Imperial College London – African Research Universities Alliance Education Fund

CALL DOCUMENT AND GUIDANCE FOR APPLICANTS

Purpose

The [African Research Universities Alliance](#) - [Imperial College London](#) Education Fund aims to support new collaborative education projects. The fund encourages projects which build on our institutions' individual successes and combine expertise and efforts to jointly develop new teaching, learning and student experience opportunities.

Digital technologies provide new avenues for developing international exchange and partnerships in education which have the potential to benefit more students than ever before. The fund supports both online and in-person activities and all projects are encouraged to incorporate digital innovations appropriate to achieving their project goals.

By jointly developing educational initiatives, ARUA members and Imperial can draw on expertise and support available at both institutions, and the talents and enthusiasm of our students and staff, to pilot new educational initiatives which continue to push the boundaries beyond what is currently possible in teaching and learning.

1. Imperial – ARUA Education Fund

Projects are expected to benefit students and staff at both institutions. Applicants must clearly state the impact that the award will bring to both institutions in terms of student experience, and, where possible, involve staff-student partnerships in the design and delivery.

Projects which support development in the following areas are encouraged:

- **Research-led education**: projects that are informed by the most recent research in the relevant topic. This could entail encouraging students to participate in research projects.
- **New applications for digital technologies**: Projects that pursue innovative, inclusive and impactful online experiential learning opportunities.
- **Multidisciplinary, global challenge topics** that may be linked to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Student entrepreneurship**: Projects that provide students with the knowledge, skills, and resources to develop an entrepreneurial mindset through joint projects or creating experiential learning opportunities (e.g. joint hackathons).
- **Flexible lifelong learning:** Projects that meet the needs of learners at different stages of their lives and careers
- **Learning analytics**: projects that foster knowledge exchange on approaches to building learning analytics platforms, and structures, and designing metrics to support and enhance the student experience.
- **Exchange of academic and professional knowledge:** Study visits or workshops to clearly and demonstrably aid the exchange of academic and professional knowledge, including sharing of good practice to underpin the preparation of a long-term collaborative partnership (e.g. preparation of a PhD summer school, joint module development, etc.)

All projects are encouraged to incorporate digital innovations appropriate to achieving their project goals in line with institutional education strategies.

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Projects can be either curriculum based or extracurricular. Interdisciplinary projects are particularly encouraged.

The policies of the respective institutions shall apply to initiatives requiring adjustments to course learning outcomes and evaluation and/or which require course approval.

As one of the purposes of this fund is to support innovative education and new ways of conducting international partnership, requests for funding for international travel must be fully justified. For example, to enable joint delivery, to support networking of the project teams, sharing best practice to inform development/delivery of the project etc.

2. Applicant eligibility and application process

At Imperial, the fund is open to permanent members of staff only.

Please complete the joint application form together with your ARUA or Imperial partner for the project. Completed application forms must be submitted to globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk. Only applications submitted before the deadline to these email address, and not that of the named contact, will be considered.

One proposal per principal applicant per call is permitted.

Each application should have one principal applicant based at Imperial and one principal applicant at an ARUA member institution and should contain:

- A written case for support to address the following questions:

    1. Project Summary: A description of the project and collaboration proposed, a brief description of the intended use and impact of the funding. Please refer to point 1 above for guidance.
    2. Significance: Explanation of how the activities proposed will enhance education and teaching practices at both Imperial and the ARUA institution
    3. Student experience: A description of how the project will benefit student experience at both institutions, and how it will facilitate students working together across institutions.
    4. Outcomes: Discuss how you will know if the collaborative project has been successful in achieving the intended outcomes.
    5. Sustainability: A description of how and when the project outcomes will become embedded into standard educational practices at each institution following the initial seed funding
    6. ARUA-Imperial partnership: A description of how the project team will collaborate throughout the project and the benefits of involving of team members from each institution.
- A financial summary: Each application should provide information on the requested costs using the budget section of the application template (see 'Funding Requested').
- Applicable only to Imperial Applicants: An InfoEd statement is not needed.

Applications must be completed on the application form provided below and within the word limit stated.

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3. Funding

This call has a total budget of £20,000 from Imperial, to be awarded to up to 5 successful ARUA and Imperial collaborating teams.

Total project budget requests are not expected to exceed £10,000. Funds can only be spent on activities which fit the purpose of this call. Applicants are asked to itemise their budget using the tables in the application form (please see application form for details).

4. Budget Management

Applicants must indicate the breakdown of the proposed budget and the detailed justification for each budget item in the Application Form. Detailed justifications must be provided for all resources required to successfully complete the project (e.g., explanation of why budget items are needed, how they will be used). Adherence to budgetary norms is expected in all areas. Otherwise, the proposal may be rejected.

All funds will be disbursed upon award of the grant. All funds will be paid to the Imperial PI to manage locally and in line with standard College guidance.

The applicants also declare that the grant award will not be used for any item(s) funded or pending funding from other sources.

Eligible costs

Cost	eligible / not eligible
Student support costs (e.g., student bursaries)	eligible
Consumables	eligible
Travel and subsistence	eligible
Project related equipment	eligible
Professional services fees	eligible
Indirect and estate costs	not eligible
Salary costs (staff)	not eligible

5. Review and Selection of Applications

The panel will rank the proposals based on:

- how the activities proposed will enhance education and teaching practices at Imperial and the ARUA institution
- clarity of project outcomes
- how and when the project outcomes will become embedded into standard educational practices at each institution
- innovative use of new learning formats

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- positive impact on student experience at both institutions
- extent to which the project demonstrates a full collaboration between the ARUA institution and Imperial team members in the design and delivery
- alignment of the budget with the fund's guidelines regarding use of funding

6. Obligations of Fund Awardees

All successful grant holders will be expected to submit a Final Report and a Financial report at the conclusion of the funded project. Further details will be provided.

7. Important dates

Application Close	Friday 3 May 2024
Feedback and revision for shortlisted projects	June 2024
Result Announcement	July 2024
Project Commences	1 August 2024 (Project duration: Up to 12 months)
Project Completion	By 31 July 2025 (extensions will not be granted)

8. Contacts

For queries about this grant: globalseedfunds@imperial.ac.uk

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