

GRANT WRITING



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Outline

- My background and Research life
- Introduction
- What and why is research?
- Identifying funding opportunities
- The funding process and writing a grant application
- Examination of a typical funding application
- Guidelines for success
- Questions and contributions

Dream and dream big!

It's always a dream...to win a research grant



...But any dream should
and would do!!!



JUST DO IT!

People with a “JUST DO IT” attitude are enviable, because it seems they are always lucky. They travel abroad to research labs and conferences a lot. They are invited to meetings on research and are involved in several international publications and research groups. It seems like nothing stands in their way! They get letters of support, invitations, and links with professors abroad. They are a goldmine of opportunity, and they are just lucky!!!

GETTING STARTED



Types of Grants

- Research
- Scholarships ...Full or Partial
- Conference or workshop attendance
- Demonstration, teaching, or workshop
- Training
- Equipment
- Post Docs and Fellowships
- Travel, Laboratory, or Research Visit
- Thesis writing, paper publication
- Grants for Principal Investigators

Strategies for Finding the Right Funding Opportunities

- ✓ Know Your Needs, Aims, and Objectives
- ✓ Align with Funder's Priorities and Calls
- ✓ Leverage Networks, Partnerships, and Collaborations
- ✓ Consult with Experts and Critics
- ✓ Use Technology and Tools
- ✓ Prepare Strong Proposals
- ✓ Evaluate and prioritize
- ✓ Be Persistent and Patient
- ✓ Monitor and Adapt
- ✓ Keep checking and keep trying...

IN A RESEARCH ACTIVE UNIVERSITY

- About half of the lecturers are actively involved in proposal writing
- Number of proposals submitted (Annually): Over 1000
- Money awarded (Yearly): Over N1 billion
- Average amount per request: Over N20 million
- Average amount per award: About N2 million
- Percentage of lecturers with external funding (grants/contracts): About 40%
- 80% of research money is generated by 20% of faculty
- It is a low-probability game
- The proposal success rate is about 25 to 33%, and much less for lecturers and students in developing countries



Research Funding

Financial support is provided to individuals, institutions, or organizations to conduct research.

Why?

- ✓ Enables the exploration of new ideas, development of innovative solutions, and advancement of knowledge.
- ✓ Development of new materials, drugs, and technologies is capital-intensive
- ✓ Enabling Collaboration and Interdisciplinary Research
- ✓ Research is inherently interdisciplinary

- What is your idea or concept?
- What are you passionate about?
- What is the problem (and why is it important)?
- How is existing knowledge or practice inadequate?
- Why is your idea better?
- How is it new, unique, different?
- What will it contribute and who will benefit from it?
- Develop your funding search skills (Google, hearsay, social media, publication acknowledgements)
- Study program goals and eligibility
- Make contact with program officer before starting proposal!

A Starting point...

You'll never change your life until you change something you do daily. The secret of your success is found in your daily routine.

