



ARUA-U21 ECR Collaborative Awards

This special round of funding marks the beginning of a new network-to-network partnership between U21 and the African Research Universities Alliance (ARUA). This funding round is part of an annual programme for members of ARUA and U21 encompassing joint opportunities for researchers, staff and students at member institutions.

This new funding opportunity supports Early Career Researcher-led research projects between ARUA and U21 network member universities using ARUA's Centres of Excellence as specialist research hubs. It supports U21's goal of enhancing international research collaboration and ARUA's aspiration to assist African Early Career Researchers (ECRs) by providing funding to help develop skills in research management.

Aims of the funding opportunity:

- To enable researchers from ARUA and U21 to build and share capacity, learning from each other and beyond their immediate networks.
- To develop leadership qualities in early career researchers.
- To provide a platform for ARUA and U21 researchers to showcase their research.
- To help ECRs develop global perspectives in their approach to research.

This one-off round of funding round (up to \$15,000 per project) will support Early Career Researcher-led projects that can also involve doctoral students and include industry partners/NGOs to help enhance research and build capacity for both researchers and partners.

For this round, we will fund applications, including multi-and interdisciplinary projects, in the following research areas:

- Food Security
- Climate and Development
- Water

These research areas reflect the focus of several of ARUA's Centres of Excellence. They also reflect research strengths across the U21 network. The ARUA Centres of Excellence are intended to be focal points for aggregating world-class researchers from member universities to undertake collaborative research in priority thematic areas while providing opportunities for graduate students from the region and elsewhere to work with the researchers.

Who is it for?

Early Career Researchers from U21 or ARUA member universities. This opportunity is for researchers who are within 8 years of completing their PhD with a competitive track record in their research area and experience of international collaborations.



Criteria

Proposals must meet the following criteria:

- Demonstrate collaboration between at least 1 U21 member university and 1 ARUA member university, from at least 2 countries.
- Outputs need to demonstrate that the projects can be sustained beyond the period of funding and can demonstrate valuable impact on communities.
- Deliver/specify tangible outputs within 18 months (maximum) of receipt of funds, including at least one published paper in a high-ranking journal.
- Demonstrate that the project develops transferable skills for the ECRs involved.

Note that doctoral candidates can be involved to provide research support but this needs to be approved by the candidate's supervisor.

Funding available

Applicants will be able to apply for up to \$15,000 per project. Funds will need to be spent within the 18-month time-frame.

Helping ECRs connect

Zoom networking sessions (each focused on Food Security, Climate and Development and Water) will take place in June to enable researchers from both networks to connect and collaborate. These informal sessions will enable researchers, including potential project leads, to share their expertise via short 3-minute presentations to encourage conversations with other researchers. This should help researchers across both networks to start sharing their ideas and collaborative ambitions for the funding call.

Launch Date

Friday 21 April 2023

Timelines

- Submission deadline: Monday 31 July 2023
- Successful applicants will be notified by end of September 2023 and advised of funds transfer.
- Projects will commence in November (date to be advised)

Applications should be submitted to u21@universitas21.com