

TWAS RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME IN BASIC SCIENCES FOR RESEARCH UNITS *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 Units has been established in response to the needs of research team leaders in developing countries, particularly those attached to institutions that lack appropriate research facilities.
- Under this scheme, heads of research units in 81 Science and Technology Lagging Countries (S&TLCs) working in the basic sciences are awarded grants to enable them to purchase the research equipment and facilities they need to enhance their productivity.
- The specific aims of the programme are to encourage the pursuit of scientific excellence in S&TLCs by identifying and supporting the best scientists in these countries; to reinforce and promote scientific research in the S&TLCs; to strengthen the endogenous capacity in science and technology; and to counteract the brain drain thus reducing the exodus of scientific talent from the S&TLCs.
- 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 complementing the two schemes and to avoid duplication.
- The programme is generously supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Italian government.
- A research grant to a research unit amounts to a maximum of US\$ 30,000. Additional funds are available for support to full-time MSc student(s).
- 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). 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.

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

- Leaders of research units must be nationals of developing countries with a PhD and significant research experience. The research unit should operate in a university or research institution in one of the 81 S&TLCs and should include a minimum of the Principal Investigator (group leader), plus at least two PhD-qualified researchers and a number of PhD and MSc students, technicians, etc. No age limit is applied to the unit's leader.
- Research units that submit a satisfactory final report on a previous grant may apply for a renewal.

Agreement

- On selection by an expert committee and approval by the TWAS executive director, a written agreement is made between TWAS, the grantee and his/her institute. The institute undertakes 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 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 grantee in accordance with the itemized budget.
- Research unit leaders are required to submit a final report within one year of receipt 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:
Ms P. Patel
TWAS — ICTP Campus — Strada Costiera 11 — 34151 Trieste — Italy
Phone: +39 040 2240493 — Fax: +39 040 224559 — E-mail: researchgrants@twas.org

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.



The World Academy of Sciences

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 Príncipe, 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.