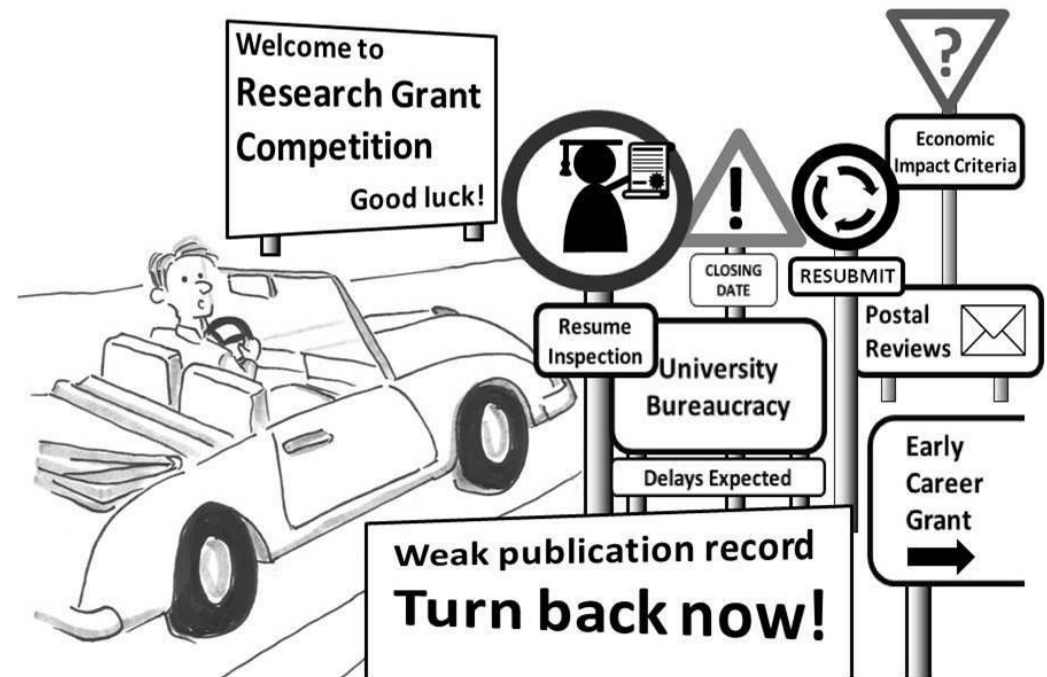
Going further

Read program announcement carefully; note questions - Send a brief (2-3 short paragraphs) overview of the proposed project
- Inquire about or seek alternative funding sources

Interview



"My project is simply this. I want to find out once and for all whether there's any truth in the belief that money can't buy happiness."



The research grant application process.

Grant writing is never a wasted effort

- You can't get a grant unless you apply for one
- It is professionally and academically fulfilling
- It requires you to focus your thoughts and your research
- Armed with reviewers' comments, the second and subsequent proposals are always better and stronger

Fear of rejection

- Only one proposal in five is turned down because of a bad idea, or the idea is not good enough
 - A rejected proposal is worth any amount of free advice
 - The success rate is higher for second proposals
 - The success rate on a third submission is almost 1:1
- *Not enough time... (busy, busy, busy,,,,)-Writing is like a competitive event: it needs constant practice.
- Write every day at a regular time in the same place for 20 minutes
 - If you don't sit there every day, the day that it would come, you won't be there

Structure the Proposal or follow as structured...

Build your case by assembling the proposal in distinct sections:

- I. Problem Statement; or Significance of the Research
- II. Project Purpose (Overall goal + Specific objectives)
- III. Research Design; or Workplan (Activities + Timelines)
- IV. Scientific rationale or background of the study (Research question + literature review)
- V. Applicant Qualifications and Capabilities (Certificates, training, publications)
- VI. Evaluation Plan (self-evaluation + progress reports)
- VII. Budget (Summary + Justifications)
- VIII. Appendix: CV, Support letter (HOD, HOI, VC), Referee letters, cover letter, and everything else required

Assume an uninformed but intelligent and critical reader

- Use clear, accessible language
- Stick with direct statements
- Use active voice
- Avoid jargon and acronyms
- Avoid definitions or clichés



Parts of the Proposal

1) Cover Letter (one page)

Provide a clear, concise overview of the organization, purpose and reason for and amount of the funding request. Be sure to show how your proposal furthers the grantmaker's mission, goals and matches the funder's grant application guidelines. Cover Letters should be typed on letterhead. (See sample Cover Letter)

2) Cover Sheet (1/2 page)

Also called an executive summary, this case statement and proposal summary is the most important component of your proposal. Summarize all of the key information and convince the grantmaker to consider your proposal for funding. Introduce your proposal, present a clear, concise summary of, and the visual framework for, the proposed project/program, and include: Applicant contact information, purpose of the funding request, need/problem, objectives, methods, total project cost, amount requested. (See sample Cover Sheet)

Passive vs Active Voice

Passive

- It has been demonstrated by research that...
- Following administration of the third dosage, measurements will be taken...

•Active

- Research shows clearly that...
- After dosage 3, we will measure...

Active	Passive	Tense
Reporters write news reports.	<u>News reports are written by reporters.</u>	Present Tense
Mike is baking a cake.	<u>A cake is being baked by Mike.</u>	Present Continuous
Jean Rhys wrote "Wide Saragasso Sea."	<u>"Wide Saragasso Sea" was written by Jean Rhys.</u>	Past Simple
They were decorating the hall when I arrived.	<u>The hall was being decorated when I arrived.</u>	Past Continuous
Lisa has recorded a song.	<u>A song has been recorded by Lisa.</u>	Present Perfect
They are going to knock down the old library.	<u>The old library is going to be knocked down.</u>	Future – Going to
I will make it tomorrow.	<u>It will be made tomorrow.</u>	Future - Will
	<i>wakachewbacca.blogspot.com</i>	

Formulate specific, measurable objectives and detailed research plans

Goal: General statement of the project's overall purpose(s)

“Our aim with this innovative teaching plan is to improve the pass rate of students in chemistry courses.”

