

KidneyGenAfrica Seed Funding - Application Guidelines

Overview

The KidneyGenAfrica Seed Funding Grant provides awards of up to **£10,000** to support early-career researchers' innovative research in genetics of kidney disease. The aim is to enable researchers to generate pilot data, explore new ideas and strengthen applications for larger funding opportunities.

Projects should be feasible within 18 months and demonstrate clear relevance to kidney disease, genomics, and/or African populations.

These guidelines are intended to help you complete the application form effectively. Please keep responses clear, concise and focused.

Eligibility

To be eligible applicants must:

- Be based in Africa.
- Be affiliated with a higher education institution, research institute, non-academic healthcare organisation, not-for-profit or NGO. Applicants based at commercial organisations are **not** eligible.
- Have finished their PhD in the last 5 years.
- Have a sponsor from one of our partnering institutions endorse their application (refer to Section 5 for more details)
- Have a supervisor that will support them throughout their project.
- Submit a completed application.
- Only submit 1 application.

1. Applicant Details

Provide basic information about yourself and your institution.

- Ensure your contact details are correct
- Use your primary institutional affiliation

1.1 Personal Statement

Describe your motivation for applying and how this funding will support your development.

Include:

- Your research interests and experience
- Why this project is important to you
- How this funding will support your career (e.g. skills, independence, future funding)

2. Project details

2.1 Duration

The project should be feasible within 18 months.

2.2 Full proposal

This is one of the most important sections of your application. Provide a clear, detailed overview of your project. The proposal should be structured as follows:

1. Hypothesis (half a page)
2. Background + Rationale (1 page)
3. Objectives (half a page - a maximum of 3 objectives recommended)
4. Methods (up to 2 pages)
 - a. Describe how the research will be conducted
 - b. Methods should be clearly linked to each objective
5. Anticipated outcomes (e.g. publications, postgraduate training)
6. Feasibility and Institutional support
 - a. Indicate whether the project can be completed at your current institution
 - b. If not, outline what additional support is required and whether discussions have taken place with a mentor or partner institution
7. Statement of relevance/alignment to kidney disease genomics in African populations
8. Statement of anticipated impact and future directions
9. Fit to KidneyGenAfrica

The entire proposal must not exceed 6 pages and needs to be uploaded as a pdf.

3. Budget

The budget **cannot exceed £10,000**. All budget items must be listed in £ and will be paid in £.

3.1 What can be included

- Consumables needed to carry out your project
- Data/computing access charges
- If travel is necessary for the project you can request up to £1000 for travel costs

3.2 What cannot be included

- PI or staff salary
- Research overheads

All budget costs need to be justified and applications will be assessed on their value for money.

4. Ethics

Indicate whether ethical approval is required. If yes provide the current status (e.g. not started, pending, approved).

You do not need approval at the time of application, but it must be obtained before starting the research and factored into the project timeline.

5. Project Sponsor and Supervisor

Applicants are required to identify a sponsor from one of the African-based KidneyGenAfrica partners to support their application. See list of sponsors below.

You are also required to submit a letter of support from an appropriate supervisor based at your institution who can have oversight of the project.

It is possible that the sponsor and the supervisor are the same person.

5.1 Project Sponsor Requirement

Your project sponsor must be based at one of the following institutions:

- Center for Genomics Research and Innovation (CGRI), Nigeria (Prof Oyekanmi Nash)
- Malawi Epidemiology & Intervention Research Unit (MEIRU) (Prof Mia Crampin)
- MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Unit (Prof Moffat Nyirenda & Prof Segun Fatumo)
- University of the Witwatersrand (Dr June Fabian & Prof Michele Ramsay)

Regional Guidance

Applicants are encouraged to engage with the relevant institutional partner based on their geographic location:

- **Western Africa:** Please contact CGRI
- **Northern Africa/Malawi:** Please contact MEIRU
- **Eastern Africa:** Please contact the MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Unit
- **Southern Africa:** Please contact the University of the Witwatersrand

5.2 Supervisory and Sponsor Letters

As part of your application, you are required to provide supporting documentation:

- A **signed letter from your supervisor** confirming supervisory support for the project
- A **signed sponsor letter** from your KidneyGenAfrica sponsor

If your supervisor and sponsor are the same individual, this must be clearly stated in the letter. If they are different people, two separate signed letters are required; one from your supervisor and one from your sponsor.

Your supervisory team and sponsor should:

- Provide appropriate academic and/or technical oversight
- Support the feasibility and successful delivery of the project
- Where relevant, contribute to mentorship and capacity building