

# **National/International Funding Sources and Founders Requirements**



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# Importance of Research Grants

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- **Research is critically important to generate new knowledge and to promote growth and development of any nation**
- **Many developed countries often provide substantial funds for research**
- **By contrast, many developing countries often fail to appreciate the importance of research and therefore, often allocate paltry sums for research**
- **In the face of dwindling official funds for research in Nigerian Universities, the importance of externally funded grants cannot be over-emphasized.**

# State of Externally Fund Grants in Nigerian Universities

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In a paper published from a typical Nigerian University,

- **Only 5% of staff have ever written an external grant application**
- **Only 3 of nearly 150 academic staff in one Faculty have ever obtained an international grant**
- **Only 10% of academic staff know a source of funding in their discipline; and**
- **Only 3% of staff have ever attended an international (or local) proposal writing workshop**

## **By contrast, in the United States,**

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- **All academic staff are actively involved in grants application**
- **Employments are based on ability to obtain grants and to fund raise**
- **The role of “no grants, no tenure” apply in some of the Ivy league Universities**
- **UP to 50% of funds used in running some universities are obtained from grants**

# **Problems Associated with Winning External Grants in Nigeria**

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- **Lack of a culture of grant application**
- **Lack of track records**
- **Inability to write good proposals that meet international standards**
- **Absence of local enabling factors**

# Lack of a Culture of Grant Application

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- **The tripod function of a University academic are Research, Teaching, and Service delivery in relevant areas**
- **Unfortunately, most Nigerian academics now focus on Teaching, to the neglect of Research and Service Delivery**
- **However, it is a well known dictum that a good teacher ought to be a good researcher**
- **Without the composite development of the three characteristics, an academic will be incomplete professionally**

# Developing a Culture for Grant Application

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- **This should be part of undergraduate and postgraduate training**
- **Indeed, proposal writing should be one of the modules taught at the course on Entrepreneurship to undergraduate students**
- **Thorough grounding on proposal writing should be part of postgraduate training**
- **Junior academics should begin early in their career to identify sources of funding in their areas of research, and to develop suitable grant applications**

# Track Record in Grant Application

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- **A successfully implemented project is an entry point to another grant**
- **Junior academics can begin by being mentored by those who have had successful projects**
- **Academics must seek and apply for external research grants as they are now widely available**
- **If unsuccessful, apply again. Every new grant application is often an improvement over the previous one**



# Writing Good Proposals

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- **A good proposal is key to obtaining an internationally funded grant**
- **Most external grants are competitive. Unless the proposal is “good” it will have no chance of success in the international market**
- **Review previously successful proposals in your discipline and use them as template for developing your own proposal**

# Qualities of a Good Proposal

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- **The idea must be new (innovative)**
- **It must be conceptually sound**
- **It must be do-able and replicable at individual and institutional levels**
- **It must be culturally and socially acceptable**
- **It must be ethically sound**

# Specific Elements of a Good Proposal

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- **Good justification for the project**
- **Specific and measurable objectives**
- **Clear description of Activities**
- **Clear project management plans**
- **A good monitoring and evaluation plan**
- **A well balanced budget**
- **A well written, and internally consistent proposal**

# Project Justification

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- **Must be clear, succinct and persuasive**
- **The writer must portray an acute need for the project**
- **It should be a new idea and not be duplicative**
- **The writer must show good knowledge of recent developments in the discipline**

# Statement of objectives

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- ✓ **Always differentiate between goals and objectives**
- ✓ **Goals are the ideal anticipated long term consequences of the project**
- ✓ **Objectives are the measurable outcomes of the project**
- ✓ **Both must be stated clearly**

# Statement of objectives

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## Specific objectives must be SMART

- **S – specific**
- **M – Measurable**
- **A – achievable**
- **R – realistic**
- **T – time bound**

# Description of Activities

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- **Should be detailed**
- **Anticipated challenges should be mentioned with description on ways to mitigate the problems**
- **Local terms should be described**
- **Collaboration with other agencies and local organizations are particularly encouraged**