Objective: A specific, measurable outcome or milestone

Poor objective

Better objective

“It is anticipated that the new teaching method will result in enhanced student performance.”

“At least 90 per cent of students taking chemistry courses will pass the examinations.”

Follow application instructions and procedure exactly!

Illustrate a detailed research plan

Specify major tasks and timelines

Use flow charts, calendars, or Gantt charts

Visualize the project on a single page

Give enough time to achieve the specific objectives

Note submission deadlines

Do not deviate from guidelines!!!

- Common errors (msitakes, mistaikes, mistakse, mistakes):
 - Late submission
 - Narrative is too long
 - Fonts, margins, and spacing are too small or not obeyed
 - Signatures, certifications, and letters missing
 - Budget section and justification are missing
 - Insufficient number of copies if hard copies are required
 - Ignoring evaluation criteria (Used for scoring), not referencing them in the project narrative, and avoiding uncomfortable areas or sections
 - Misspellings, poor sentence structures, inconsistencies, and repetitions

The abstract

- The most important section of your proposal. This may be the only narrative that some reviewers will read, and they will arrive at a decision

It should reflect the entire scope of the project. Summarize the project's purpose and methods

- Must convey:
 - What researcher intends to do
 - Why it's important
 - Expected outcome(s)How work will be accomplished
- Brevity (200-500 words max)



Pre-submission review

- Do not write solo; Ask seasoned colleagues for comments and suggestions
- Should be person(s) qualified to critique proposal contents• Check your ego at the door; Fight the evil Pride of Authorship
- Allow time for rewrites!
- Find an eagle-eyed perfectionist
- Proofreaders read for form and spelling, not content
- Must be someone who has no stake in the project!
- Learn to like or love what s/he will do for you
- Zero tolerance--no error is too small to correct
- Root out inconsistencies in format as well as typos, misspellings, grammar, etc.
- Insufficient editing: write, rewrite, and rewrite
- Let it rest in between; sleep on every rewrite; Must allow time!

Some Helpful Resources...

- VT Resources: <http://www.research.vt.edu/>
- Funding Searches: www.cos.com
 - *Find Funding, *Funding Opportunities *[Simple Search/Main Search/Search by Sponsor/Keyword(s)]
- Grant writing Guides: www.rgs.vt.edu/funding/special/list.html
- Proposal Writing Short Courses: <http://fdncenter.org/learn/shortcourse/prop1.html>
- Proposal Writer's Guide:
 - www.research.umich.edu/research/proposals/proposal_dev/PWG/pwgcomplete.html
-

Too many books and internet resources





11 ESTIMATED BUDGET (please note that institutional overheads/charges are not accepted)

11.1 Equipment (Specify and describe each item)

COST IN USD

Rotary Evaporator (2 Units)	500
Soxhlet Extractor (2.5 Litre Units)	700
UV Lamp for viewing TLC Plates	200
Estimated freight charges, insurance, tax for items to be imported:	400
Sub-total:	1,800.00

11.2 Expendable supplies

Tea bag packaging	100
Silica gel and Pre-coated TLC Plates	1 000
Solvents	2 500
Cell / Parasite Culture consumables	1 000
Other Chemicals and Reagents	1 000
Estimated freight charges, insurance, tax for items to be imported:	900
Sub-total:	6500

11.3 Literature, documentation, information

Computer and Softwares	1 200

Computer and Softwares	1 200
Sub-total:	1 200

11.4 Local travel

Local travels to collect Research Materials	500
Sub-total:	500

11.5 Extra manpower

Botanist to identify / collect plant materials	1 000
Assistants to collect plant materials	500
Sub-total:	1 500

Other costs (specify details)

Spectral Analysis fee to the Phytochemistry Lab, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow	500
Sub-total:	500

TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET (USD):	12 000
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Note: Maximum budget request is USD 12,000

THERE IS ALWAYS A NEED!

- There is always a need for Research and development (R&D)
- whether a one-off, targeted problem-solving need or a fancy. i.e., a product of curiosity or following a serendipity trail;
- Emerging challenges in world markets and challenges of the economic advancement of nations
- Conflicts amongst societies and cultures, or religious or theological inconsistencies or clashes
- Legal quandaries or confusions arising from historical perspectives and superstitious beliefs, and activities
- Philosophical contemplations on contemporary issues
- Health and wellbeing, food, and poverty

WHY RESEARCH?

