



AIMS

African Institute for
Mathematical Sciences
NEXT EINSTEIN INITIATIVE

The Secretariat
District Gasabo, Secteur Kacyiru
Cellule Kamatamu Rue KG590 ST
Kigali, Rwanda

AIMS Small Research Grants in Climate Change Science

Terms of Reference for Grantees

Purpose

This document describes the terms of reference for recipients of the AIMS Small Research Grants in Climate Change Science. The objectives of the program are to provide funding:

- ❖ to support the development of early career African academics of postdoctoral standing (or equivalent) who are seeking to establish an independent research/professional career in the climate change science discipline or the mathematical sciences with applications in climate change. By taking up a (co-)supervisory role through this grant, it could increase the likelihood of their long-term integration within an academic institution in their home country or an institution in Africa;
- ❖ for new and innovative, cutting-edge projects including industry-led, community-, or policy-driven projects in climate change science that make substantive use of mathematical concepts;
- ❖ to support proof-of-concept or pilot projects that are geared towards addressing a well-defined climate change challenge in Africa;
- ❖ for projects that will promote research-uptake of research-based outputs/results in climate change science for the benefit of countries in Africa and the world at large; and
- ❖ to increase intra- and inter-continental interactions between AIMS Centres of Excellence and other institutions.

The above objectives respond to an urgent need for African scientists and other stakeholders to contribute to the provision of usable research-based recommendations/solutions that are essential to combat climate change challenges in Africa, and to speed-up the applicability and uptake of such research-based knowledge for the benefit of African communities, the economy, and the world at large.

This Small Research Grants Program in Climate Change Science was made possible by a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada, www.idrc.ca, and financial support from the Government of Canada provided through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), www.international.gc.ca, under the Mathematical Sciences for Climate Change Resilience Program administered by the AIMS Global Secretariat.



Henceforth,

- ❖ the word “Grantee” shall be used to refer to the grant recipient;
- ❖ the word “institution(s)” shall be used to refer to either private, public or semi-private and semi-public institutions;
- ❖ the word “AIMS” will refer to the Global Network of AIMS.

Eligibility

The applicant should:

- ❖ be of African descent but may be residing anywhere in the world;
- ❖ hold a doctorate in a quantitative discipline including, but not limited to, applied mathematics, climatology, physics, chemistry, computer science, statistical ecology, or engineering;
- ❖ be based at an African institution and/or hold the grant at such an institution.

The applicant should demonstrate:

- ❖ evidence of research in: (i) climate change science with applications of mathematical concepts and/or (ii) the mathematical sciences with practical applications to climate change adaptation, mitigation or resilience;
- ❖ expertise or ability to (co-)supervise Master’s and/or PhD students if intending to establish a research group/team. Such a research group/team could be established in collaboration with a senior project advisor. The Grantee must have a recognized (co-)supervisory role in the project; and
- ❖ an ability to translate climate change science research concepts into applicable solutions or recommendations (particularly important for proof-of-concept, pilot, industry-led, policy-, and community-driven projects).

The applicant should be willing:

- ❖ to hold an affiliation at an AIMS Centre of their choice and spend a portion of their grant time at that Centre as a visiting researcher should the need arise;
- ❖ to actively participate in a conference which will be organized as part of the Mathematical Sciences for Climate Change Resilience program;
- ❖ to contribute to a non-technical publication/bulletin which will highlight the work which they have carried out; and
- ❖ to take up the grant within four months of receiving the grant award letter.



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Terms and Conditions

Expectations

- ❖ The Grantee is expected to develop an innovative project in climate change science including (but not limited to) industry-led, proof-of-concept, pilot, policy-, and community-driven which are at the upper end of the research-innovation value chain (i.e. will most likely produce an impact).
- ❖ The Grantee may elect to work under the supervision of a more senior researcher or to be self-directed. In either case, collaboration with stakeholders who can add value to the project is strongly encouraged.
- ❖ Projects are to be executed at institutions in Africa only, including the Grantee's current home institution in Africa.
- ❖ The project should make substantive use of mathematical science concepts.
- ❖ Projects involving human and/or animal subjects shall adhere to the highest applicable ethical standards. The Grantee shall request and receive permission from their home or host institutions and share the approvals with AIMS for final validation before embarking on such projects.
- ❖ The Grantee is expected to promptly disseminate the outputs of his/her project results through international, peer-reviewed journals; conference presentations; and other appropriate mechanisms.
- ❖ AIMS, IDRC, GAC, and the government of Canada should be duly acknowledged in all communications (publications, presentations, etc.) concerning work done by the Grantee. Publications should carry the following acknowledgement: "This work was carried out with the aid of a grant from the International Development Research Centre, Ottawa, Canada, www.idrc.ca, and with financial support from the Government of Canada, provided through Global Affairs Canada (GAC), www.international.gc.ca under the framework of the Mathematical Sciences for Climate Change Resilience (MS4CR) program administered by AIMS.
- ❖ All books and journal articles resulting from the Grantee's work should be made freely available to the public, in post-print form, within 12 months of the initial publication date. All other project outputs should be sent to AIMS for submission to an appropriate open access repository.
- ❖ The Grantee shall respect existing intellectual property rights. In addition, the Grantee shall immediately report to AIMS any patentable output resulting or anticipated from his/her work. S/he shall not license, or otherwise assign the rights to, such outputs without written permission from AIMS.



