
CALL FOR SUBMISSION OF INNOVATIVE BUSINESS IDEAS
2ND COHORT (2021/2022)

A) Background

The University of Rwanda (UR) aspires to be an internationally recognized University that excels in research and innovation, teaching and learning as well as community engagement. In collaboration with World Bank and Sida, UR has established Grid Innovation and Incubation Hub (GIH). This Hub is hosted at African Centre of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development (ACE-ESD) and has the following overall mission:

- ✓ To mentor and nurture students with business ideas,
- ✓ To provide business coaching and training through boot camps
- ✓ To rollout the university spinoff
- ✓ To outsource seed funding for startup and support validation of prototype
- ✓ To support students and other university spinoff networking with industry (private sector), international funding agencies, experts, researchers, and scientists.

This call for innovative business ideas serves to invite students, interested UR alumni and other innovators to submit their business ideas for collaborative effort to develop a Minimum viable product that might fit the market needs as well solving the global emerging issues.

B) Criteria for selection

The innovation business ideas must meet the following criteria:

1. The business idea should be jointly developed by a team and implemented through the UR practice venture process, or individuals' students sharing their dreams and passion
2. The business idea should respond to identified worth problem solving
3. The business idea should contribute to country priorities as elaborated in the National Strategy for Transformation (NST1) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
4. The business idea should demonstrate a high probability of profitability and financial viability concept
5. The business idea should demonstrate a high degree of local appropriateness and degree of responsiveness to local community problems.
6. The business ideas should demonstrate sustainability in terms of its proposed business models for business implementation
7. The business ideas should also clearly indicate why there's a need for funding
8. The business idea should also clearly demonstrate a unique value proposition and alternative solution.



9. The business idea should also indicate which market segment, (ex -B2B, B2C, or both)
10. The business idea should be indicating its specific industry sector.

C) Submission

The proposed business ideas should meet the following criteria for innovative businesses

The submitted business ideas should therefore include a brief description of the following: -

- a. Title of the business ideas
- b. Industry or sector: for example, the agriculture industry.
- c. Brief description of a business idea (200 max words)
- d. Brief description of team members and their specific roles
- e. Summary of the problem statement and proposed alternative solutions fit (maximum 250 words)
- f. Market segment or niche
- g. Background of the founder and the promoter/ or co-founder (max 300 words)
- h. Brief explanation of why the ideas is doable – 2 paragraphs
- i. Provision capital indicating owners' contribution and funders' contribution
- j. Brief gender dimension (250 max words)

D) Pre-selection process

A pre-selection process based on formal requirements and adherence to the requirements will be conducted at the GIIH/ACE-ESD – Nyarugenge Campus.

E) Startup boot camp at the ACE-ESD -Incubation center

Selected best business ideas, will be allowed to attend a boot camp for 10 days. The boot camp aims to provide a business coaching, mentorship, and guidance to polish innovative ideas before incubation.

F) Incubatees at the Incubation Hub

At the end of boot camp, there will be a second selection of the best 5 ideas. The selected individuals will be given market validation seed funding and business coaching as incubatees at the Center. The incubatees will be hosted at the Grid Innovation and Incubation Hub for a period of six-month renewable to practice venture before graduation of ventures through university spinoff.



G) Start up boot camp at the ACE-ESD -Incubation center

Selected best business ideas, owners will be given an opportunity to attend a boot camp for a period of seven days. The aim of the boot camp is to provide business coach, mentorship, and guidance. Incubates will get free access to expertise in their field and industry practitioners will be available to share their success stories and business journey

I) The deadline for submission

The deadline for submission is set on **15th December, 2021**

H) Application

All the proposal should be submitted through this link <https://aceesd.ur.ac.rw/ideas>

For any additional information, clarifications, or inquiry, you can contact the Head of the Grid Innovation and Incubation Hub through these emails

1. uraceesd@gmail.com
2. p.nyringango@ur.ac.rw

For more information, please visit ACE-ESD website: <https://aceesd.ur.ac.rw/>

NB: Only preselected innovative ideas' owners will be notified for further processes.

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