



MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY OF KENYA

P.O. Box 15653 - 00503, Mbagathi, Nairobi Tel: +254 020 2071391, +254 020 724257083,
+254 020 735900008 Fax: +254 020 2071243 Email: info@mmu.ac.ke

DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH & INNOVATION
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
(MMU is ISO 9001:2015 Certified)

Multimedia University of Kenya Internal Research Grants

Eighth Call for Research Proposals 2025/2026

1. Introduction

Multimedia University of Kenya is committed to provide world class education through Training, Research, Innovation and to provide Technology-based solutions in responding to emerging socio-political, environment and economic challenges (such as the Bottom Up Economic Transformative Agenda). For this reason, Multimedia University of Kenya has allocated funds to internally support research initiatives in the university through annual research grants; a competitive program managed by the University's Division of Academic Affairs, Research and Innovation, through the Directorate of Research and Innovation. The purpose of this program is to support research in priority areas for fulfilling the university mission and strategic plan in line with Global and National Development Targets and Agenda. Applicants need to demonstrate their ability to exploit Research, Innovation and Technological potential to support solution based sustainable development.

2. The Objectives of the Call

- i) To promote a positive research culture in the university, build research capacity among the university staff, and promote collaborative research between and within various disciplines in the university.
- ii) To mitigate the emerging global dynamics of socio-political, environment and economic challenges.

- iii) Support research proposals that drive practical solutions in education, innovation, and technology—focusing on adapting to new challenges while preserving proven best practices.

3. Categories of Fundable Research Proposals

This call invites submissions under two categories of research proposals and their funding limit is as indicated:

- i) **Multidisciplinary research project (Ksh. 1,000,000):**
Proposals must demonstrate a clear multidisciplinary approach. Submissions from a single applicant will not be considered.
- ii) **Interdisciplinary /Individual research project (Ksh. 500,000):**
Preference will be given to interdisciplinary proposals that offer practical solutions and can be easily replicated and adapted within communities.

4. Sub Themes

- i) Media and Communication.
- ii) Engineering Technologies and Industrial Development.
- iii) Optics and Laser Technologies.
- iv) Sustainability, Climate Innovation and Clean Energy Technologies.
- v) Mathematics, Basic and Applied Sciences.
- vi) Information and Communication Technology for Development.
- vii) Social Sciences, Cultural and Social Economic Development.
- viii) Business, Economics and Management.

The grants will provide funding in a bid to promote small-scale impact-oriented research undertaken by early career and established researchers that ground themselves in contemplative practices to achieve real impact in the University and the Country. We aim to promote contemplative practices with community-wide impact through grants supporting research across all University faculties and institutes, provided they align with the eight designated research areas.

5. Eligibility

- a) The applicant must be a full-time Multimedia University of Kenya staff.

- b) The proposals must demonstrate how they offer strategies to solve various problems aligned to the sub-themes listed in section 4 above.
- c) The objectives of the proposals must be in line with university research priorities as envisaged in the university strategic plan and the university niche.
- d) The applicant(s) should have relevant qualifications and experience in the area of the proposed project.
- e) Staff members who are Principal Investigators/Lead Researchers in on-going Multimedia University of Kenya funded research projects are not eligible.
- f) Applications must be received on or before the deadline.

6. Duration

The duration of the research is one (1) calendar year. The funding of the project will be released based on regular satisfactory progress reports and proper accounting. Applicants are required to submit a detailed work plan indicating a clear framework for monitoring, evaluation and reporting.

7. Application Guidelines

The proposal template (Saved as Full Name_Research Area_PF/Admission number e.g. Jordan Peterson_Media and Communication_0100), abridged CV and Support Letter should be submitted to director_research@mmu.ac.ke by **20th November, 2025 at 23:59 hours EAT.**

8. Proposal Review Method

Each research proposal will be reviewed by at least two independent duly qualified reviewers appointed by the Board of Research and Innovation. Decision to award an applicant or not will depend on an average score arrived at from the independent scores given by the appointed reviewers as well as pass mark determined by the Board of Research and Innovation guided by the available financial resources. The proposals will also be subjected to ethical review where necessary. Each successful grantee will be required to sign research grant contract obtained from Directorate of Research and Innovation.