Research is necessary and valuable in our lives

- It's a tool for building knowledge and facilitating learning.
- It's a means to understanding issues and increasing public awareness.
- It helps us succeed in business and gain recognition.
- It allows us to disprove lies and support truth.
- It promotes confidence in reading, writing, analysing, and sharing valuable information.
- It provides nourishment and exercise for the mind.

- “..one needs ***inquisitiveness, intuition, and inventiveness***; these need to be fueled by a tenacity and strong desire or passion to explore the unknown...”.

- ❑ An inquisitive mind, asks questions and tends towards reflection and interrogation of society, nature or culture.
- ❑ Intuition or a sixth sense begets a passion that allows one to know that one is on the right path,

- Inventiveness drives one to novel ideas, inventions or creative social engineering systems;
- RESEARCH IS, *AB INITIO*, AN INTELLECTUAL ENTERPRISE.

Once these ingredients are sufficiently in place, an **enabling environment** then becomes the limiting factor to quality investigations

Our Institutions should provide the enabling environment.

BEFORE YOU COMMENCE

The first consideration for any researcher is the intellectual merit of what they intend to research

Key Questions

- What are the broad and specific objectives of the research or study?
- What do you know about the subject, and what knowledge gap are you trying to bridge? What knowledge frontier do you wish to advance?
- Is the work just a copycat effort OR one based on original thinking? How novel is the work?





- How contemporary is the envisaged investigation, i.e. how **RELEVANT** is the expected output?
- What is the broader impact of the research or what will be achieved or what problem will be solved, by a successful conduct of the research and who benefits?
- Do-ability: Can it be done in your domicile and at what cost?
- Who bears the cost?

Conducting Research that is Relevant

- Of importance to National Development is the issue of the relevance of the research one sets out to conduct:
 - The 21st Century presents these challenges to mankind:
 - Rural and urban poverty
 - Food (in)security
 - Environmental conservation and sustainability
 - Terrorism
 - Old and emerging diseases
 - Climate change
 - Gender inequality and violence, etc.

United Nations Organization's Role



- The one-pot (globalized) fashioned out “Agenda 2030”, a.k.a. *Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*
- (The successor to MDGs)

(@ a meeting of the United Nations (UN) at its Headquarters in New York from 25-27 September 2015, as the Organization celebrated its seventieth anniversary)

THE 17 SDGs

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS : AGENDA 2030

GOAL 1: No Poverty	GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality
GOAL 2: Zero Hunger	GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities
GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being	GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production
GOAL 4: Quality Education	GOAL 13: Climate Action
GOAL 5: Gender Equality	GOAL 14: Life Below Water
GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	GOAL 15: Life on Land
GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy	GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions
GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal
GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
UN: Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development A/RES/70/1; sustainabledevelopment.un.org	

17 SDGs: A POOL FOR RESEARCH FOCUS

- These 17 SDGs have become the fulcrum around which research that could be considered relevant revolves – every area of the knowledge enterprise is covered.
- For the process of developing a research concept note, you need to ask the final question: **how does my/our research fit into the SDGs?**

Once you can situate your research within the SDGs, then its relevance will be easily defined globally and locally.

Motivation & Independence in Research

- Research is a choice one makes by oneself for any the reasons posited earlier.
- In the University, academic researchers will normally work with **their postgraduate students**
- So, engaging in Research presupposes that the person knows exactly why they are involved – it should NEVER be for self-aggrandizement or self-glorification.



Motivation & Independence in Research

- Rather, while it implies a need for more in-depth knowledge of the subject area or a part thereof, it also indicates that the person wishes to be a creator of new knowledge – an ambition to work towards improvement of society, to change the world for the better

As it is with spiritual visions, THEY (the researchers) only see it and this is the basis for demanding the ability for independent study from the research team.

Role of Supervisors

- In most academic systems (universities) the Research is couched in the **student – mentor relationship at the postgraduate level of training.**
- To encourage independence in research
 - Mentors should develop a culture of grooming in which their students are engaged, intellectually, in developing the research concept notes for them to take ownership subsequently and independently (as it were) carry out the actual work.
- No doubt, the mentor should be involved, but more in an advisory capacity as the more senior and/or experienced hand.
- It should not be a case of a master sending the servant on an errand with little input towards the outcome; research students should not be simple field hands.
- No research student should be a wheelbarrow either!.

