

TWAS RESEARCH GRANTS PROGRAMME IN BASIC SCIENCES FOR RESEARCH UNITS

IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY-LAGGING COUNTRIES

GUIDE

Applicants are advised to read this guide to ensure that they fulfil all the requirements in preparing applications and are familiar with TWAS general policies and guidelines concerning grants.

General Information

- **The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) - for the advancement of science in developing countries** – www.twas.org – is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy in 1983. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for science-based development in the South.
- The administrative and financial operation of TWAS is undertaken by UNESCO, in accordance with an agreement between UNESCO and the Italian government for TWAS.
- Since 1986, TWAS has been supporting scientists and institutions in developing countries through a wide range of programmes that include providing merit-based grants to research projects.
- The TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences for Research Units has been established in response to the needs of research team leaders in developing countries, particularly those attached to institutions that lack appropriate research facilities.
- Under this scheme, head of research units in 66 Science and Technology Lagging Countries (S&TLCs) working in the basic sciences are awarded grants to enable them to purchase the research equipment and facilities they need to enhance their productivity.
- The specific aims of the programme are to encourage the pursuit of scientific excellence in S&TLCs by identifying and supporting the best young scientists in these countries; to reinforce and promote scientific research in the S&TLCs; to strengthen the endogenous capacity in science and technology; and to counteract the brain drain thus reducing the exodus of scientific talent from the S&TLCs.
- The TWAS Research Grants Programme in Basic Sciences complements that of the International Foundation for Science (IFS). The two organizations maintain close contact to ensure complementing the two schemes and to avoid duplication.
- The programme is generously supported by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).
- A research grant to individual scientists amounts to a maximum of US\$ 40,000. Additional funds are available for support to full-time MSc students.
- A grant is normally provided for a period of 24 months.

- It is crucial to carefully plan the research activities at the application stage (you can use the uploaded Gantt Chart as an example) and stick to the timeline in order to fully benefit from all Grant components (procurement, conference participation, publications) and avoid any unspent funds at the end of the 24 – month grant period.
- A grant may be used to purchase scientific equipment, consumables and specialized literature (textbooks and proceedings only). The grant does not cover salaries of researchers and/or students, or field expenses. In addition, the purchase of laptops, tablets and laboratory animals is not supported.

Subject Areas

- The Research Grants programme provides support for research projects in the following fields of **basic sciences**: basic biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics.

Eligibility of Applicants

- Applying *research units* must be led by a renowned researcher who is a national of a developing country, who holds a PhD and who has good research experience. The research unit should operate within a university or a research institution in one of the S&TLCs and should include the Principle Investigator (group leader), plus additional members such as such as Postdoctoral researchers or PhD and MSc students, technicians, etc. There is no age limit for unit leaders.
- Applicant must at the time of application NOT have an active research grant with TWAS or OWSD Early Career Women Scientists (ECWS) Fellowship.
- Each applicant must have at least one MSc student under his/her supervision.
- Applications from women scientists and those working in Least Developed Countries are especially encouraged.
- You must submit a strong Research Proposal, you may find further information on how to write a strong proposal by visiting [AuthorAID](#).
- Research unit leaders who submit a satisfactory final report on a previous grant may apply for a renewal.
- Please be advised that applicants may apply for only one programme per calendar year in the TWAS and OWSD portfolio. Applicants will not be eligible to visit another institution in that year under the TWAS [Visiting Professor](#) programmes. One exception: The head of an institution who *invites* an external scholar to share his/her expertise under the TWAS [Visiting Professor](#) programmes may still apply for another programme.
- Applicants are strongly encouraged to upload a quotation from a suitable supplier for each piece of equipment above 5,000 USD. In case of equal scoring, priority will be given to applicants who upload a valid quotation for instruments above USD 5,000.

Agreement

- On selection by an expert committee and approval by the TWAS executive director, a written agreement is made between TWAS, the grantee and his/her institute. The institute undertakes to administer the grant according to the agreement and to provide laboratory space, salaries and other facilities necessary for the project. Equipment, consumables and literature provided for the project through the TWAS Research Grants Programme remain the property of the institute after the project is completed.
- The research grant funds are kept at TWAS for the purchase of all items requested by the grantee. TWAS contacts the supplier(s) upon receipt of proforma invoices submitted by the grantee in accordance with the itemized budget.
- Goods or funds cannot be sent to other members of the team but only to the PI at his or her home institution, referred to as Administering Institution in the agreement.
- Research unit leaders are required to submit a final report within one year of receipt of the last items purchased.

How to apply

- The application must be submitted via the online form, the link to which can be found on the TWAS website.
- A researcher may only submit one application at a time and for only one kind of grant (e.g. individual, research unit, collaborative, or [SG-NAPI Programme](#)) for consideration by TWAS.
- For any queries please contact:
Research Grants Office
TWAS — ICTP Campus — Strada Costiera 11 — 34151 Trieste — Italy
E-mail: researchgrants@twas.org
Phone: +39 040 2240531 —

When to apply

- The deadline for receiving applications is **3 April 2025**
- However, we strongly recommend that you do not wait until the deadline but submit your application as early as you can. No support will be available after 16:00 (Italian time) on the day of the deadline.

Notification of TWAS decision

- The TWAS Research Grants Committees will meet by the end of the year. Notification of the results will be made shortly afterwards.

*** COUNTRIES ELIGIBLE FOR THE GRANTS**

Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic (the), Chad, Comoros (the), Congo (the), Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo (the), Djibouti, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia (the), Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao People's Democratic Republic (the), Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger (the), Paraguay, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine (the), Sudan (the), Syrian Arab Republic (the), Tajikistan, United Republic of Tanzania (the), Timor-Leste, Togo, Tuvalu Republic, Uganda, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.