

TWAS RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME IN BASIC SCIENCES FOR RESEARCH CONSORTIA *IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-LAGGING COUNTRIES **

GUIDE

Applicants are advised to read this guide to ensure that they fulfil all the requirements in preparing applications and are familiar with TWAS general policies and guidelines concerning grants.

General Information

- *The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) - for the advancement of science in developing countries* – www.twas.org – is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for science-based development in the South.
- The administrative and financial operation of TWAS is undertaken by UNESCO, in accordance with an agreement between UNESCO and the Italian government for TWAS.
- Since 1986, TWAS has been supporting scientists and institutions in developing countries through a wide range of programmes that include providing merit-based grants to research projects.
- The TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences for Research Consortia has been established to develop collaboration between individuals and research groups within and between developing countries.
- The specific aims of the programme are to encourage the pursuit of scientific excellence and exchange in S&TLCs by identifying and supporting the best scientists in these countries; to reinforce and promote research collaboration in the S&TLCs; to strengthen the endogenous capacity in science and technology; and – by promoting the exchange of young scientists between participating units – to counteract the brain drain thus reducing the exodus of scientific talent from the S&TLCs.
- Under this scheme, qualified researchers in 81 Science and Technology Lagging Countries (S&TLCs) working in the basic sciences are invited to form a research consortium with one or two collaborating groups to work on a common problem. Grants will be awarded to enable the consortium to purchase the research equipment and facilities they need to enhance their partnership and productivity and to support the movement of young scientists between the participating institutions for training purposes. Such visits should have a duration of between 1 and 12 months. Collaborating partners should ensure, through the grant, that enough consumable supplies etc. are available during such visits. (Note: Participation in theoretical and/or practical courses and workshop/conferences cannot be funded with this grant).
- Preference will be given to research consortia located within the same country or region.

- A research grant to a research consortium amounts to a maximum of US\$ 20,000. Additional funds are available to support one full-time MSc student.
- A grant is normally provided for a period of 18 months.
- A grant may be used to purchase scientific equipment, consumables and specialized literature (textbooks and proceedings only), and the travel of young scientists between participating institutions. The grant does not cover salaries of researchers and/or students, or field expenses. In addition, the purchase of laptop computers and laboratory animals are not supported.
- The TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences complements that of the International Foundation for Science (IFS). The two organizations maintain close contact to ensure the complementarity of the two schemes and to avoid duplication.
- The programme is generously supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Italian government.

Subject Areas

- The Research Grants programme provides support for research projects in the following fields of **basic sciences**: chemistry, mathematics, physics and basic biology.

Eligibility of Applicants

- Each research consortium must be led by a principle investigator (PI) who must be a national of a developing country with a PhD and significant research experience. (Note: The PI will be responsible for the coordination of the research, submission of requested documentation, management of the funds and reporting of the expenses. All TWAS correspondence will be with this 'consortium PI').
- Each member of the consortium should operate in a university or research institution in one of the 81 S&TLCs and should also be represented in the proposal by a PI. No age limit is applied to the consortia PIs.
- Individual young scientists or leaders of research units currently holding a TWAS Research Grant in the Basic Sciences are not eligible.

Agreement

- On selection by an expert committee and approval by the TWAS executive director, a written agreement is made between TWAS, the grantee ('consortium PI') and his/her institute, plus the other members of the consortium. The consortium institutes undertake to administer the grant according to the agreement and to provide laboratory space, salaries and other facilities necessary for the project. Equipment, consumables and literature provided for the project through the TWAS Research Grants Programme remain the property of the relevant institute after the project is completed.
- The research grant funds are kept at TWAS for the purchase of all items requested by the grantee. TWAS contacts the supplier(s) upon receipt of proforma invoices submitted by the consortium PI in accordance with the itemized budget. Items may be dispatched to any of the participating institutions.
- Consortium PIs are required to submit a final report within one year of date of the last items purchased.

How to apply

- The application must be submitted via the online form, the link to which can be found on the TWAS website.
- A researcher may only submit one application at a time and for only one kind of grant (e.g. individual, research unit, research consortium or TWAS-COMSTECH) for consideration by TWAS.



- For any queries please contact:
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When to apply

- The **deadline for receiving applications is 31 May each year**. However, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the deadline but submit your application as early as you can.

Notification of TWAS decision

- The TWAS Research Grants Committees will meet by the end of the year. Notification of the results will be made shortly afterwards.

**** COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS***

Afghanistan, Angola, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, DPR Korea, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Samoa, São Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Tajikistan, the United Republic of Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Vietnam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.