



**HARAMAYA UNIVERSITY**

**Office of Research Affairs**

**Call for Application for PhD Dissertation  
Research Grant 2021/2022**

December, 2021

Haramaya University

## Introduction

As one of pioneer Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in Ethiopia, Haramaya University (HrU) has been confidently evolving from a dominant teaching institution to a research university with a vision to become one of the best research universities in Africa by the year 2030. Following the differentiation of universities by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education (MoSHE), Haramaya University has been selected as one of the research Universities. This will enable the University to focus largely on research and postgraduate programs. The Office of Research Affairs has been committed to supporting the realization of the university's special mission, which has been identified as a strategic mandate in the 10-year strategic plan:

- to produce competent graduates with special emphasis on graduate programs in various fields of study;
- to conduct innovative, problem solving and cutting-edge research, and disseminate research outputs and technologies for sustainable development; and

In line with this, the office initiated new grant scheme known as Haramaya University Grand Challenge Research Grant (HUGG) aimed to fund multi-year (2-4 years) and multi-/trans-disciplinary research with relatively large budgets and more impactful results. It was also intended to support multi/trans-disciplinary large project that can recruit PhD and/or MSc/MA students. Since 2014, the university has reorganized its research priorities into six thematic areas and funding knowledge-generating, problem-solving and cutting-edge research projects on a competitive basis under five research grant categories. Although these research grants are intended for academic staff members of the university, who are expected to engage in research activities with 25% of their time in accordance with the HrU senate legislation, postgraduate students are expected to engage in and benefit from HrU Staff Research Grants, nesting their thesis research under broader project topic of the staff grant holder.

Yet this arrangement limits graduate students to come up with their own novel ideas. To this end, it is strongly believed that funding graduate students innovative research undertakings can have enormous impacts on the quality and outputs of the university research. It also believed to enable the students and their mentors to generate novel

research findings and share with the international community through publications that increase the reputation and visibility of the university globally.

Therefore, Office of Research Affairs wishes to announce the 2021/2022 PhD dissertation research grant for HrU PhD students enrolled at one of the colleges/institute of the University. For the moment, the grant is only open to Ph.D. students and limited number of PhD students will be awarded the grant due to budget constraints, with due consideration that MSc/MA students can benefit from research funds of HrU staff grant holders and HUGG which also aimed to recruit and involve postgraduate students. It is a competitive research grant and vetted through merit-based and peer-reviewed processes.

### **Eligibility Criteria**

PhD students who meet the following conditions are eligible to apply for this grant:

- ✓ PhD student enrolled at one of the colleges/institute of the University
- ✓ PhD student who has successfully defended his/her dissertation research proposal and approved at the school/department level, and have not yet started or completed her/his research work (field and laboratory activities or experiment) at the time of application.
- ✓ PhD student who doesn't have any external funding source and need to enclose a signed cover letter (from major advisor and the head of College/Institute (Dean/CED/SD)) confirming the same during the application.
- ✓ The proposed research project should directly address the priority research area identified for 2021/22 call for Proposal for HrU Staff Research Grants.
- ✓ Geographical area of implementation of the proposed project should be in the eastern part of Ethiopia except for compelling reasons.
- ✓ Women and self-sponsored postgraduate students with innovative research ideas are highly encouraged to apply.

## Other requirements

- ✓ The PhD student has to assign one of his/her dissertation advisors affiliated to one of the colleges/institute of Haramaya University as Principal Investigator (PI) of the research project.
- ✓ The PhD student will be funded if and only if the research activities require additional funds in addition to the budget covered by MoE/any other funding organization.
- ✓ All PhD students applying for this grant have to provide letter from their respective Chairman/Major advisor of the Ph.D. advisory committee and school/department about the status of their research. The postgraduate students who have started their research will only apply for funding for activities that they did not undertake prior to applying for this grant.
- ✓ The Office of Research Affairs will support Ph.D. students' research work with a maximum value of 100,000.00 ETB per student. Funds cannot be used to supplement their non-PhD research works.
- ✓ The budget allocated for personnel costs should not exceed 30% of the total proposed budget.
- ✓ The Ph.D. student who awarded the grant shall produce at least one published article on peer-review journals indexed in either of indexing databases (Scopus, PubMed, Web of Science).

## How to Apply

Applications must be submitted via online Research Grant Management System (<http://grant.haramaya.edu/>). Researchers need to create an account or log in to their existing account to apply for research grant.

The submitted proposal must

- ✓ Strictly follow the proposal writing format. ***A proposal which doesn't follow the format will be automatically rejected and will not be considered for evaluation***
- ✓ not exceed 25 pages (12 pts, Times New Roman, 1.5 spacing, 1 inch margin in all sides).

## Important Timetables

2021 17 December	Deadline for proposals submission Online grant management system closes
2021 20 December	Primary screening of the proposals
2021 24 December	Presentation of selected proposals
2021 29 December	Research steering committee approval
2022 03 January	Announcement of proposals selected for grant
2022 06-16 January	Contractual Agreement period

NB: The Office of Research will not entertain any request related to deadline extension and deadlines which are explicitly mentioned in the call has to be respected. Besides, the Office of Research will not entertain and accept proposals submitted via email or any paper-based submission. The online Research Grant Management System closes at 17 December 2022 at 4:00 pm. Researchers are recommended to submit the application as early as they can than waiting until the deadline for their application to avoid any difficulties which might occur on the deadline day.

## Evaluation Process

The evaluation consists of a primary screening, secondary evaluation (expert review) and final RSC decision. The primary screening is an administrative process to verify that eligibility requirements are met, and that required formatting is complete. Secondary evaluation is conducted by experts from subject area of the submitted proposal. The shortlisted proposals will be reviewed at the RSC level and a list of proposals that may be funded will be drawn up from the list based on the available budget.

The following templates are provided as downloadable files with this call for applications

Annex 01: Proposal preparation guide

Annex 02: Budget Breakdown template