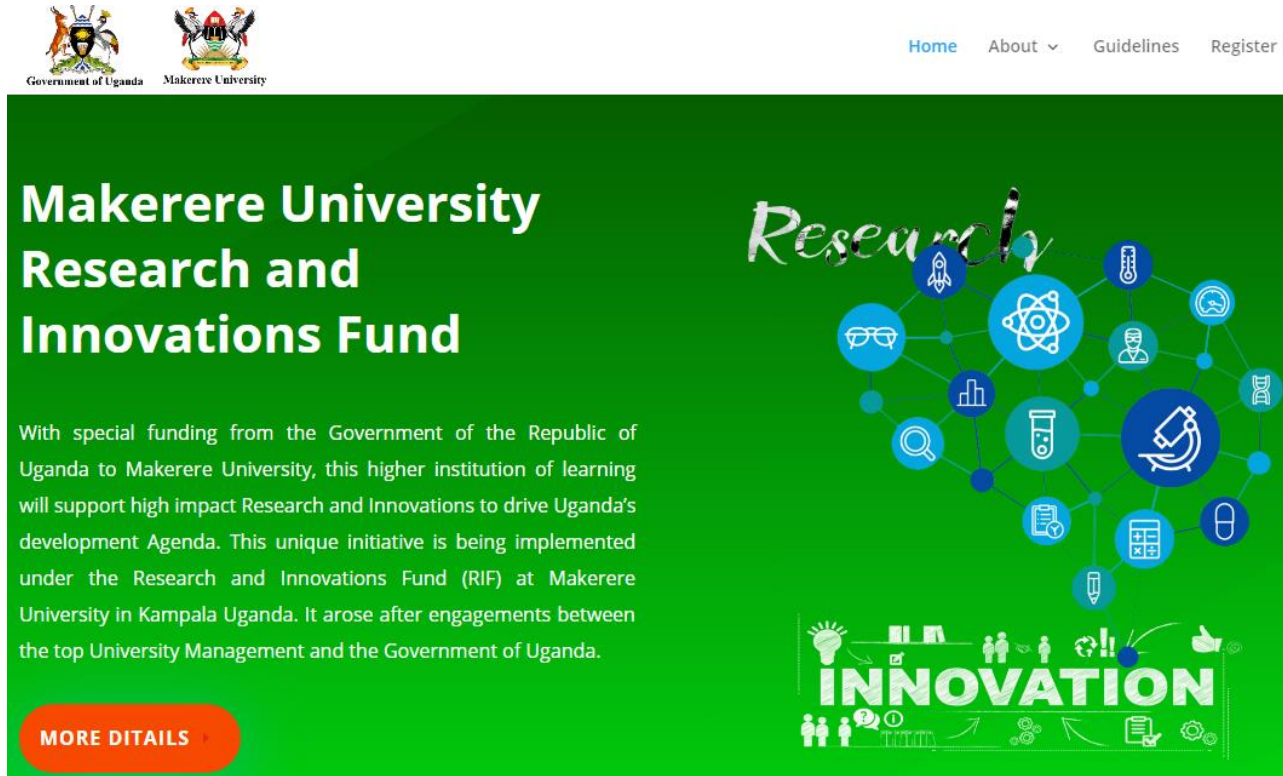
- No overheads allowed
- No salaries for university paid staff but allowances are allowable
- Salaries can be paid for key project staff if they are non-government paid
- Personnel costs (excluding research assistants) should not exceed 33% of the budget
- All statutory deductions to be conducted

# Workplan

- Researchers will provide a series of milestones for the project clearly demonstrating the deliverables expected at each point within one (1) year

# Submission of applications

- Submission will be via:  
<http://rif.mak.ac.ug>.
- If there are challenges, send an email to: [info@rif.mak.ac.ug](mailto:info@rif.mak.ac.ug).
- The **application form** and **detailed grant guidelines** are available at:  
<http://rif.mak.ac.ug/application>.