Research Execution: Example from the Sciences - the (Basic) Scientific Method

- Any research effort may be fit into this broad log-frame:
 - Problem Identification/Conceptual Framework or Hypothesis
 - Execution
 - Data collection and Data integrity
 - Traceability (sciences) or Reliability of Survey Instrument
 - Data Analysis, interpretation and
 - Reporting (Publishing)

B. The (Basic) Scientific Method

- “A set of principles and techniques designed to advance scientific enquiry and further the accumulation of knowledge” (Ubani, 2012).
 - Identification of the problem/challenge logically and realistically
 - Clear broad and specific objectives with appropriate justification
 - Making appropriate observations analytically and accurately
 - Setting up of a hypothesis regarding the problem in relation to observations made i.e. “making sense out of observations OR a cause-effect statement”
 - Testing the hypothesis (**Experimentation**)
 - Analysis and Interpretation of data collected from the experiments (often in the context of the hypothesis)
 - Remember the power of statistics!
 - Logical conclusions based on the facts elucidated
 - Communication of the outcome of the entire process (**Publishing**)

Data Analysis, interpretation and Reporting or Publishing

Data analysis

- Several statistical tools are employed to convert discrete quantitative data into grouped or summarized information, including pictorials, charts and graphs. These should be used generously BUT NOT repetitively
- Information obtained must be in line with the objectives of the research – no need using eggs to pass judgment on oranges!
- Estimates of precision and accuracy should as much as possible, be attached to measured quantities for them to be meaningful – this emphasizes the need for replicate measurements at the experimental stage

Results interpretation

- The researcher must be knowledgeable enough in the field to be able to correctly interpret results
- There should be NO FEAR in consulting others where you have difficulty understanding the import of your results
- It is not enough to say “These results agree with the work of ABC et al...”

Reporting/Publishing

“What is written without effort is in general read without pleasure” – Samuel Johnson

- Reporting should be in line with the objectives of the research: were they achieved? How far?
- The language must be simple but communicative and comprehensible.
- Don't just copy others – that is plagiarism!!!

As the table above shows, a good and prepared student can work almost completely independently, over the entire research trajectory – with the busy supervisor or mentor stepping in only here and there

Of course the enabling research environment **MUST** be there for this to happen

The Digital Age Advantage

- The digital age gives us the ability to access, transfer and process information freely, quickly and affordably.
- Even hand-held gadgets like telephone handsets can be used to access the internet, literally, anywhere on the globe.

- This gives researchers, mentees and mentors, the power to communicate and exchange information in real time 24/7 without let.
- There is no excuse whatsoever for any research student to lament the absence of literature.
- This same enabling environment empowers us to reach out to other researchers to seek access to facilities that do not exist in their locale or to collaborate more easily.

The Digital Advantage cont'd

- The search for grants to carry out research is no longer a difficult issue, as the internet is a window to numerous sources of research grants which researchers can explore in the privacy of their rooms.



research grar

Search modes

All

About 256,000,000 results (0.45 seconds)

Search Results

Featured snippet from the web

2019 Research Grants

Research Grants for individuals, scholars, organizations & institutions. Financial support for **research**. **Grants/Funding** available to support scientists and **research** in the humanities & social sciences. Small **grants** for individuals.

[Research Grants 2019 Small Grants Funding » Apply ...](#)

<https://www.advance-africa.com> › Research Grants

About Featured Snippets

Web results

[Apply for Research & Grants Opportunities for Africans](#)

<https://www.afterschoolafrica.com> › research-grants

Private Foundations

- Alexander van Humboldt
- Wellcome Trust
- Merck
- Schlumberger
- Marie Curie
- Slovdoska
- Fullbright
- Bill Gates
- Ford
- Rockefeller Foundation

Requisite Capacity for Research in the Digital Age

- The research team, requires adequate background knowledge of their subject are to be able to identify knowledge gaps, or be in the position to take on specific studies on contract, to address an existing challenge or problem.
- They also require better than a working knowledge of the world's problems and challenges, as captured in the SDGS, to be able to step into the global effort to make the world a better place in a sustainable manner.
- For overall effectiveness, ICT-literacy is *sine qua non* if they are to be competitive on the global stage, as their presence on the internet could open windows of opportunity for them to pursue research grants as well.
- Furthermore, this platform gives access to hundreds of quality open-access and non-open access journals (for those who can afford it) for an up-to-date appraisal of what they need to do in the course of their own work.
- Thus, it behooves any good graduate student to acquire the gadgets (like personal computers or android phones) that connect him or her to the internet anywhere, anytime. Armed with these one could say the research student is “good to go”.

Ethical issues

Unethical RESEARCH is no research at all!

