

KYAMBOGO UNIVERSITY
COMPETITIVE RESEARCH GRANTS SCHEME AND EVIDENCE BASED
RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND
: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Financial year 2026/2027

Date Released: 25th July 2026

Application Submission Deadline: 28th August 2026

Research Webinars: 31st July and 7th August 2026

A: Introduction

Kyambogo University allocated funds to strengthen research capacity of the University Teaching Staff to support research under the Competitive Research Grants Scheme (CRGS). The objectives of the scheme are to:

- i. Increase the volume and quality of research at Kyambogo University;
- ii. Enhance the capacity of academic staff to supervise graduate students;
- iii. Enhance the capacity for successful proposal grant writing

Additionally, Kyambogo University secured additional research funds from the Government in the FY 2026/27 towards evidence-based research aimed at

- i. Increasing in research-based innovation outputs;
- ii. Increasing knowledge transfer through commercialization of innovation, publications, patents;
- iii. Generating innovative scalable models that create decent jobs.

The Kyambogo University Research and Innovation Fund (KyU-RIF) Grants Management Ad hoc Committee invites applications for Research Proposals under both the CRGS and KyU- RIF that are in line with the Kyambogo University Research Agenda; the National Development Plan IV and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals under the following thematic areas:

Theme 1: Sustainable Agriculture, Food Systems and Bioeconomy

Theme 2: Inclusive Education, Human Capital Development and Lifelong Learning

Theme 3: Governance, Public Policy, Business Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Economic Transformation

Theme 4: Environment, Climate Change, Water, Energy and Natural Resource Sustainability

Theme 5: Peace, Security, Justice and Community Resilience

Theme 6: Regional Integration, Global Partnerships and International Development

Theme 7: Creative Arts, Culture Heritage and Creative Economy

Theme 8: Sustainable Cities, Communities and Infrastructure Development

Theme 9: Science, Technology, Engineering, Innovation and Digital Transformation

Theme 10: Public Health, Mental Health, and Health Systems Strengthening

B: Research Funding Streams

Funding Stream one: Competitive research grants scheme

Category One: Competitive Research Grants Scheme

The research grant is a one-time award, with financial support to early and mid-career researchers in developing independent research projects with:

- i. Twenty-five million Uganda Shillings (25,000,000/=) for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.
- ii. Forty million Uganda Shillings (40,000,000/=) for Science-based proposals.

The funding will allow an extra provision of up to five million Uganda shillings (5,000,000/=) to purchase small equipment upon justification. (The purchased equipment shall remain the property of the University).

Funding Stream Two: Evidence-based Research and Innovation grants

Category One: Early Innovation and Proof of Concept Grants

a one- year or multi- year award to support exploratory research, pilot studies, and early- stage innovations with:

- a. Uganda Shilling 50 million up to 80 million for multi-disciplinary proposals.

Category Two: Evidence Generation and Validation Grants

The research grant is a one- year or multi- year award to support rigorous evaluation of promising interventions, technologies or approaches with:

- a. Uganda Shilling 80 million up to 120 million for multi-disciplinary proposals.

Category Three: Position for Scale-Up and Systems Impact Grants

The research grant is a one- year or multi- year award to support rigorous evaluation; positions for scale and institutionalization of evidence- based innovation with demonstrated impact or positioning for commercialization evidence-based products/ services with demonstrated impact with:

- a. Uganda Shilling 120 million up to 240 million for multi-disciplinary proposals.
- b. Summary of grants category and size
- c.

Categories		Amount (Ug. Shs)	Approx. No. of Projects*
Competitive research grants scheme			
One	Competitive research grants scheme	(25,000,000/=) for Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. (40,000,000/=) for Science-based proposals.	10
Evidence based research grants			
One	Early Innovation and Proof of Concept Grants	Up to 80 million	4
Two	Evidence Generation and Validation Grants	Up to 120 million	6
Three	Position for Scale-Up and Systems Impact Grants	up to 240 million	5

C: Eligibility

- i. The Principal Investigator (PI) shall be full time Academic staff members of Kyambogo University.
- ii. The PI shall be a PhD holder and shall be actively in service (not on study or sabbatical leave)
- iii. A researcher cannot be a PI on more than ONE application. It is allowable for any person to be a team member on up to a maximum of three applications.
- iv. Evidence based grants are multi-disciplinary. PIs are encouraged to collaborate with resource persons from administrative units of Kyambogo University, civil society organizations, government sectors, other universities within and outside Uganda, independent research institutions, business and industry as part of their teams; in such

cases, the external team members will provide a letter of support from the head or delegated head of their institution.