# Project Management Plans

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- **Identification of who would implement the project**
- **List of other collaborating partners and their roles**
- **A clear and well defined project time line**
- **Clear project management procedures**



# Project monitoring and Evaluation

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- **Clear M&E procedure should be described**
- **Both process and outcome indicators should be listed**
- **A log frame that will relate each specific objective with the indicators should ideally be provided**
- **Clear reporting dates should also be provided**

# Budget

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- **Should be consistent with the activities listed**
- **Arrange budget by expenditure items**
- **Support budget with narratives**
- **Keep overheads to the limits allowed by the funding agency**

# Internal Consistency of A Proposal

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**Justification** → **Specific Objectives** →

**Indicators** → **Project Activities** →

**Project Management** → **M&E** → **Budget**

# **What International Reviewers Consider as Good proposals**

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- **Originality of thought**
- **Ingenuity – planning ahead**
- **Logical and clear thinking**
- **Currency of information**
- **Use of a simple, clear and good English language devoid of mistakes**
- **Analytical sense**
- **Recognition of limitation**
- **Managerial skills**
- **Taking care of small details**

# Other important details

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- **Make sure to follow the guidelines of the funding agency**
- **Keep the stipulated page limits**
- **Keep to the deadline for submitting the project proposal**
- **Put information where it belongs**
- **Use a check lists**

# **Local Enabling Factors That Can Contribute to Winning grants**

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- **A good and up-to-date library**
- **Ready and continuous access to the internet**
- **Attendance at conferences, where recent issues are discussed**
- **The role of a local coordinating committee to assist with proposal writing on an ongoing basis.**

# Examples:

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- **At Karolinska University, all academic staff have ready access to the virtual library in their offices**
- **Harvard University has a special development office that assists staff with proposal writing**
- **The University of London has an excellent interlink library resource that can provide any information or material needed within 24 hours**
- **In all Universities mentioned, information on new grant requests are disseminated to academic staff by the University central administration as soon as they are available**

# **Nigerian Universities Can Do the Same**

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- **Improve its internet connectivity so that all staff have ready access to relevant information**
- **Computerize its library holdings, so that library resources can easily be accessible to staff in their offices**
- **Each academic staff MUST own a computer that is hooked to an internet**



# **Nigerian Universities Can Do the Same Contd.**

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- **URPC can disseminate information on new external grants to staff**
- **Part of the mandate of the URPC should be to assist junior academics to write fundable proposals**
- **Each staff MUST endeavor to attend one or two international conferences each year**
- **Staff should endeavor to develop their capacity to write fundable proposals**

# **Local Sources of Research Funding**

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- **National Universities Commission**
- **Education Tax Fund**
- **Local/International NGOs**
- **Private Individuals/Companies**
- **Other Government Parastatals and Agencies**

# **Local/International NGOs Funding Sources**

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- **Country Chapters of International NGOs e.g. UN Agencies, USAID, WHO, FAO, etc**
- **Indigenous NGOs**
- **States and Local Government Councils**

# Private

## Individuals/Companies

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- **Individuals e.g. The Dangotes, The Otedola, etc**
- **Oil Companies – Shell, Chevron, NNPC, SPDC, NNDC, etc**
- **MTN, ZAIN, Globacom**
- **Banks and Financial Institutions – CBN, Zenith, Intercontinental Bank, NDIC, Insurance Companies, etc**

# Other Agencies and Parastatals

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- **Agencies such as NACA, NISER,  
etc**
- **IITA, etc**

# **International Donor Agencies**

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- **Bilaterals – USAID, DFID, NORAD, SIDA, JICA, CIDA, NORAD, etc**
- **Multilaterals – UN Agencies, e.g. WHO, FAO, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNDP, World Bank, EU etc**
- **Foundations – Ford, Macarthur, Kellog, IDRC, Packard, etc**

# How to contact the Funding Sources

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- **Response to calls for Proposals**
- **Personal contacts/Recommendations, etc**
- **Submission of letter of inquiry/Concept letter**
- **Followed by development of full proposal following the guidelines of the funding agency**



**Thank you for Listening**