MPALA RESEARCH FUND

Overview

The Office of the Vice Provost for International Affairs (VPIAO) invites proposals for the Mpala Research Fund which supports faculty members from all disciplines who are interested in exploring or pursuing research opportunities and/or teaching initiatives physically based at Mpala. We especially encourage applications from faculty members interested in expanding the use of Mpala to fields in the humanities, social sciences, and engineering. In addition, faculty members or administrative staff may seek funding for service or experiential learning initiatives.

Princeton University serves as the managing partner for the Mpala Research Centre (MRC), a multidisciplinary field-research station located in Kenya’s Laikipia County. The center has provided scholars from Princeton and dozens of other institutions with unparalleled opportunities to conduct research on conservation, climate change, public health, sustainable development, and genomics.

Some examples of proposals that would be eligible for Mpala Research Fund:

- Scholarly research that can leverage the unique location and resources of Mpala
- Collaborations with Kenyan or African universities and institutions at Mpala
- Conference, workshop, or retreat to be held on-site, especially on relevant topics
- Faculty-led trip of short duration (1-2 weeks) for research, teaching, or service
- Service project involving Princeton students working with local communities
- Summer internship program

Proposals will be judged on the basis of how the project leverages Mpala's distinct assets and resources; the potential benefits of the research, teaching, and service especially to Kenya and Kenyans; general intellectual value, creativity, and innovation; and feasibility.

Application Timeline

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<tr>
<td>October 29, 2019</td>
<td>Applications available</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 2, 2019</td>
<td>Applications due</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17, 2020</td>
<td>Notifications made</td>
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Financial Details

- Individual grants between $5,000 and $75,000 will be considered.
• Funding will be available for expenditure on or after June 1, 2020. Project length may be up to two years.
• A variety of research or teaching expenses may be eligible, but priority will be given to direct research and programming costs and support costs such as travel. Faculty or other compensation, if awarded, will be consistent with Dean of the Faculty guidelines. The Fund will not generally support equipment and consumables. Childcare and spousal travel/accommodations are not eligible expenses for this grant.
• Unused funds at the end of the project must be returned to the VPIAO.
• We ask all applicants to seek a financial commitment from their department chair or program director to include with their proposal to the Mpala Fund. The selection committee recognizes that available resources vary among departments or sponsoring programs for supporting these types of activities, and this will be taken into account when the proposal is reviewed.

Eligibility

All Princeton faculty members are eligible including those appointed as lecturers and visiting faculty members. Preference will be given to those in the following ranks: assistant professors, associate professors, professors, and senior lecturers. Early-career faculty members are especially encouraged to apply. Administrative staff are eligible to apply for service and experiential learning proposals.

Priority will be given to proposals submitted by those who have not previously used Mpala as a research, teaching, and service site.

How to Apply

As a first step, please contact the Vice Provost for International Affairs (Acting), Aly Kassam-Remtulla (akassam@princeton.edu) to indicate interest.

All fields need to be completed (unless noted as optional) before nominations will be reviewed. Completed applications should be submitted as a single PDF to Associate Director for International Affairs Claire Hu (8-7232, c.h@princeton.edu).

1. Cover sheet (please use the template on our website)
   a. Proposer’s name/department and contact information
   b. Optional: Co-proposer’s name/department and contact information
   c. Project name
   d. Project start/end date
e. Department chair/program director financial commitment/endorsement
f. Optional: 2nd department chair/program director financial commitment/endorsement

2. **Project description** in PDF (up to five pages, no more than 2,000 words, shorter descriptions welcome)
   a. Project plan
   b. How the project leverages Mpala’s distinct assets and resources and the potential benefits of the research, teaching, and service to Kenya and Kenyans
   c. Participants in the project

3. **Project budget** (please use the template on our website)
   a. Eligible expenses include travel, meals, housing, and ground transportation for faculty members, postdocs, other researchers, and students; honoraria and fees from host organizations; visa, medical, and other required fees in preparation for travel; equipment, material, and supplies.
   b. Under “sources/income” section, include funding committed by your department/program as well as funding from other sources applied for or committed.
   c. Any line item above $5,000 requires a detailed breakdown of its components.
   e. Funding from the Mpala Fund may be available for expenditure as soon as June 2020. Project length may be up to two years.

**Selection Procedure**

Successful proposals will be chosen by a committee convened by the Vice Provost for International Affairs and Operations. The selection committee may ask for additional information during its deliberation process and may ask for revisions to proposals before final approval of funding.

**Reporting Requirements**

Recipients are required to submit a brief report (1-2 pages) at the end of the project.
Contact Us

For further information, please contact Vice Provost for International Affairs (Acting), Aly Kassam-Remtulla (akassam@princeton.edu) or Associate Director for International Affairs, Claire Hu (8-7232, ch@princeton.edu).