



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA

COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & HEALTH SCIENCES

EAC REGIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR  
VACCINES, IMMUNIZATION & HEALTH SUPPLY  
CHAIN MANAGEMENT



**Call for Student Research Grant Proposals in Priority Areas of  
Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management  
(VIHSCM)**





April 2022

<b>Summary</b>									
<b>Grant Title</b>	Call for Student Research Grant Proposals in Priority Areas of Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management (VIHSCM)								
<b>Grant Number</b>	VIHSCM-Student Grant 01 - 2022								
<b>Number of Grants</b>	A total of ten (10) proposals will be funded								
<b>Funding Purpose</b>	The general objective of the grant is to promote regional student research capacity in the six priority areas of VIHSCM in the EAC region.								
<b>Key Dates</b>	<table border="1"><tbody><tr><td><i>Date of Issue:</i></td><td>19<sup>th</sup> April 2022</td></tr><tr><td><i>Closing Date:</i></td><td>31<sup>st</sup> May 2022</td></tr><tr><td><i>Feedback to applicants:</i></td><td>31<sup>st</sup> July 2022</td></tr><tr><td><i>Earliest Start Date:</i></td><td>29<sup>th</sup> August 2022</td></tr></tbody></table>	<i>Date of Issue:</i>	19 <sup>th</sup> April 2022	<i>Closing Date:</i>	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2022	<i>Feedback to applicants:</i>	31 <sup>st</sup> July 2022	<i>Earliest Start Date:</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2022
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<i>Earliest Start Date:</i>	29 <sup>th</sup> August 2022								
<b>Disbursement</b>	The funds will be paid in instalments directly to the awardee account, following the terms of the contract.								
<b>Contact Person</b>	Dr Domina Asingizwe, EAC RCE - VIHSCM Research Coordinator <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Email: <a href="mailto:adomina23@gmail.com">adomina23@gmail.com</a></li><li>- Phone: +250788876046</li></ul>								



## Introduction

One vital part of health systems is an efficient supply chain management for the provision of health institutions with medical commodities including essential medicines, vaccines, diagnostics, medical equipment and products for family planning.

The East African Community (EAC) established the Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunization, and Health Supply Chain Management (RCE-VIHSCM) in 2015 at the University of Rwanda (UR) in Kigali in order to address challenges of supply chain management of vaccines and other health commodities by strengthening the human resource capacity.

The mission of the EAC RCE-VIHSCM is to contribute to solving existing performance challenges of the health supply chain management (HSCM) system in the EAC region through the generation of knowledge and its translation into policy and practice. Among the RCE's objectives are achieving excellence in research and dissemination of knowledge that informs best and evidence-based practices for VIHSCM and supports implementation of innovation in VIHSCM.

For this reason, the EAC RCE-VIHSCM introduced a postgraduate training in health supply chain management to fulfil its mission. In this regard, the EAC RCE-VIHSCM has put effort in training competent researchers capable of conducting rigorous and world-class research that would bridge the knowledge gap in the areas of VIHSCM. In turn, this will improve best practices, and inform policy and decision makers. In order to promote the rigorous and world-class research, EAC RCE-VIHSCM has decided to establish a grant scheme for postgraduate students to support them to produce high quality research in the areas of VIHSCM.

This call for proposals describes the procedures for application, and selection of the best student research grant proposals.

## Objectives of the grant

The general objective of the grant is to promote regional student research capacity in the six priorities areas of VIHSCM in the EAC region:

- Priority Area 1. Access to essential medicines and vaccines
- Priority Area 2. Use of innovation and technologies in VIHSCM
- Priority Area 3. Effective management of vaccines
- Priority Area 4. Supply Chain workforce: availability and strategies to build HR
- Priority Area 5. Quality of medicine
- Priority Area 6. Financing of medicines and vaccines

Applications should make explicitly clear how their research proposals answer to a problem related to one or more of the above-mentioned priority areas.

## Who should apply?

All students in the Master's program of EAC RCE-VIHSCM registered in the second year at the University of Rwanda are eligible to apply. Female students are particularly encouraged to apply.



The grant proposal will be evaluated on a competitive basis whereby the ten (10) best research proposals will be selected for funding. The awardees must commit to publish at least one paper in a peer reviewed and indexed journal.

### **Award and duration**

The maximum amount of the award is EUR 2,000 for each successful proposal; and the research project must be implemented within a period of 12 months maximum from the date the contract is signed. The awardee shall receive the payments in instalments as specified in the contract.

### **Submission of research proposals**

All proposals shall be submitted in **English language only** via email to [rcevihscmresearch@gmail.com](mailto:rcevihscmresearch@gmail.com) with copy to Cc. [adomina23@gmail.com](mailto:adomina23@gmail.com). During application, the applicant should specify the grant number in the subject. The following documents need to be submitted in PDF or Excel:

1. Full Proposal
2. Work Plan
3. Budget Proposal
4. CV of the applicant
5. Proof of registration
6. Signed Letter of Support from Main Supervisor

The proposals should use the correct templates as found in the Annexes of this call and available on the RCE VIHSCM website: <https://hscm.ur.ac.rw>

Incomplete files and submissions after the deadline will not be considered.

### **Guidelines for acceptable Budget Expenditures**

This document provides a summary of allowable expenditures under the Research Proposals in Priority Areas of Vaccines, Immunization and Health Supply Chain Management (VIHSCM) that is funded through the RCE-VIHSCM. Only costs (eligible expenses) related to the project activities are to be included in the project budget.