The banner features the Government of Uganda and Makerere University logos at the top left. Navigation links (Home, About, Guidelines, Register) are at the top right. The main title 'Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund' is in large white text. Below it, a paragraph describes the fund's purpose. A 'MORE DETAILS' button is at the bottom left. On the right, there is a 'Research' section with a network of icons and an 'INNOVATION' section with a row of icons.

Government of Uganda Makerere University

Home About Guidelines Register

## Makerere University Research and Innovations Fund

With special funding from the Government of the Republic of Uganda to Makerere University, this higher institution of learning will support high impact Research and Innovations to drive Uganda's development Agenda. This unique initiative is being implemented under the Research and Innovations Fund (RIF) at Makerere University in Kampala Uganda. It arose after engagements between the top University Management and the Government of Uganda.

[MORE DETAILS](#)

Research

INNOVATION



# Rules governing applications

- All applications in English
- All applications should be submitted via the online portal
- Complete applications must be submitted not later than 11.59pm EST on the deadline date indicated

# Applicant support

- **Sensitization meeting:** Today
- **Q&A** (Monday 26/08/2019 to Monday 02/09/2019); send questions to [info@rif.mak.ac.ug](mailto:info@rif.mak.ac.ug); publication of FAQs (Wednesday 04/09/2019) on the website: <http://rif.mak.ac.ug>
- **Webinar:** Staff webinar on Friday 6/09/2019
- **College level sensitization:** Dates to be communicated

# Review of applications

- A three (3) phase review process:
  - Step 1: Determination of eligibility
  - Step 2: Technical review by a team of credible independent reviewers (Ugandan and international) appointed by the GMC; a cross-disciplinary review approach
  - Step 3: GMC to select from the best scoring proposals the ones to be funded, guided by the scores, funds available in each category, and equity

# Evaluation criteria

Category	Score
1. The problem and its alignment to national/sector priorities	15
2. The proposed solution	15
3. Technical approach and methodology	25
4. Feasibility	10
5. Anticipated results/Impact	10
6. Dissemination plan and scalability	10
7. Team composition	10
8. Capacity building	5
Total	100

# Notification of successful applicants/tracking

- Successful teams will be informed by email/telephone to their designated point of contact and profiled on <http://rif.mak.ac.ug>
- As part of normal grant processes, not all applications will be funded
- The grant website will contain information on the status of the applications at the different stages as 'group-tracking'

# Post award processes

- Due to the urgent need to produce results and ensure accountability, the GMC will conduct a series of post-award activities
  - **Induction:** A brief post-award induction
  - **Capacity building:** Elective seminars on 1) Research project management; 2) Financial Management; 3) Research Leadership; 4) Gender inclusiveness and 5) Research translation
  - **Release of funds:** In phases based on deliverables & accountability
  - **Support and tracking:** A Grants Management Unit is under establishment; it will conduct support and rigorous tracking of deliverables/performance; funds of under-performing projects might be reallocated

# Intellectual property

- Intellectual Property derived through the Government grants will be owned jointly by the awardee Teams and Makerere University based on contribution
- For projects that have a commercial value, researchers will clearly delineate any intellectual property included that is their creation and the extent of their claim



# Grant timeline

Milestone	Dates
• Researcher sensitization meeting	Friday 23/08/2019
• Issuance of RFA	Monday 26/08/2019
• Q&A period	Monday 26/08/2019 to Monday 02/09/2019
• Posting of FAQs	Wednesday 4/09/2019
• Researcher Webinar	Friday 6/09/2019
• Closing date for applications	Friday 13/09/2019
• Selection – stage 1	Monday 16/09/2019 to Wednesday 18/09/2019
• Selection – stage 2	Thursday 19/09/2019 to Friday 04/10/2019
• Selection – stage 3	Monday 7/10/2019 to Friday 11/10/10
• Award notification	Friday 11/10/2019
• Induction of grantees	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> October 2019

# A call to action!

- Available funds are obligated for the current FY and must be spent by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2020!
- This is our resource. We need to own it and to prove that we can utilize these funds with actionable results



# Thank you for listening!

We Build for the Future! (*Pro Futuro Edificamus*)

<http://rif.mak.ac.ug>

 @RIFMakerere