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- ❖ If the Grantee is unable to take up the position by the agreed start date, then s/he shall inform AIMS (ms4cr-smallgrants@nexteinstein.org) as soon as possible but before the expected start date.
- ❖ The Grantee is expected to submit timely quarterly progress reports to AIMS (ms4cr-smallgrants@nexteinstein.org). A reporting template will be provided for this purpose.
- ❖ In the event of a change in the Grantee's circumstances that makes him/her unable to continue to adhere to these Terms of Reference, s/he should immediately notify AIMS by email (ms4cr-smallgrants@nexteinstein.org). Failure to do so will be considered a breach of these Terms and render the Grant void and subject to a termination. At the sole discretion of AIMS, the Grantee may be requested to repay funds already received.
- ❖ All flight tickets approved within the Grantee's budget will be purchased by AIMS. The Grantee is expected to provide timely information about such travels at least 4 weeks prior to the planned trip.
- ❖ Grantees may include the costs of participating in scientific events in their project budget, and will subsequently be asked to submit a separate letter explaining why such costs should be funded. This letter will be reviewed for relevance and alignment with the Grantee's project by members of the Oversight Committee. Preference will be given to Grantees who have already made significant progress in their proposed project and who will be delivering an oral presentation about their project results during such events.
- ❖ The Grantee may be expected to 'match' any approved funds earmarked for scientific event attendance from external sources.
- ❖ The Grantee releases AIMS-NEI and her supporters from all liability for any injury or other type of harm that the Grantee or her/his dependents may suffer while holding the Grant.

Maternity/Paternity consideration

- ❖ Maternity and paternity leave time will be considered when evaluating the applicant's career stage in comparison to their peers. For example, evidence of pregnancy or child birth during the PhD completion period or the post PhD period will be taken into consideration.

Duration

- ❖ This is a non-recurring grant tenable for a period of 6 – 12 months at a maximum cost to AIMS-NEI of USD 10 000 per Grantee. The exact grant amount approved for the Grantee's project will be specified in the grant agreement letter.



- ❖ In exceptional cases, the project timeline can be extended by an additional 6 months at no additional cost to AIMS-NEI. Grantees are to submit a formal request for extension at most one month before their agreed project end date.
- ❖ AIMS may decide to terminate a specific grant if the Oversight Committee deems the Grantee's progress to be unsatisfactory.

Financial support

- ❖ Allowable costs under this Grant include:
 - travel to a host institution in Africa where the project will be executed;
 - bursaries for Master's and/or PhD students (applicable for Grantees who are setting-up a research team);
 - participation in one international scientific event (workshop, conferences or summer school);
 - cost for field trip or data collection;
 - cost for basic project equipment;
 - basic project running cost;
 - travel and stay at an AIMS Centre.
- ❖ The actual amount provided to each Grantee will depend on the budgets submitted when applying.
- ❖ An initial lump sum, determined by the approved budget, will be paid to each Grantee within a month of the project start date. The balance will be paid in two installments following a schedule defined by AIMS-NEI and contingent on the receipt of satisfactory progress reports from the Grantee.
- ❖ Grantees are responsible for complying with applicable tax laws.
- ❖ Grantees and members of the Grantee's group/team may be eligible to apply to AIMS for additional funding in the form of mobility grants, internships, and highly prestigious research fellowships for women in climate change science.
- ❖ At the discretion of the Selection and Oversight Committees, Grantees maybe expected to provide 'match funding' to cover some of their proposed project activities.
- ❖ Non-allowable costs include:
 - overheads to the Grantee, home or host institution;
 - salary or salary supplement for the Grantee, project advisor or other project members;
 - bench fees;
 - office space;
 - vehicle hire – the most economical means of travel should be used at all times.



- ❖ All budget categories should be clearly defined and justified in the budget section. A descriptive basis for each budget category and the basis used for the calculations should be provided in order to help the various Committees understand the Grantee's financial requirements.

Application and Evaluation Procedures

Application procedure

Applicants are requested to email the following documents to ms4cr-smallgrants@nexteinstein.org (using the subject line "MS4CR small grants application – first and last name of applicant") by the deadline indicated in the call for applications:

- ❖ a completed [personal details form](#),
- ❖ a completed [project proposal form](#),
- ❖ a curriculum vitae,
- ❖ a letter of motivation,
- ❖ an electronic copy of three significant representative publications in climate change science,
- ❖ birth certificate(s) of direct biological child(ren) if applicable.

Applicants are asked to request three referees to email confidential letters of support to ms4cr-smallgrants@nexteinstein.org (using the subject line "MS4CR small grants application support letter – first and last name of candidate") by the application deadline. It is the applicant's responsibility to provide referees with a copy of this Terms of Reference and the [Instructions for Referees](#).

Applications shall be considered complete if all the documents listed above, including support letters, are received by AIMS on, or before, the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be evaluated.

Evaluation procedure

Applications will initially be screened for relevance and then evaluated by an international Review and Selection Committee based on the following criteria:

- ❖ Quality of applicant: academic qualifications; quality of publications; experience in climate change-related research or research uptake; real-world impact and recognition of prior work (e.g. through awards).



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- ❖ Quality of proposed project: relevance to climate change modelling, practice and policy; strength of connection to the mathematical sciences; experience of applicant in research or project topic; quality of project design; feasibility; suitability of proposed project environment(s); and quality and realism of budget projections.
- ❖ Potential impact.

Review

This document shall be reviewed, as needed, by an Oversight Committee and the AIMS Secretariat.