Call for Proposals
Research Training Partnership Programme - Rwanda

Sida is announcing a call for proposals for 5-year partnerships between University of Rwanda (UR) and Swedish universities for strengthening institutional research capacity at the University of Rwanda.

Grant period: July 2019 – June 2024

Call deadline: 29 June 2018

The call for Letters of Intent for Sida funded partnerships between the University of Rwanda and Swedish universities is now open. The Research Training Partnership Programme - Rwanda is part of Sida’s “Research Training Partnership Programme as an integral part of Institutional Research Capacity Strengthening” that aims at strengthening institutional research capacity at universities in Sweden’s selected partner countries, contributing to increased capacity to carry out research relevant for poverty reduction and socially, economically and environmentally sustainable development. In addition, Research Training Partnership Programme - Rwanda also aims at promoting professional skills development at postgraduate level supporting applied research and innovation with direct relevance to the public and private sectors in Rwanda.

The call is directed at five-year collaboration between University of Rwanda and Swedish universities. The call will be in two stages: Letter of Intent and Full Proposal.

Deadline for the Letters of Intent is 29 June 2018.

Background

Sida supported research cooperation is guided by the Strategy for research cooperation and research in development cooperation, 2015-2021 adopted by the Government of Sweden. One of the focus areas of the Strategy is capacity-building for research primarily in low-income countries. The research cooperation strategy can be found here. Results of the research cooperation have also a potential to contribute to the objectives of the Strategy for Sweden’s development cooperation with Rwanda, 2015-2019. The country strategy can be found here.

Research cooperation with Rwanda was initiated in 2002. The research capacity development programme that followed is currently in its third phase and Sida now plans to support a fourth phase. Therefore, the Embassy of Sweden in Kigali invited the University of Rwanda to submit an over-arching, strategic and forward-looking Concept Note for a possible continued Research Training
Partnership Programme, encompassing institutional development programme for a 5- and 10-year period. The Concept Note developed during 2016-2017 is envisaged to be used by several funding agencies. It identifies areas where needs for Master graduates and PhD trained people lie in line with Rwanda’s development needs, as well as areas that need to be supported to create or strengthen an environment at the University of Rwanda that is conducive for research.

Click here to read the UR Concept Note “Towards the University of Rwanda we want: UR Concept Note for Research Capacity Development and Institutional Advancement”. It is also available on the website of the University.

Focus of the Programme

Collaborations within this programme can focus on strengthening research capacity through postgraduate research training or through research supporting components essential for high quality research, innovation and institutional development of the University of Rwanda in line with its Concept Note.

Based on the need at the University of Rwanda, postgraduate research training may aim at:

- Strengthening the capacity to conduct postgraduate research training at Master’s and PhD level, which may include “sandwich training” of academic staff at Swedish universities and joint curriculum development;
- Providing local PhD and Master’s training;
- Increasing integration of gender equality both in terms of increased number of women undergoing postgraduate research training and conducting research, and in terms of increased gender sensitivity within research;
- Increasing integration of environment and climate change perspective in research and research training;
- Contributing to increased use of domestically generated analytical capacity and knowledge to enable participation in international research and research dialogue.

Based on the need at the University of Rwanda, research supporting components of the proposal may aim at:

- Increasing the access to publications and other scientific resources and improving library services;
- Improving the ICT infrastructure and strengthening human capacity within ICT;
- Increasing the capacity for research management including enhanced quality assurance mechanisms;
- Increasing capacity to mainstream gender equality and environment/climate perspective in research;
- Strengthening the capacity for scientific communication;
- Strengthening the role of the University of Rwanda in contributing to innovation processes and systems;
- Enhancing collaboration between the research community, the public and the private sector as well as civil society for utilization of research results.

Comprehensive partnerships between the University of Rwanda and individual Swedish universities or a consortium of Swedish universities which contribute to the development of human resources and institutional capacity at the University of Rwanda are encouraged to apply.
**Applicants**

Applications for partnerships will be accepted from the bodies/entities responsible for research training at the University of Rwanda (i.e. colleges, schools, research centres or departments within these) together with their proposed partner Swedish university bodies/entities responsible for research training and with the right for examination in Sweden.

Applications from the University of Rwanda for research supporting components may be submitted with or without a Swedish partner.

A list of all Swedish universities can be found [here](#).

**Contact at the University of Rwanda**

Contact at the University of Rwanda is the Programme Coordination Office: [pco.ursweden@ur.ac.rw](mailto:pco.ursweden@ur.ac.rw)

**Application process**

Once contacts have been made between universities, partnerships develop joint *Letters of Intent* on sub-programme level. The University of Rwanda will submit an *overall application* to Sida including *sub-programme level Letters of Intent* endorsed by the legal representative of the University of Rwanda. Prior to submission of the overall application University of Rwanda will pre-screen all Letters of Intent to ensure that applications meet the formal criteria and are relevant to the Concept Note. Only Letters of Intent endorsed by the University of Rwanda should be included in the overall application to be sent to Sida. The legal representative for the University of Rwanda must provide Sida with a signed list of endorsed Letters of Intent together with the document describing the process of pre-screening.

Detailed guidelines for Letters of Intent are available [here](#).

The overall application should be submitted by the University of Rwanda to the following e-mail address: [SidaResearch.Rwanda@sida.se](mailto:SidaResearch.Rwanda@sida.se)

**Deadline for submission of the overall application is 29 June 2018.**

Letters of Intent will be reviewed by an external Scientific Evaluation Committee. Partnerships that the Committee finds to be of highest quality and relevance will be invited by the Embassy of Sweden in Kigali to submit a Full Proposal.

**Enquires**

For enquires please email to [researchcall.kigali-info@gov.se](mailto:researchcall.kigali-info@gov.se)