



OFFICE OF PRINCIPAL

31st October 2023

CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR RESEARCH GRANTS

I. Background

The University of Rwanda-College of Education is partnering with MasterCard Foundation to run a five-year Project on Leaders in Teaching Initiative to strengthen teacher training of Rwanda's Competency Based Curriculum, provide quality practicum opportunities to help student teachers put theory into practice, promote the integration of ICT in teaching and learning and support academic staff to strengthen research skills. The Project is assisting UR-CE in building academic staff and pre-service teachers' capacity through a set of activities under four core objectives:

- ❖ **Objective 1:** Strengthen the College of Education's capacity to provide pre-service teacher training on Rwanda's Competency Based Curriculum (CBC) through needs based training for academic staff;
- ❖ **Objective 2:** Pilot new practicum opportunities for student-teachers to allow them to put theory into practice and strengthen the mentorship and support they receive from UR-CE academic staff;
- ❖ **Objective 3:** Strengthen the integration of ICT in teaching and learning, providing training in the use of Smart Classroom technology and supporting the development of Digital for online and blended courses and;
- ❖ **Objective 4: Support academic staff to strengthen their research skills through tailored training, academic exchange and opportunities to undertake research on secondary education themes through competitive funding.**

The current call for proposals is especially focusing on enhancing the achievement of objective 4, and it is the fourth of its kind.

II. Eligibility

Funding will be given to projects:

1. Whose research topics are focused on teachers and teacher quality in secondary education;
2. Led by a Principal Investigator (PI) who is a UR-CE Academic Staff, holding a Doctoral Degree with proven research activeness, based on a good publication record in the past 10 years; the volume of projects carried out successfully in the past 5 years would be an added value.





In case of the absence of a qualified PI within UR-CE as per this requirement, a senior academic staff with a PhD can be considered; or the latter can have a qualified co-PI from any other HLI in Rwanda;

3. Involving a minimum of three researchers in a team. A balance of senior and junior staff in the team is encouraged in order to enhance knowledge and skills transfer to the young academic staff;
4. Research participants shall not be involved in more than one research project funded by LIT at a time;
5. That match the priority needs of Rwanda as given in the National Strategy for transformation (NST 1);
6. That reflects gender balance in team membership and within the research content;
7. That can be executed within the limitation of the available funds.

III. Non-eligibility

Projects led by a PI who has not yet completed or abandoned a research project funded by UR-CE or any other funded research are not eligible.

IV. Project Duration

The successful research project will be funded for a maximum of one year. The details of the research project execution shall be included in the contract depending on the nature of the project and within the Leaders in Teaching project annual work plan.

V. Budget Items

The budget items shall include funds to carry out some of the following items but not limited to:

- **Data collection-related activities** shall include laboratory costs, fieldwork costs, acquisitions (purchase of minor equipment, laptop);
- **Data processing activities** shall include data entry costs, data analysis costs and other operational costs;
- **Capacity building activities** shall include: specialized training (e.g. in equipment and lab procedures, etc.)
- **Dissemination of research results:** conference attendance, journal publication fee payments, or other dissemination media such as policy briefs production and policy communication events, etc.
- STEM secondary school education-oriented grant proposals will be allocated up to 20,000 US dollars while non-STEM secondary school education-oriented grant proposals will be funded up to the limit of 15,000 US dollars.





VI. Evaluation criteria

Evaluation of projects shall be based on the following key criteria:

- The quality of the proposed research based on Title, Project Summary, Problem and outputs, Methodology and Contribution to new Knowledge or practice;
- The relevance with UR-CE and Rwanda research agenda such as secondary school teacher development and training, teacher quality, and education leadership;
- PI research merits and potential for successful completion of the research elicited from CV and letters of recommendation (publications record, record of coordination of research projects, record of successful completion of research projects);
- Gender Dimension (gender balance in team membership and within the research content);
- Mentorship and capacity building: inclusion of junior staff in the research team;
- Multidisciplinary: distribution of team members across disciplines;
- Research proposals that included international Researchers as part of the project would be prioritized;

VII. How to Apply

Applicants shall write an application letter addressed to the UR-CE Principal with copies to the Director of Research and Innovation, LIT Academic Lead and LIT Project Coordinator.

The application should include the following:

- A research Concept note of a maximum of 10 pages (excluding the appendices) submitted in both Word and PDF documents;
- Current CVs of all team members;
- Recommendation letters of PI: one from the Line Manager and another from an academic referee working from a recognized research institution;
- Certificates of successful completion of research projects (if applicable).

VIII. Mode of application

Interested and qualified candidates must submit their applications through the following email: wrceresearchin@gmail.com and litproject.mcf@gmail.com with a copy to: wzabalirwa@gmail.com.

The Deadline for submission is 15/12/2023. Late submissions will not be considered.


Prof. Florian NSANGANWIMANA
Acting Principal