- It is a trite point to say that fraud or misconduct in research has been a big issue over the years – in science, the arts, economics, etc., all over the world.
- Research misconduct is defined as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism in proposing, performing, or reviewing research, or in reporting research results. ·
 - Fabrication is making up data or results and recording or reporting them.
 - Falsification is manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data or results such that the research is not accurately represented in the research record or reproducible.
 - Plagiarism is the appropriation of another person's ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit. · Research misconduct does not include honest error or differences of opinion (<https://www.aps.org/policy/statements/upload/federalpolicy.pdf> accessed on 20/09/2019).

Ethics in research

The credibility of the research process and its results also depends on maintaining the highest ethical standards throughout (<https://oprs.usc.edu/files/2017/05/What-is-Research-Misconduct-4.5.13.pdf>, [accessed on 20/09/2019](#)).

In the digital age, with myriad sources of information literally on our fingertips, via internet, and with whole theses posted on the platform, “it may be tempting to dress up in borrowed plumage (plagiarize/refrain from referring to one’s sources), cook data (falsify data) or simply invent (fabricate) data, and disregard the fact that this violates fundamental and internationally accepted rules for good research practice” (<https://www.etikkom.no/en/library/topics/integrity-and-collegiality/fraud-and-plagiarism/> accessed on 20/09/2019); this temptation must be vigorously avoided.

Recap

- We have tried to elicit the essence of research, its domicile and trajectory
- We have argued that anchoring research questions on the UN Agenda 2030 a. k. a. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will make such research efforts more relevant in the contemporary world, both locally and globally.
- The capacity that research teams need include, but are not limited to:
 - adequate background knowledge of their subject are to be able to identify knowledge gaps, or be in the position to take on specific studies on contract to address an existing challenge or problem;
 - better than a working knowledge of the world's problems and challenges as captured in the SDGS, to be able to step into the global effort to make the world a better place in a sustainable manner;
 - ICT-literacy to be able to access as much literature and possible grant-aiding bodies to support their research and be competitive on the global stage and
 - possession of the gadgets (like personal computers) that connect them to the internet anywhere, anytime.

INTERNET FRAUD

In all of these it was cautioned that the power of the internet must not be used to commit research fraud or misconduct; neither should there be the inclination, in general, to engage in any unethical conduct throughout the research trajectory.

CONCLUSION

- Independent research is linked to postgraduate training in the university and should serve national and global needs
- For this to happen, such research should address the lingering and emerging human challenges of the 21st century and beyond, such as rural and urban poverty, food (in)security, environmental conservation and sustainability, terrorism, old and emerging diseases, climate change, gender inequality and violence, etc.

Bite the bullet.

WHEN DO I APPLY FOR A GRANT?

Plunge in.

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?

Throw caution to the wind.

Defeat your fears.

Okay later...

Take the initiative.

Take action!



Go for it...

Do it... NOW!

When you get it!



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- CIPESS (JoSTUM) and CEFTER (BSU)
- LifeArc UK
- GC ADDA



GA@net

Society for Medicinal Plant and Natural Product Research



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GATES foundation



HOSTS IN THE UK



SCOTTISH KILT!!!



THANK YOU



Promotions



Universities



Researcher



Research grants

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8. TETFUND



Introduction to LifeArc

We help promising scientific ideas reach the next phase of development through investment, partnerships, and expertise for health conditions that need it most.

We bridge the gaps between the lab and the patient: advancing early scientific discoveries to a point where they can be developed into the next generation of diagnostics, treatments, and cures.



eSeminar **Natural Products in African countries:** **Industry Perspectives on Regulation and** **Commercialization**

21 MAY | 3 - 4:30 pm CEST/CAT

...Unfolding the Potential of Africa's Herbal Industry

Confirmed Speakers

- ♦ Dr. Mohamed Sayed Aly Marketing Manager, Trendpharm Pharmaceuticals, Egypt
- ♦ Dr. Samuel Obakira Busitema University & Farouk Minawa Manager Technical Operations, DeiBioPharma Ltd, Uganda
- ♦ Dr. Fidelia Bature Sundel Supple Nigeria Limited



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About the event

This eSeminar presents industry insights on natural products regulation and commercialization, offering a forum for key stakeholders to discuss Africa's regulatory challenges.



Why it Matters

In today's challenging funding environment, empowering Africa's herbal pharmaceutical industry is crucial – not only to improve access to medicine but also to build local capacity and ensure the sustainable use of Africa's abundant natural resources.



What to expect

- ♦ Hear from industry experts on key challenges and successful strategies
- ♦ Engage in a dynamic panel discussion and Q&A session

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