



OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

## 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 will assist 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.





## **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 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 absence of the 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. That match the priority needs of Rwanda as given in the National strategy for transformation (NST 1);
5. That reflect gender balance in team membership and within the research content;
6. 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.

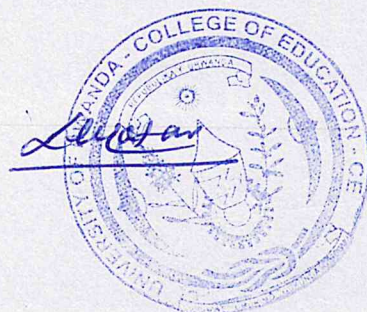
## **Project Duration**

**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 Leaders in Teaching project annual work plan.

## **IV. 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, field work 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 fees 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 to the limit of 15,000 US dollars.

## V. 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 (**appendix 1**)
- The relevance with UR-CE and Rwanda research agenda such as secondary school teacher development and training, teacher quality, 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;
- Multidisciplinarity: distribution of team members across disciplines;
- Research proposals that included an international Researchers as part of the project would be prioritized;





## VI. 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 maximum 10 pages (excluding the appendices);
- Current CVs of all team members;
- Recommendation letters of PI from at least 2 referees working for recognized academic and research institutions;
- Certificates of successful completion of research projects (if applicable).

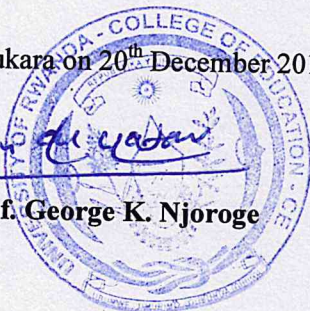
## VII. Mode of application

Interested and qualified candidates must submit the application on: [litproject.mcf@gmail.com](mailto:litproject.mcf@gmail.com) with a copy to: [urceresearchin@gmail.com](mailto:urceresearchin@gmail.com), [wnzabalirwa@gmail.com](mailto:wnzabalirwa@gmail.com).

**The Deadline of submission is 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2020. Late submission will not be considered.**

Done at Rukara on 20<sup>th</sup> December 2019

*for*   
Assoc. Prof. George K. Njoroge  
Principal





## APPENDIX 1: PROPOSAL TEMPLATE

### A. Details of the Principal Investigator

- i. Title
- ii. Surname
- iii. First Name
- iv. Gender
- v. Department
- vi. School
- vii. College
- viii. Email Address and Telephone
- ix. Field of Specialization

### B. Project information

- i. Short Title of the Project:

#### Instructions

*The Short Title of Project indicates the essence of the project. Characters exceeding this limit will be scored negatively).*

- ii. Project Abstract

#### Instructions

*The Project Abstract should be a clearer description of what the aim of the research is about, therefore expanding on the Short Title of Project.*

### C. Details of Research

- i. Details of Research: Problem Statement

#### Instructions

*The "research problem" statement refers to an area of concern, a condition to be improved upon, a challenge to be explored, a difficulty to be eliminated, or a scholarly question that requires further interrogation to ground theory and praxis, that points to the need for meaningful understanding and deliberate investigation.*

- ii. Details of Research: Rationale and Literature Review

#### Instructions

- *The rationale for the research is a set of reasons offered by a researcher for conducting more research into a particular subject. This could take a number of forms such as descriptive research, experimental research, etc.*
- *A literature review is an account of what has been published on a topic by accredited scholars and researchers. It is a review of existing corpus of literature to affirm/amplify diverse theoretical underpinnings.*

- iii. Details of Research: Aims and Objectives

#### Instructions

- *Aims are the broad statements of desired outcomes/ the general intentions of the research, which 'paint a picture' of an envisaged research project.*
- *The objectives of the research provide an accurate description of the specific actions the researcher intends to take in accomplishing research aims*

- iv. Details of Research: Methodology and Proposed Research Plan

#### Instructions

- *The research methodology describes the rationale for the application of specific procedures or techniques used to identify, collect, select, and analyse information applied to understanding the research problem, thereby, allowing the reader to critically evaluate a study's overall validity and reliability.*



- Please ensure that a full proposed research plan outlining activities, who will be involved in each activity, where they will be done (with details of how many individuals / samples / sites etc.) and timelines is included in this section and this should substantiate the requested budget.

#### v. Details of Research : Gender Balance and Mentorship

##### Instructions

Give a brief description on the:

- Involvement of women researchers in the project;
- How young researchers will take part in the project for mentorship;
- General or specialist training to be offered to postgraduate students and young researchers;

#### vi. Details of Research: Anticipated Outputs

##### Instructions

- This refers to the envisaged output ("product") of the research project in line with the Funding Instrument objectives and may take the form of publications, public presentations, data, patents, artefacts, exhibitions, design, etc. The outputs should be detailed and quantified as far as possible.

#### vii. Details of Research: Data Management and Utilisation

##### Instructions

Provide a summary of what processes and systems will be used to compile and manage data for the project. This could include a list of data fields that will be included in the data set, the software that will be used, how data will be captured, who will be responsible for the data capture and management, and whether any data quality checking and upgrading will be carried out. If there are other plans for long term data management and dissemination, briefly discuss these.

#### viii. Details of Research: Potential Impact

##### Instructions

"Impact" refers to both the tangible and intangible influence derived and/or caused by the research outcomes/outputs. "Impact" statements indicate who will benefit (directly and indirectly) from this research? It is a requirement that beneficiaries consist of a wider group than that of the investigator's immediate professional circle doing similar research. In addition to this, it is required that successful applications show considerations of potential societal, economic and/ or environmental impact.

How will these groups benefit from this research? Evidence of specific plans for active dissemination will be required here. How will the various proposed impacts be measured?

#### ix. References

##### Instructions

Use APA referencing styles check the last edition on <http://www.apa.org>

#### B. Data Storage (If applicable)

##### Instructions

The section is restricted to 5,000 characters (including spaces). State clearly how data will be safely stored, to ensure confidentiality. For example passwords can be used on computers or lock and key on cupboard to allow access to only authorized persons.

#### C. Ethical Clearance

##### Instructions

- Does this project require ethical clearance?
- Has Ethical Clearance been obtained?
- Additional Comments on Ethical Clearance.



#### D. Details of Co-Investigators (CIs)

E.g. Co-Investigator No.1

- i. Title
- ii. Surname
- iii. Initials
- iv. First Name
- v. Gender
- vi. Department
- vii. School
- viii. College
- ix. Email Address and Telephone
- x. Role of Co-Investigator
- xi. Field of Specialization

#### E. Financial: Operating cost (Summary)

S/N	Financial Category ( <i>Examples</i> )	2020/2021
1	<b>Data collection related activities</b> ( <i>e.g. laboratory costs, field work costs, acquisition purchase of minor equipment, Laptop, stationery, etc.</i> )	
2	<b>Data processing activities</b> <i>e.g. data entry costs, data analysis costs and other operational costs.</i>	
3	<b>Capacity building activities</b> <i>e.g. Participating in specialized training (e.g. in equipment and lab procedures, etc.)</i>	
4	<b>Dissemination of research results:</b> <i>e.g. Conference attendance, journal publication fees payments, or other dissemination media such as policy briefs production and policy communication events, etc.</i>	
5	<b>Other approved operational activities</b>	
	<b>Total</b>	<b>RWF</b>