



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (NACOSTI)

RESEARCH ENDOWMENT FUND

CALL FOR PROPOSALS: 2015/2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

COMPETITIVE GRANTS FOR POSTGRADUATES (MSc/MA & PhD) AND INNOVATIONS

The National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI), is established under the Science, Technology and Innovation Act, 2013. It is mandated to regulate and assure quality in the Science, Technology and Innovation (ST&I) sector and advise the government in matters related thereto. NACOSTI as the apex body of ST&I is fully committed to steer scientific advancement and technological development in the country.

The role of ST&I in socio-economic transformation is well recognized worldwide. The Kenya Vision 2030 envisages a knowledge based economy which has the capacity to compete in the global market, highly dependent on the ability to innovate, adopt and apply the relevant technologies to industries and productive sectors. To achieve this, developing a highly skilled human resource base is a priority for the country.

To support promotion of ST&I and scientific research capacity building, NACOSTI on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology has been administering the Government Research Endowment Fund since 2008/2009 financial year. The purpose of this Endowment Fund is to support scientific research and innovations in ST&I priority areas for national development. The Fund has so far supported a total of 1,546 research and innovation projects throughout the country in both public and private institutions.

In order to have maximum impact, the grant has been structured to support specific targeted categories in line with the medium term plans. Some of the key strategic funding programmes the Commission has put in place are: support for Postgraduate research and Innovations across all sectors.

The Commission is pleased to invite eligible **Postgraduate students** and **Innovators** to submit their proposals for funding consideration during this **2015/2016 financial year** for these highly competitive grants. .

1) THE 7TH CALL FOR MSc/MA & PhD RESEARCH PROPOSALS

This is one of the key strategic funding programmes the Commission has put in place for capacity building. This programme is intended to contribute in generating adequate trained human resource required to drive the agenda of Kenya Vision 2030. To date, NACOSTI has funded a total of 433 PhD and 394 MSc/MA research projects across all Universities. It is envisaged that continued support of this programme will greatly contribute in generating a critical mass of skilled manpower and innovations to accelerate socio-economic development.

• ELIGIBILITY, BUDGET LIMIT AND PROJECT DURATION

This research grant supports only the **research component** of the PhD and MSc/MA degree programmes. Proposals to be submitted for consideration must have been **defended** and approved by the respective Universities. **A letter from the respective Board of Postgraduate Studies/Schools must be attached as proof of University approval.**

The successful PhD proposals will be funded upto a maximum of Kenya shillings one million two hundred thousand (**Ksh 1,200,000**) for a period not exceeding **three (3) years**, while MSc/MA proposals will be upto a maximum of two hundred thousand (**Ksh 200,000**) for a period of **one (1) year**. Kenyans registered in foreign universities may apply but will be required to get affiliation in local institutions and must conduct their research work in Kenya.

2) THE 5TH CALL FOR INNOVATIONS

National Commission for Science, Technology and Innovation (NACOSTI) recognizes the critical role to be played by innovations in the country's economic growth. Support of innovations in all sectors geared towards job creation and improving the quality of life is a priority programme. This programme is therefore aimed at nurturing creativity and harnessing the potential of innovations in the country. So far, a total of 123 innovation projects have been funded, some of which have been completed and resulted in business start-ups for the innovators.

In this Call, NACOSTI is inviting Kenyans with creative ideas and/or new inventions to submit their proposals. This is an opportunity for Innovators/Inventors and particularly the youths to participate in solving societal challenges and creating wealth. The ideas/inventions to be submitted should have a potential to lead into new or improved products, services and new technologies acceptable in the markets to contribute to improving the quality of life.

NACOSTI recognizes that Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) are valuable entrepreneurial products that should be well protected and their economic potential fully utilized. Applicants are highly encouraged to protect their ideas through the National agencies in charge of IPRs in the country. These include:- Kenya Industrial Property Institute (KIPI), Copyright Board and Plant Breeders Rights office. Non-disclosure forms will be signed by the external reviewers who will be engaged to review submitted projects to enhance confidentiality.

• BUDGETS LIMIT AND PROJECT DURATION

The successful innovation projects will be supported up to a maximum funding level of Kenya Shillings one million (Ksh 1,000,000). The project period should not exceed **two (2) years**.

• HOW TO APPLY & SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Official application forms to be accessed on the website - www.nacosti.go.ke. All applications both for **POSTGRADUATE** and **INNOVATION** programmes to be submitted in both hard and soft copies to the addresses below or delivered to Utalii House, Mezzanine Floor not later than 14:00 hrs **Friday, 6th November, 2015**. Incomplete applications and/or those that reach after the deadline will **NOT** be considered. Only the **SUCCESSFUL** applicants will be contacted. The list of the successful applicants will be posted on NACOSTI's website to notify the public.

NOTE:

- Any proposal that is being funded by other donors should not be submitted.
- Only original works should be submitted, plagiarism is highly discouraged and will lead to automatic disqualification.
- Successful applicants with research proposals using human participants and/or animals will only receive their funding after ethical approval by an accredited Institutional Ethics Review Committee.
- Applicants who have been funded under Endowment Fund with on-going projects are not eligible
- People with disabilities are encouraged to apply.
- Female innovators are encouraged to apply
- Postgraduate students from both public and private Universities are eligible.

Soft Copies of the applications to be submitted to the following Emails:-

PhD and MSc/MA - (postgraduates@nacosti.go.ke)

Innovations - (innovations@nacosti.go.ke)

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