



CALL FOR OPEN AND COMPETITIVE RESEARCH PROPOSALS

MUHAS – Sida Seed Grants

Introduction

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Science (MUHAS) through the Directorate of Research and Publication (DRP) with the support of Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), wishes to announce a call for submission of research proposals to be considered for funding for six months starting from December, 2021. Seed grants for junior faculty scheme aim to fund small-scale research projects to enable junior/mid-level MUHAS faculty to develop and conduct their independent research. The application process will provide an experience of the grant application process required by external grant agencies.

Applications will be considered for funding if they are likely to:

- i Generate preliminary data and results that can be used to support grant applications for external funding
- ii Demonstrate quality and publishable study findings
- iii Contribute to local, national and international policy making
- iv Demonstrate innovation and product development

The fund will thus support the mission of the University to provide quality training and research in health and related fields for attainment of equitable socioeconomic development for Tanzanian community and beyond.

Requirement

- ❖ The proposal should be in English, following the MUHAS format for writing research proposal (available at the MUHAS website: <https://drp.muhas.ac.tz/Tool>)
- ❖ The proposal should clearly aim at solving an existing research gap and be able to be completed by June, 2022 with at least one publication as first author
- ❖ The proposal should have a clear dissemination and publication plan
- ❖ A clear mentorship plan is an added advantage
- ❖ Budget and justification thereof will have to be realistic

Eligibility

- ❖ Be a MUHAS junior faculty (Lecturer, Assistant Lecturer or Tutorial Assistant)
- ❖ The applicants need to have a drive to publish and establish themselves in research
- ❖ Applications submitted from multidisciplinary teams are **highly encouraged**

Female faculty **are encouraged to apply**



Supervision/Mentor: Applicants should identify an internal research mentor or supervisor that will provide advice to help ensure that the research project is successfully completed.

Funding Funds Available

The Directorate intends to commit **TZS 140,000,000 (One Hundred and Forty Million)** in the period of December, 2021 to June, 2022 to fund eligible projects as deemed by the independent selection committee

Award Budget

The maximum amount awarded per project is TZS 20,000,000 (Twenty Million) with a maximum project length of six months. However, applicant can apply for funds less than the ceiling based on the proposed research. A proper justifiable budget will form part of the basis in evaluation of the proposal. The evaluation committee may suggest budget adjustment.

Eligible costs will be those that are directly related to completing the research. This should include costs for research staff but not the mentor and should be in accordance to the government rates. Travel costs required for the research are allowed but not for other travel such as to conferences or training courses. No tuition fees can be included in the budget.

Deadline: Friday, November 12th, 2021; 1600Hrs EAT

NO APPLICATION WILL BE PROCESSED IF RECEIVED AFTER THE DEADLINE

Open Date (Earliest Submission Date): October 18, 2021

Earliest Start Date: December, 2021

Mode of Application

Please send your proposal to drp@muhas.ac.tz copied to davis.aman@muhas.ac.tz by the deadline. The proposal should be in pdf with the heading 'Seed Grant': [*with a common title of the research and applicant's name*]. The proposal should be one pdf file with all the necessary attachments and named appropriately.

The text in the form should be typed using Times New Roman font size 12 and 1.5-spaced, excluding appendices if any.

Curriculum Vitae (CVs - max 2 pages) of team members should be compiled and attached.



MODE OF SELECTION

After the deadline, eligibility will be checked by the DRP. Ineligible applicants will be notified for non-consideration. Eligible applications will be sent to a selection panel that will be convened within 3 weeks of the application deadline. Each application will be reviewed by at least two members of the panel and ranked 'fundable' or 'not fundable' and given a score based on the set assessment criteria.

Those considered fundable will be ranked using agreed criteria and the highest ranked applications will be awarded a grant dependent on the amount of funds available. These will be based on the relevance of the research in our settings, the strength of the team involved, the scientific merit of the proposal and the budget justification. Successful and unsuccessful applicants will be notified by the DRP within one week after completion of the selection process.

All applicants will be notified about the outcome of the selection.

Selection criteria will include:

- a. The likelihood that the project plan will deliver the anticipated results (5%)
- b. The importance of the knowledge generated to the field of study including novelty and innovation (20%)
- c. The potential to be published in a high-quality journal (5%)
- d. Potential for the data to strengthen an application to an external funding agency (5%)
- e. Potential to contribute to evidence-based policy (10%)
- f. Quality of the application (50%). This includes:
 - i. Clear understanding of existing research problem and gaps
 - ii. Clear research question to be addressed and objectives/aims
 - iii. Clear methodology
 - iv. Clear, realistic, and justifiable budget
- g. Suitable supervision/mentorship (5%)

GRANT REPORTING

All successful grant awardees will be required to provide quarterly reports of the progress of the grant and semi-annual presentation. At the end of the project period, a report on the grant (both narrative and financial) will be required. This should include anticipated outcomes such as manuscripts developed, publications, external grant applications, research collaborations established, and contribution to policy initiatives.