



## **Call for Research Proposals**

**African Development Bank (AfDB) and African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)**

### **Research and Mentorship Exchange Programme for Newly Graduated Doctoral and Early Career African Researchers**

#### **Background**

The Research Department of African Development Bank (AfDB), within the ECON complex, and African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) have designed an exchange programme whereby the new doctoral graduates and early career researchers from Africa can spend an intensive period of research and mentorship at the AfDB Headquarters or at selected AfDB offices in the field. The mentorship programme is funded under the Nigerian Technical Corporation Fund. The primary goal of the initiative is to enhance analytical and economic management capacities for African economic transformation. Apart from deepening their research competence working on topics arising from their dissertation, the newly graduated researchers will have access to dedicated mentorship by senior managers and staff of the Bank. Moreover, they will work on new research of policy relevance stemming from the strategic priorities of the Bank with the potential to disseminate their research in the Bank's Working Paper Series as well as in respected publication outlets, such as the African Development Review and other journals outside the Bank.

The African Development Bank Group is a regional multilateral development finance institution and a knowledge bank, the members of which are all of the 54 countries in Africa and 26 countries from Asia, Europe, North and South America. The purpose of the Bank is to spur sustainable economic development and social progress in its regional member countries (RMCs), thus contributing to poverty reduction.

The African Economic Research Consortium (AERC), which was established in 1988, is one of the most active Research and Capacity Building Institutions (RCBIs) in the world, with a focus on Africa. The Consortium's mandate and strategic intent is built on the basis that sustained development in sub-Saharan Africa requires well-trained, locally based professional economists. AERC undertakes capacity building in economic policy through provision of support in the areas of policy research and training.

#### **Call for Research Proposals**

AERC, in partnership with AfDB, invites research proposals from new doctoral graduates and early career researchers from Africa to spend up to 3 months at the African Development Bank



Headquarters or at selected AfDB offices in the field to deepen their research competence.. The research proposal topic should arise from the doctoral dissertation or recent research work being undertaken through the AERC Thematic Research Programme or emerging focus of the African Development Bank and linked to the Bank's Ten-Year Strategy. Within the exchange programme period, Research fellows are expected to: (1) produce at least two working papers from their dissertation and present at seminars in the Bank; (2) initiate at least one research project in collaboration with the Bank staff; and (3) present their own research in conferences/seminars at home and abroad. It is also expected that they will become regular contributors to the work of AERC and AfDB.

### **Structure of Research Proposal**

The proposal must not exceed 20 pages and should include the following:

1. **Background.** The policy context and problem of the research.
2. **Objective(s).** A brief statement of the specific objectives of the research derivable from the coverage of the scope of the studies mentioned above.
3. **Methodology.** A statement detailing how the research objectives are to be achieved, i.e., hypotheses, methods, data collection, data analysis, etc.
4. **Results.** Anticipated results and how they might contribute to knowledge, future research and public policy.
5. **Work Programme and Timeline:** A brief description of activities and timeline needed for each activity. Total duration of this study is 3 months.

### **Eligibility**

- a) Applicants must be PhD holders in Economics who have graduated within the last 3 years, including those who graduated under the AERC doctoral programme in Economics and early career researchers currently undertaking research under the AERC Thematic Research Programme;
- b) Applicants from all parts of Africa;
- c) Fluency in oral and written French or English is essential;
- d) Applicants must be in a position to work on a portion of their dissertation or thematic research project with a view to deriving publishable papers;
- e) Qualified female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply; and
- f) Track record of quality research publication in a refereed journal will be an added advantage.

### **Submission of Proposals**

Research proposals designed along the specified guidelines and accompanied by copies of academic certificates and transcripts, as well as current curriculum vitae, should be submitted



to the AERC Director of Training at the following email address: [training@aercafrica.org](mailto:training@aercafrica.org), copied to [tom.kimani@aercafrica.org](mailto:tom.kimani@aercafrica.org) and [mark.korir@aercafrica.org](mailto:mark.korir@aercafrica.org). The application letter should be referenced **“Expression of Interest for Research and Mentorship Exchange Programme**. The deadline for submitting proposals is **16 May 2016**.