

Competitive Fund for RISE Graduates: Phase II Call for Concept Proposals

SIG is pleased to announce a newly designed Competitive Fund for RISE Graduates.

The grants will be earmarked for the creation, expansion, or improvement of university-based research groups. Up to \$125,000 will be available, with individual grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$25,000. Larger grants will be considered for exceptional proposals involving multiple RISE graduates and/or universities. The total number of groups to be funded will depend on the number, quality, and scale of proposals.

Research groups may be located in any RISE node university or in another African university where the applicant is currently on staff. They may involve a single university or a consortium. Partnerships involving universities and research institutions outside of Africa are welcome, but funds may be used only to support work at African universities or travel for African scholars.

The applicant is required to have earned a PhD through a RISE network, or to be on track to have completed all requirements for the PhD by the end of April 2016. Linkages with other RISE PhD and MSc graduates are encouraged, but partners need not be affiliated with RISE.

The competition will involve two stages, beginning with this call for concept proposals. In contrast with a typical two-stage process, the reason for beginning with concept proposals is *not* to select a subset of applicants to be invited to submit full proposals; full proposals will be accepted from all applicants who submit concept proposals meeting the criteria outlined here. Concept proposals will help us assess the demand for these grants, give us a better understanding of where the needs are and what costs are involved, allow us to identify areas of overlap or complementarity where applicants might be encouraged to submit joint proposals, and give us an opportunity to provide constructive feedback.

Timeline

December 18, 2015: deadline for concept proposals

January 30, 2016: call for full proposals

March 15, 2016: deadline for full proposals

Week of April 18, 2016 (at RISE meeting): announcement of winners

Please see next page for concept proposal guidelines.

Concept Proposal Guidelines

Concept proposals will consist of the three parts listed below, submitted as a single PDF file.

1. *Cover Page* including (a) **Proposal Title** and (b-g) **Applicant Information**, as follows:
 - a. Proposal Title
 - b. Applicant's Name
 - c. Email address
 - d. Current title and affiliation
 - e. RISE network
 - f. University that granted (or will grant) the PhD
 - g. Month and year PhD was (or will be) completed

2. *Narrative* (up to 3 pages)

Please summarize your plans for a research group, including as applicable information about research, training, collaboration, location, infrastructure, instrumentation, activities, outreach, personnel, timeline, goals, and any other aspects you wish to address.

3. *Budget Estimate* (1 page)

Please provide a budget estimate, including the total amount (or a range) you expect to request, as well as a list of categories and an approximate breakdown.

Budget categories may include, but are not limited to: scientific instrumentation, research supplies, salary subsidies, stipends, travel, conferences, communications, office costs, and institutional overhead.

If you plan to work with any partners who will cover their own costs, or if you anticipate co-funding from the host institution or other resources, please mention this on your budget page.

These grants are meant to foster networking and collaboration within RISE and beyond, and to allow scientific creativity to flourish. The categories listed under *Narrative* and *Budget Estimate* are only suggestions. We recognize that resources and working conditions will vary by institution and that you are better placed than we are to identify your needs and priorities.

Please email your concept proposal, as a single PDF attachment per the guidelines above, to sig@ias.edu by December 18, 2015.