

BUSITEMA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUND (BURIF)

CALL FOR PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS 2025/26

1.0. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

Busitema University is implementing the 5-year strategic plan 2025/26 – 2030/31 with a vision to be a center of excellence in science, technology and innovation.

The role of research as a change agent to the communities and sustainable development of low-income countries cannot be underestimated. Universities are the source of knowledge and have proven the capacity to tackle societal problems in the process of so doing they become more relevant to society at large. University knowledge can be used to enhance economic growth in Uganda through technology transfer, innovation, and business incubation.

The Government of Uganda (GoU) allocated special funding to Busitema University to support high-impact research and innovation towards commercially viable products, grant leading to commercial products geared towards the attainment of the Uganda Vision 2040.

As previously managed, the BURIF will be driven on the foundation of the national research and innovation strategy and the approved University Research Agenda.

The DGSRI, therefore, invites applications for the Busitema University Research and Innovation Fund (BU-RIF) in any Busitema University thematic research priority areas for the year 2025/26.

The BU-RIF grant will last for utmost **10 months** and will support research and innovation outputs within Busitema University.

1.1. University Research Agenda

The process of developing the research agenda was highly participatory. A consultative meeting was held with Deans, Heads of Departments and senior academic staff, the drafted research priority areas were circulated to the

university community for input and finally, the research agenda priorities were harmonized with the NDPIII.

2.0. OBJECTIVES AND SCOPE

2.1. Objectives

The objectives of the BURIF program include the following:

- a) To strengthen and build the research capacity of Busitema University staff.
- b) To foster interdisciplinary research within the university's research agenda thematic areas.
- c) To increase the university's visibility.

2.0. Scope

The program will support Peer-Reviewed Publications in the following Busitema University research agenda priority areas as set out in the university research agenda:

- i) Transformative Education for Sustainable Development, Entrepreneurship and Job Creation ii) One Health
- iii) Wealth Creation through Agriculture and Animal Production iv) Appropriate Technologies and Clean Energy
- v) Environmental Sustainability and, Climate Risk Management vi) Public and Private Sector Development and Enterprise Management vii) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) viii) Cross-Cutting Issues

Each applicant may submit more than one (1) application in one of the research priority areas indicated above.

Applications will be assessed on a competitive basis, to optimize the contribution made through GoU investment towards research.

The publications should have a clear indication of their contribution to:

- i. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- ii. Uganda Vision 2040
- iii. National Development Plan III.

In the year 2025/26, two categories categories were awarded through a competitive selection process. Each grant was assessed vigorously for value for money. However, CAT I was pending

CATEGORIES	AMOUNT [UGX]	NUMBER OF PROJECTS	SUPPORT FOR PHD SCHOLARS	TOTAL
CAT I	500,000	100		50,000,000
CAT II	50,000,000	7		350,000,000
CAT III	15,000,000	7	7	105,000,000
TOTAL				505,000,000

The recommended submission time is up-to 15th March, 2026

3.0. APPLICATION AND ELIGIBILITY

3.1. Application process

- The Cat 1 grant will be handled every quarter by the DGSRI.
- Access the link for submission <https://dgsri.busitema.ac.ug/>

The Research Grants Management Committee will not consider applications submitted by any other means. Applicants are therefore advised to prepare their submissions on time.

If an applicant experiences any challenges in the submission process, they should send an email to: dgsri.adm@busitema.ac.ug and c.c. to rsammy.eng@busitema.ac.ug and dgsribusitema@gmail.com

3.2 General Eligibility

- A full-time Busitema University staff who holds a valid and current appointment specifically issued by the Directorate of Human Resources/ University Secretary.
- Individual researchers or research teams will be required to have a letter of support from the Head of the academic unit under which the lead researcher is tenured.
- Researchers from other institutions of higher learning are not eligible to apply as **first/corresponding author**

- (iv) The **first/corresponding author** shall be active in service (not on study or sabbatical leave).
- (vi) The **first/corresponding author** can submit more than **ONE** application.

3.4 **CATEGORY I JOURNAL PUBLICATION INCENTIVE**

The incentive is designed to encourage and reward researchers for publishing high-quality research papers in reputable impact factor journals. The grant of **UGX 500,000** is available for each eligible journal paper published during 2025/26 academic year. (i) The published paper must be in a journal with either an impact factor issued by Thomson Reuters or indexed by reputable databases Scopus/Web of Science/DOAJ.

- (ii) The impact factor of the journal must be current and verifiable.
- (iii) The applicant must be either the first author or corresponding author, of the published paper.
- (iv) In cases where the paper has multiple authors, only one author can be the beneficiary of the grant. The beneficiary must provide a signed agreement from the co-authors acknowledging the selection of the grant recipient if applicable.
- (v) The applicant must submit proof of the published paper, including:
 - A digital or hard copy of the paper.
 - The DOI number of the paper.
 - A link to the paper on the journal's official website.
 - The publication date must be within the current academic year.
- (vi) The grant is non-transferable and cannot be claimed by another author once disbursed.
- (vii) The researcher is eligible for multiple grants if they publish more than one paper meeting the criteria.
- (viii) All decisions made by the review committee are final.

4. **ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Selection of the research publications, follows the following assessment criteria:

(i) **Innovation**

Does the research involve the development of new research design and methods:

The integration of existing methods into new tools, or the application of existing methods in a novel way that improves and extends their utility? Does the published research has potential for practical application or commercialization?

(ii) Scientific Excellence and Originality

Is the published research potentially of very high quality in relation to the highest international standards of scientific excellence in all of the sectors and disciplines that it includes? Would the published research add value to existing research knowledge?

(iii) Development Relevance

Does the published research address issues that present significant challenges to the specified field? Does it align with BU-RIF's thematic research areas?

(iv) Equity and Inclusion

Measures will be taken to ensure that all faculties will benefit from the fund. The University Research Grants Management Committee (RGMC) will also ensure that women researchers and junior faculty are well represented in the grant portfolio.

(v) Collaboration and capacity building

Evidence of interdisciplinary or inter-institutional collaboration

5.0. DISSEMINATION AND DATA SHARING

Information about research funded by the University will be made available on the University website. Grant holders will be expected to promote the dissemination of the results of their research as widely as possible, based on the premise that publicly-funded research data are a public good, produced in the public interest, and should be made openly available to other researchers promptly to the maximum extent possible.

6.0. REVIEW PROCESS OF FULL APPLICATION

6.1. Merit Criteria

Applications will be referred to an evaluation panel of the RGMC. Panel members shall be required to sign appropriate non-disclosure agreements. If a member of the evaluation panel shall have a direct conflict of interest in relation to a publication, he/she would be required to declare it and to abstain from participation in ranking the relevant publication(s).

The evaluation panel will then make a detailed assessment of each publication. The panel shall report to the Grants Management Committee on its findings and provide recommendations regarding those publications deemed most worthy of funding. Based on this report, and about the total funds available, a recommendation will be made to award grants.

7.0. NOTIFICATION OF SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS

Successful applicants will be informed by email. Researchers should be cognizant of the fact that not all research applicants should expect to be funded - this is a normal part of the grants processes.

The RGMC will be as impartial and as technical as possible in the selection process to ensure that the best publication wins. Not winning a grant should therefore not be construed as being a result of an unfair selection processes.

IMPORTANT DATES

S/N	ACTIVITY	DATE
1	Call Open	Thursday 29 th January
2	Call Close	Sunday 15 th March, 2026
3	Award Letters	Tuesday 31 st March, 2026

Page