- v. Successful applicants of the previous Competitive Research Grants Calls PIs while eligible to apply, will only be considered for award if prior to the final selection activity, all their existing projects have been completed, all pending accountabilities have been cleared.
- vi. The PI is encouraged to identify a registered graduate student to work with on the project.
- vii. The PI is encouraged to identify a grants administrator to work on the project

D: Notification

The Request for proposal will be uploaded on Kyambogo University website and will also be disseminated by email and through as university social media handles.

E: Submission guidelines (Must be done via an online platform)

To access the application, applicants must first register in the grants management online platform: <http://rif.kyu.ac.ug/portal> and create an account. A downloadable application form is available on-line at the following link: <http://kyurif.kyu.ac.ug/portal> to guide the applicant as they prepare their proposals. Applicants should read and understand all the key requirements of the different sections of the form so as to provide all information required within the word limit provided.

All applications should be written in English. Figures and additional information should be uploaded and cannot exceed two A4 pages Include any references needed to justify your proposal up to two A4 pages.

Submission of applications will be done via the grants management online platform and done not later than 11.59pm East African Time on the closing date.

F: Budget and Budget Justification

Budgets should be submitted in the official currency (Uganda Shillings).

Follow the hyperlink for the budget format.....

The grant allows:

- a. A maximum of US\$700 for the cost of Journal article publication.
- b. A maximum of US\$300 for REC fees.
- c. A maximum of US\$300 for UNCST fees.
- d. A maximum of UGX 1,000,000/= (One million Uganda Shillings) for Dissemination Conference.
- a. **Tuition** fees for the graduate student for one year.

The grant does not support the following :

Salaries or honoraria for research team members and technicians, international travel to conferences/seminars/workshops, students' stipend, vehicles, computers, printers, smart phones, furniture, bank charges, contingency/ miscellaneous/ overhead costs, unforeseen and the like.

Projects requiring multiyear implementation should indicate so in the application. However, such projects should only provide a budget for one Financial Year. Multi-year budgets will only be funded to the extent needed for this financial year and within the grant caps indicated for the various award categories.

In addition to the summary budget, research teams will be required to attach a detailed budget (As an MS Excel attachment) that breaks down all expenditure line items, inclusive of a budget justification that explains the rationale behind the different budget items. The level of efficiency and effectiveness in the budget will be a major evaluation criterion.

G: Workplan

Researchers will provide a list of key milestones for the project clearly demonstrating the deliverables expected at each point. These will be used as the basis for tracking implementation of activities towards project goals and outputs

H: Additional information/ appendices

Details CVs of the team .. template provided

Letters of collaboration

I: Selection Process

All proposals will be subjected to:

- i. Administrative review.
- ii. Independent/ External expert peer review.
- iii. Technical panel assessment, due diligence and budget review
- iv. Final funding recommendation by the committee.

J: Evaluation criteria

The following evaluation criteria will be used:

S/N	Category	Score %
1	Scientific excellence and technical quality	20
2	Innovation and originality	15
3	Feasibility and implementation capacity	20
4	Dissemination, Potential development and societal impact	15
5	Evidence generation strategy	15
6	Capacity strengthening	5
7	Community engagement and co-creation	5
8	Cross cutting issues	5
	Total	100

K: Feedback

All applicants will be notified of the status of their application at the end of each selection process stage.

L: Administration of the grants scheme

- i. At the end of the selection process, the Research Grants Ad hoc Committee will announce the successful applicants, who will be required to sign a Bonding Agreement with Kyambogo University.
- ii. The University Accounting officer will then issue out funds to the successful applicants according to the University Financial Regulations.
- iii. Bi annual progress reports shall be submitted by the PI to the Secretariat of the scheme.
- iv. A final report shall be submitted as per the approved project time frame.

M: Outputs

On completion, a Principal Investigator is required to:

- i. Disseminate the research findings during a scheduled conference(s) to be held at KyU;
- ii. Publish at least one article in a reputable/credible peer reviewed journal and acknowledge Kyambogo University as the funder;
- iii. Submit the article for archiving in KyU Institutional Repository;
- iv. Provide evidence that the student who was on the project has completed in case of Masters Students(Award letter) or on course to graduate for PhD students (Evidence of article published)
- v. Submit end of project report.
- vi. Submit Audit Clearance Certificates for all funds received.

N: Important to Note

- i. All applicants are encouraged to attend scheduled webinars.
- ii. All awardees must attend the scheduled Webinars.
- iii. Female academic staff are encouraged to apply.

iv. Solo applicants are not allowed.

o: Applicant support

Webinars: Two public webinars via Zoom will be held to sensitize researchers about the grant and support potential applicants during the application process