The Proposals will be reviewed based on the following **Weighted Selection Criteria:**

A. Institutional Evaluation Framework

- i. County and National economic impact
- ii. Alignment to the Bottom Up Economic Transformative Agenda (BETA)
- iii. Environmental conservation
- iv. Potential for partnerships or collaboration
- v. Number of expected peer-reviewed research publications
- vi. Number of anticipated direct mentees who will be attached to the project
- vii. Number of expected patents
- viii. Cultural conservation
- ix. Gender balance
- x. Consideration for marginalized communities and persons living with disabilities

B. Scientific Evaluation Framework

- i. Impact & Relevance
 - Is the proposal relevant to the Call?
 - Does the proposal summarize how the research addresses the challenge outlined in the Call?
 - Will the proposed outcomes generate actionable results and benefits to the University and the Country?
 - How important are the potential impact for the environment, health, economics, animal welfare, society, science, etc.?
 - If the project fails, or does not yield expected outcomes, what are the potential benefits or lessons learned?
- ii. Scientific or Technical Merit
 - Is the proposed project conceptually sound?
 - Does the proposal's implementation strategy demonstrate project feasibility?
 - Does the proposal include a data management plan that is appropriate for the scope of work?
- iii. Project Strategy & Feasibility
 - Is the proposal logically feasible?
 - Is the proposed approach, strategy and design clearly described and supported by established theory and practice? Are the base of evidence and any necessary adaptations clearly defined and referenced?
 - Are the proposed objectives and activities feasible within the duration of the award?
 - Are possible barriers addressed and approaches for overcoming them proposed?

- Are the target population and culturally appropriate methods to reach the target population clearly described?
- Is the budget commensurate with the proposed work?

iv. Pioneering Innovation

- Does the proposal demonstrate innovation through novel ideas, approaches, technologies, or applications that advance the field or address the problem in a new way?
- Does the proposal seek/aim to advance fresh strategies for tackling established or emerging concerns?
- Does the proposal suggest and explore creative, original or pioneering proposals, approaches or methodologies?
- Does the proposal clearly define the novel insights to be gained or outcomes that increase the generality and applicability of research?

v. Outcomes Evaluation

- Does the proposal clearly outline specific goals and measurable objectives for the one-year project and any intended follow-up? Has the applicant described the methods that will be used to assess progress and outcomes?
- Are the proposed outcome measures appropriate for the activities proposed and are the expected outcomes significant? Does the existing scientific and educational infrastructure, encompassing resources, mentorship, and collaborative opportunities, adequately support the successful attainment of the proposed research education program's objectives?

vi. Research Capacity/Research Environment

- If a research education component is included in the proposal, will the scientific and educational environment of the proposed research education program contribute to its intended goals?
- Is the necessary infrastructure in place to support the successful implementation of the proposed project?
- Does the proposal demonstrate that the project personnel have adequate resources (for example, institutional support, equipment and/or other physical resources) to conduct the proposed research or associated activities?

vii. Qualifications of Project Principal Investigator and Key Personnel

- Is the principal investigator qualified to conduct the proposed activities?
- If data access is necessary to accomplish the proposed project, does the proposal demonstrate the project personnel's knowledge of how to get access to the data?
- Have the appropriate personnel within the proposed research group or consortium been identified or recruited to effectively implement, evaluate, and complete the project?

viii. Budget

- Is the budget appropriate and reasonable for the scope of the proposed work?

ix. Dissemination and Scalability /Expansion

- Does the proposal clearly describe how the project's outcomes can be disseminated, adapted, or scaled to benefit other communities, regions, or organizations?
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x. Protection for Human and Animal Subjects

- Does the proposal articulate potential risks as well adequate protections to address these risks?
- How important is the knowledge to be gained from the experiment?

9. Monitoring and Evaluation

The Directorate of Research and Innovation will monitor research projects based on the indicators outlined in the project work plans/log frame. The Directorate will ascertain the compliance with the proposal and expected research impact using standardized M&E tool.

Shortlisted applicants will be contacted by **8th December, 2025**.

For any other information or inquiries please contact:

The Director, Research and Innovation

Email: director_research@mmu.ac.ke