



# MZUZU UNIVERSITY

## DIRECTORATE OF RESEARCH

Mzuzu University, Private Bag  
201, Luwingu,  
Mzuzu 2, MALAWI  
Tel: (265) 01 320722/575  
Fax: (265) 01 320568/320505  
E-mail: rpc@mzuni.ac.mw

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### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR SMALL GRANTS UNDER THE MZUZU UNIVERSITY RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION COMMITTEE (RPC)

#### 1. Background

Mzuzu University was established in 1997 by Chapter 30:09 of the Laws of Malawi as a public institution of higher learning and research. The objects of the University are to advance knowledge and to promote wisdom and understanding by engaging in teaching, research, and training. The Vision of the University is to be a premier provider of tertiary education, research, and outreach in Malawi and the World. The Mission is to provide high quality education, training, research, and complementary services in Malawi and the World.

Higher Education Institutions (HEI) are expected to play a key role in promoting innovation, entrepreneurship and structural change. The economic importance of intensive knowledge activities, the demand to contribute more to innovation and economic and societal change are some of the key reasons why universities are expected to deliver more and better on research. In line with MZUNI 2021-2030 Strategic Plan Pillar 3 (Research and Innovation), the University is geared towards generating new knowledge and innovations needed for economic development of Malawi in line with Malawi 2063, MIP-1, NESIP 2030, SDGs and AU 2063 by 2030. Furthermore, the University is geared towards promoting Intellectual Property, Spin-outs and Commercialization of research and innovation products by 2030.

#### 2. Mzuzu University Research and Publication Committee funding

Mzuzu University through the Research Directorate has budgeted funds in the 2024/25 financial year to provide small grants to early career researchers as part of professional development and increasing research undertaking by staff. The small grants are administered by MZUNI Research and Publication Committee (RPC). Up to **MK3, 000,000.00 (Three million Malawi Kwacha)** is granted per successful proposal per financial year. As provided for in the Research Policy, the RPC has the mandate to review and recommend proposals for internal research funding, monitor and evaluate research activities at MZUNI. The RPC invites applications from interested researchers for small grants award, thereof.

#### 3. Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be members of staff of Mzuzu University
- The Principal Investigator must be an early career researcher (Lecturer or Senior Lecturer or equivalent).
- Individual proposals may be submitted, but multidisciplinary research proposals are strongly recommended.
- Proposals must demonstrate mentorship models/designs with inclusion of a senior

researcher to provide mentorship.

- Proposals must declare any partial funding sourced elsewhere for the proposed project

#### **4. Proposed format for the proposals**

Staff applying for the grants will be required to submit their innovative proposals which should not exceed 20 pages. Documents should be in Times New Roman, font size 12 and line spacing of 1.5. The proposals should be prepared according to the following format:

A. Abstract (less than one page)

B: The Main Body of the Proposal / Protocol

The main proposal / protocol should contain the following sections

1. Introduction
  - a. Background
  - b. Problem statement
  - c. Study objectives
  - d. Research justification
2. Literature review
3. Methodology
4. Study period
5. Budget and budget justification
6. Ethical consideration
7. Plan for dissemination of the results

#### **5 Expected deliverables**

Each successful project is expected to deliver the following:

- Produce and present at least one conference paper
- Produce at least one publication in credible journals
- Produce research progress reports at quarterly, biannually, and annual at completion of the study. These reports must reflect both technical and financial details pertaining to the research study and should be submitted to Research Directorate.

#### **6. Criteria for proposal selection**

The selection shall be done by MZUNI RPC using the following criteria:

- Socio-economic developmental impact of the proposal linked to national and global development agenda (MW 2063, MIP-1, NESIP 2030, SDGs, AU 2063)
- Link to MZUNI 2021-2030 Strategic Plan, 2021-2026 Research Policy and 2021-2026 Research Agenda
- Uniqueness and innovativeness of the proposed project.
- Appropriateness and realistic nature of the budget.
- Policy, commercial viability or industrial or social application of the project
- Dissemination mechanisms.
- Scientific and ethical merit

- Mentorship model

## **7. Submission of proposals**

Only electronic copies of proposals may be submitted. The technical and financial proposals should be submitted to the Research Directorate using [rpc@mzuni.ac.mw](mailto:rpc@mzuni.ac.mw). All submissions must be received by **31<sup>st</sup> August, 2023**. Successful applicants will be informed by **30<sup>st</sup> September, 2023**.

## **8. Monitoring and evaluation**

The RPC will undertake regular monitoring of the projects during implementation.