### **Eligible funding:**

The following are important eligible funding and budgetary information:

1. Eligible research running costs, justifiable conferences/Seminar/Workshop, research field visits, scientific publications, and consumables.
2. Equipment, Supplies and Materials - Includes small equipment, items, consumables to be purchased, fabricated, or hired that will be used during the course of the project.
3. Research expenses - Includes costs related to carrying out the research and specific costs towards disseminating research findings.
4. Travel - Includes mode and cost of transportation, costs for accommodation, meals, airfare, per diem, and related expenses for regional and international travels.
5. Training – The training related costs not exceeding 2% of annual grant budget may be included.



**Disclaimer:** The items listed above are not exhaustive. Therefore, any budget items submitted are subject to EAC RCE-VIHSCM final decision, and may be approved or rejected at EAC RCE-VIHSCM discretion.

**Evaluation criteria and description**

Each application will be evaluated and rated on the basis of the evaluation criteria outlined below.

	Criteria	Sub-criteria	Details	Maximum Score	Reviewer's comments	Reviewer's score
1	Scientific merit and feasibility of the proposal	Title	Is the title precise, concise and reflects key study variables?	5		
		Problem statement	Does the proposal address any RCE-VIHSCM priority areas? Is the problem clearly stated and researchable? Is the knowledge gap that the study intends to bridge clearly defined and articulated?	20		
		Significance	Does the applicant clearly justify the significance of the research to be undertaken?	10		
		Literature review, including referencing	Does the proposal include relevant literature review, concepts (and theories if applicable)? Does it present the most relevant and up-to-date references?	10		
		Aim and objectives	Are the aim and objectives clearly formulated? Are they scientifically innovative? Are they specific, measurable, attainable, relevant, and time-bound?	10		
		Methodology and Proposed Research Plan	Does the methodology include a study design, clear description of data collection tools and techniques, sampling procedures, analysis plan, variables to be measured, limitations and mitigation plan, Realistic plan with timelines?	20		
		Expected Outputs	Brief formulation and explanation of the expected outputs.	5		



2	Budget	Budget lines for research	Is the budget detailed with the unit costs and matching with planned activities?	5
3	Impact	Impact on VIHSCM knowledge	Does the research reflect on the extent to which the proposed research significantly advance the discovery and understanding of VIHSCM in the EAC region?	10
4	Dissemination	Publication	Is there any clear dissemination plan, including commitment for publication, presentation in seminars, conferences etc.	5
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>100%</b>

### Plagiarism Check

Plagiarism in any form will not be accepted. All submitted proposals will be subjected to plagiarism checks and hence liable to rejection once identified.

Any text taken verbatim from other sources needs to be identified using quotation marks and proper references. Applicants are requested to pre-check their proposals for plagiarism before uploading to avoid any repercussions at a later stage.

### Feedback to the applicants

The Director RCE VIHSCM will inform applicants on the outcome of their application.

For more information, please contact Dr. Domina Asingizwe, RCE VIHSCM Research Coordinator:

- Email: [adomina23@gmail.com](mailto:adomina23@gmail.com)
- Phone: +250788876046

WE WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK WITH YOUR APPLICATION!

Sincerely,

**Dr Stephen KARENGERA**  
RCE-VIHSCM Director



**Appendix I: EAC RCE – VIHSCM Students Research Grant Application Form**

**Section a: Student Personal Details**

Registration number	
Names	
Nationality	
Telephone number	
Email address	

**Section b: Project supervisors**

<b>MAIN SUPERVISOR</b>	
Names	
Academic rank and position	
Affiliated Institution	
Telephone number	
Email address	
<b>CO-SUPERVISOR</b>	
Names	
Academic rank and position	
Affiliated Institution	
Telephone number	
Email address	

**Section c: Research Project Details**

<p><b>Please select which Priority area (s) of your research proposal :</b></p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Access to essential medicines and vaccines</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Use of innovation and technologies in VIHSCM</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Effective management of vaccines</p>
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	<input type="checkbox"/> Supply Chain workforce: availability and strategies to build HR <input type="checkbox"/> Quality of medicine <input type="checkbox"/> Financing of medicines and vaccines
<b>Planned duration of the project</b>	

**Section d: Research proposal**

**Project title** *(Maximum Number of words: 20)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Project summary** *(Maximum Number of words: 200 )*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Background** *(Maximum Number of words: 600)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Problem Statement** *(Maximum Number of words: 600)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Objectives** *(Maximum Number of words: 200 )*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Significance** *(Maximum Number of words: 200)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Literature review** *(Maximum Number of words: 2000)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Methods including data collection tools, sampling strategy, data collection plan and data analysis plan** *(Maximum Number of words: 1000)*





Click or tap here to enter text.

**Expected results/outcomes** *(Maximum Number of words: 300)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**References:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Work plan:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**How innovative is your research?** *(Maximum Number of words: 200 )*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**How will your research benefit the field of VIHSCM?** *(Maximum Number of words: 200)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Why do you think your research merits funding?** *(Maximum Number of words: 200)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Section e: Dissemination plan**

**Please outline your plan for disseminating your research findings.** *(Maximum Number of words: 200)*

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Section f: Budget (See attached template)**

**Section g: Supporting documentation checklist:**



1. Filled application form
2. Work Plan
3. Budget Proposal
4. CV of the applicant
5. Proof of registration in the second year of the RCE Master's program
6. Signed Letter of Support from the Main Supervisor

Names of the applicant: .....

Date: .....

Signature: