



FUNDING TERTIARY EDUCATION IN AFRICA – WRITING GRANT PROPOSALS

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BY

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THIS PRESENTATION

- INTRODUCTION – WHAT IS A GRANT
- PROPOSAL PREPARATION
- OUTLINE OF A TYPICAL RESEARCH GRANT PROPOSAL
- INGREDIENTS OF SUCCESSFUL GRANT APPLICATIONS
- UNDERSTANDING THE PROCESS OF GRANT APPLICATION REVIEWS
- EXAMPLES OF FUNDING AGENCIES
- PARTING WORDS

Google Chrome browser window showing a presentation slide titled "TRENDS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION IN AFRICA - WRITING GRANT PROPOSALS". The slide content includes:

- TRENDS IN TERTIARY EDUCATION IN AFRICA - WRITING GRANT PROPOSALS**
PROPOSALS BY THE DEPT. OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
IN
NIGERIA
FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2025
FOR THE PERIOD 2015-2025
- 2. THE PRESENTATION**
 - 1. INTRODUCTION
 - 2. NEED STATEMENT
 - 3. OBJECTIVES
 - 4. JUSTIFICATION
 - 5. BUDGET
 - 6. MONITORING AND EVALUATION
 - 7. CONCLUSION
- 3. GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE ON HIGHER EDUCATION IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AS % OF GDP**

Country	% of GDP
Benin	3.0
Ghana	3.4
Mali	4.4
Cote d'Ivoire	3.4
Senegal	5.5
South Africa	6.6
Togo	4.0
Guinea	2.2
Cape Verde	7.6
Nigeria	0.5
USA	6.1

World Bank, 2022

Adjacent to the table is a horizontal bar chart titled "No. of Universities in Nigeria" showing the number of universities for different years: 2000 (20), 2005 (25), 2010 (30), 2015 (35), and 2020 (40).

Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the date as 23/01/2023, 10:20 AM, and various application icons.

INTRODUCTION

What is a Research Grant Proposal

- Document(s) submitted exclusively to an organisation for the purpose of securing funding for a research project
- Researchers must be able to demonstrate the nature of their research agenda and their ability to build cumulatively upon the literature and their own preliminary studies.

APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

Types of Proposal

- i. Concept Note
- ii. Full Proposal

What is a Concept Note?

- A Concept Note is also called a pre-proposal document. It is a short summary of the proposal with emphasis on the theoretical framework behind the research on interest. This is required by some funding agencies such as CIDA (now GAC) and IDRC for research funds for a particular research project.
- In a competitive process, a Concept Note provides more information to the funding agency on the background, rationale and planned Ultimate Outcome of the proposed research.

A Close Calls

B Open Calls

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What is a Full Proposal?

A Full Proposal is the full document that is sent to a funding agency to request for research funds for a particular research project. This may come after the acceptance of a Concept Note

The information contained in a full proposal will vary depending on the funding agency.

APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

Matching versus non-Matching fund

- * Some sponsors require matching funds before they can fund your research

Some sponsors require “in-kind” contributions before they can fund your research

Other sponsors may award grants without a need for matching requirements

- * In-kind contributions include everything that is provided by others in support of the project, but which is not paid for by the project.

Eg. - Volunteer time, equipment, office space, transportation, etc

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PROPOSAL PREPARATION

1. Team Composition

- All members of the team must have demonstrable contributions to the proposed research
- Each member must have something significant to contribute
- Don't pick based on sentiment or mere friendship
- Choose members who are visible online

APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

2. IDENTIFY BOTH INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL COLLABORATORS

3. REVIEW SPONSOR'S RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITIES

- I. Applied research
- II. Capacity building
- III. Environment – Precision Agriculture and climate change
- IV. Human Health and Nutrition
- V. Food Security –
 1. Crops/animals/land management

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OUTLINE OF A TYPICAL RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. Scope and Reach of proposal
2. Primary target beneficiaries
3. Expected Impact/Ultimate Outcome – **Theory of Change**
4. Theoretical/Conceptual Model
5. Intermediate Outcomes
6. Immediate Outcomes
7. Outputs – tangible deliverables
8. Activities – what is going to be done
9. Inputs – resources required to implement project
10. Budgets - reasonable and practicable
11. Timelines - Implementation – to project Termination
12. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

THEORY OF CHANGE

- A method that explains how a given intervention or a set of interventions is expected to lead to specific developmental change. It is usually accompanied with illustration.
- It helps in guiding the development of sound and evidence – based programme strategies, with assumptions and risks clearly analyzed and spelt out

IMMEDIATE OUTCOME

- A change expected to occur once one or more outputs have been delivered by the implementers. These are usually short-term outcomes. Examples are increase awareness

INTERMEDIATE OUTCOME

- A change that is expected to logically occur once one or more immediate outcomes have been achieved

ULTIMATE OUTCOME

- The highest level of changes to which an organisation, policy, programme, or project contributes through the achievement of one or more intermediate outcomes

TABLE 2: AN EXAMPLE OF ACTIVITY SCHEDULE SCHEME

Activities	Time line	Deliverables	Personnel Responsible
Baseline study	March1 – June 30	Data on soil and vegetables in SW Nigeria	PI
Data Analyses	May31 – July 20	Information on Vegetable distribution in SW Nigeria	Dr. Fatunla

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Ingredients of Successful Grant Applications

1. READ THE APPLICATION FORM AND TAKE IT SERIOUSLY.

Do what the application form asks you to do and in that order.

2. PAY ATTENTION TO THE GRANTING OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA.

For example, agencies that fund Climate Change may not pay attention to your soil fertility study.

3. WRITE CLEARLY.

Long sentences, complex phraseology and jargon do not reflect scholarship.

4. DON'T TRUST YOUR COMPUTER SPELL CHECKER.

"If you can't get the spelling right, how are you going to get the research right?"

APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

5. BE SUCCINCT.

More is not necessarily better.

6. AVOID AMBIGUITIES.

Do not let reviewers second guess the intent of your research proposal.

7. PACKAGE THE APPLICATION MATERIAL WELL.

Do not fill all the white spaces. Make it easy for people to read.

8. BE HONEST.

Be upfront about any delays or interruptions in your research progress.

APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

9. HAVE YOUR APPLICATION CRITICALLY REVIEWED BY COLLEAGUES.

More so for new researchers and first-time applicants. "Capitalize on the experience of colleagues,"

10. SPEND TIME ON THE APPLICATION.

Poorly prepared applications are often turned down. However, don't get discouraged. If you write enough research grant applications some will be successful, others will be turned down.

APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

Budgeting

- Over-budgeting or under-budgeting should be avoided
- The budget must be realistic and align to the research concepts and evidence – based output
- Align the budget to activities described in the proposal
- Value for money - the value of the expected output must justify the budget
- Significant amount must be allocated to actual research/intervention

Table 1: A sample of budget summary

BUDGET SECTION G 2: PROPOSED BUDGET FOR APPLICANT ORGANIZATION #1

Note that each applicant organization must complete a separate Budget Section G 2. Please save each Budget G 2 necessary so that there is one Budget Section G 2 for each organization collaborating in the partnership.
NOTE: This worksheet will be automatically totalled from the detailed sheets.

Name of Applicant Organization (this BUDGET SECTION G 2 applies to):

Project working currency (currency used in books of accounts of institution):

Duration of research project (in months):

BUDGET SUMMARY (based on the detailed budget forms)		
Budget category	Year 1	Year 2
1. Personnel	0	0
2. Consultants	0	0
3. Evaluation	0	0
4. Equipment	0	0
5. International travel	0	0
6. Training	0	0
7. Research expenses (include third party expenses if applicable)	0	0
8. Indirect project costs	0	0
Total in project currency	0	0
Total in Canadian dollar*		

We hereby certify that this budget proposal, and all its accompanying detailed budget submission forms, correct institution will administer the grant as per IDRC's terms and conditions if the grant to the project is within 10% of:

Name of principal researcher:

Job title:

Name of person authorized to sign for institution:

Job title:

Date:

*Any currency conversions should be carried out using <http://www.canda.com/currency/convert/>. The conversion values will be determined by IDRC on the date the Memorandum of Grants Conditions (MGC) is signed.

APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

Understanding the Process of Grant Review

- Grant review focuses on the significance of proposed aims, impact and innovation, investigator capacity to conduct the study as proposed, and support for the study hypotheses and research design.
- Remember the reviewer(s) would not have opportunity to request for explanations from you.



APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT THE FINAL PROPOSAL

1. Abstract
2. Key words that describe the project
3. No Acronyms
4. Background
5. Rationale
6. Relevance to Host Country and Sponsors Objectives



APPROACHING GRANTING AGENCIES

3. REVIEW THE CRITERIA USED BY THE SPONSOR TO EVALUATE RESEARCH PROPOSALS.
4. CRITIC YOUR PROPOSAL USING THESE CRITERIA
5. LET THE PROPOSAL BE REVIEWED BY EXPERIENCED COLLEAGUES

SAMPLE OF CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING RESEARCH PROPOSALS

Proposal ingredient	Key question	Review criteria
1. The care gap or quality gap	Does the proposal have clear evidence that a gap in quality exists?	Significance Impact
2. The evidence-based treatment to be implemented	Is the evidence for the program, treatment, or set of services to be implemented demonstrated?	Significance Innovation
3. Conceptual model and theoretical justification	Does the proposal delineate a clear conceptual framework/theory/model that informs the design and variables being tested?	Approach Innovation
4. Stakeholder priorities, engagement in change	Is there a clear engagement process of the stakeholders in place?	Significance Impact Approach Environment
5. Setting's readiness to adopt new services, knowledge and processes	Is there clear information that reflects the setting's readiness, capacity, or appetite for change, specifically around the adoption of	Impact Approach Environment

Proposal ingredient	Key question	Review criteria
6. Implementation strategy/process	Are the strategies to implement the intervention clearly defined, and justified conceptually?	Significance Impact Innovation
7. Team experience with the setting, treatment, implementation process	Does the proposal detail the team's experience with the study setting, the treatment whose implementation is being studied, and implementation processes?	Approach Investigator team
8. Feasibility of proposed research design and methods	Does the methods section contain as much detail as possible, as well as lay out possible choice junctures and contingencies, should methods not work as planned?	Approach Investigator team
9. Measurement and analysis section	Does the proposal clarify the key constructs to be measured, corresponding to the overarching conceptual model or theory?	Approach Investigator team
	Is a measurement plan clear for each construct?	
	Does the analysis section demonstrate how relationships between constructs will be tested?	
10. Policy/funding environment; leverage or support for sustaining change	Does the proposal address how the implementation or initiative aligns with policy trends?	Impact Significance

WRITING RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS

Examples of Funding Agencies

1. Private - NGO's –
2. National/Federal
3. International
 - i. IFS
 - ii. TWAS
 - iii. DAAD
 - iv. DFID
 - v. AU
 - vi. Volkswagen /Stifund
 - vii. UNU/INRA
 - viii. USAID
 - ix. IDRC
 - x. CIDA (Now Global Affairs Canada)

OTHER POSSIBLE SOURCES OF FUNDING

Institutional Grants –by International Developmental agencies

Royalties from intellectual properties

Partnership with Industries

- Identify challenges to specific challenges and approach them sound and tested solutions

WRITING RESEARCH PROPOSALS FOR GRANTS

PARTING WORDS

- Don't give up because your proposal was turned down
- Establish good relationships anywhere you get to
- Don't work towards submission deadline
- Be prepare to comit your time and your fund
- Don't leave it till the last minute

The background is a blue gradient with decorative white circuit-like lines in the corners. The text is centered in a dark blue, sans-serif font.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING