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INTERNAL RESEARCH FUNDING CALL 2025/2026
Theme: *"Innovating Across Disciplines for Impact, Publication and Commercialisation"*

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1.0 Background

Karatina University is strategically committed to advancing its core mandate in research and innovation, in alignment with national development goals. Guided by Kenya's Vision 2030 blueprint and the national priorities outlined in the Medium-Term Plan 5, the University recognizes the imperative for knowledge-driven solutions to address complex societal and economic challenges. Research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries is essential for generating the innovative ideas and practical technologies needed to propel sustainable growth and enhance national competitiveness. This is to announce the 2025/2026 Internal Research Grant Call. It is designed to strategically invest in research programmes that not only strengthen academic excellence but also demonstrate clear pathways to significant societal and economic impact.

2.0 Objectives of the Call

The specific objectives are to:

1. Promote interdisciplinary and cross-school collaboration that integrates diverse expertise.
2. Encourage joint research teams composed of both early-career and senior faculty.
3. Support research projects with demonstrable potential for publication in reputable, indexed journals (Scopus, Web of Science, Elsevier, etc.).
4. Stimulate innovation and commercialization of research outcomes contributing to national development and the university's industry profile.

3.0 Eligibility

- Open to all staff of Karatina University.
- Each team must comprise at least two schools
- Teams should demonstrate balance between early-career and experienced researchers.
- Inclusion of students is strongly encouraged.
- Transdisciplinary proposals will have an added advantage

4.0 Funding Scope and Duration

- Maximum grant per project: KES 600,000 – 1,500,000 (depending on scope).
- Duration: 12 months (renewable based on progress and output).

5.0 Expected Deliverables

Successful projects are expected to produce:

1. At least one paper accepted or submitted to a high-impact, indexed journal.
2. A patent/copyright/utility model potential commercilizable product show casing industry engagement
3. A research dissemination seminar.
4. Final project report and intellectual property disclosures (where applicable).

6.0 Evaluation Criteria

Proposals will be evaluated based on:

Criterion	Weight (%)
Interdisciplinary composition	20
Inclusion of early-career researchers	15
Quality and originality of research idea	20
Potential for publication in high-impact journals	15
Potential for patent/copyright/utility model / commercialization / industry uptake	20
Feasibility and budget justification	10

NB: Travel and per diem expenses should not exceed 10% of the total budget.

7.0 Review

It is a competitive process and all proposals will be subjected to rigorous review.

8.0 Submission Guidelines

- Use the **Internal Research Proposal Template (KarU/IRGA/DRIE/01)** attached to this call and accompany the application with a full proposal not exceeding 10 pages of A4 size paper using Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 spacing excluding the preliminary and references.
- Submit soft copies (word and PDF) to **drie@karu.ac.ke** and copy dvc-arsa@karu.ac.ke and vc@karu.ac.ke
- Deadline for submission: **Tuesday 24th March, 2026 at 5:00 p.m. East Africa Time.**

9.0 Enquiries

For further clarification, contact:
Director - Research, Innovation & Extension
Karatina University
Email: drie@karu.ac.ke

KARATINA UNIVERSITYINTERNAL RESEARCH GRANT APPLICATION TEMPLATE (2025/2026)

Theme: "Innovating Across Disciplines for Impact, Publication and Commercialisation"

Instructions

Complete all sections as guided below. Total length should not exceed 2,500 words (excluding tables and references). Use Times New Roman, size 12, 1.5 spacing. Submit as a single PDF to drie@karu.ac.ke and copy dvc_arsa@karu.ac.ke.

SECTION 1: PROJECT IDENTIFICATION (100–150 words)

Project Title: _____

Principal Investigator (Name, School/Department, Email):

_____

Co-Investigators (include early-career researchers):

_____

Collaborating Schools: _____

Duration: _____

Requested Budget (KES): _____

SECTION 2: ABSTRACT (200–250 words)

Provide a concise summary highlighting the problem, interdisciplinary nature, objectives, methodology, expected results, publication and commercialization potential.

SECTION 3: BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE (250–300 words)

Describe the research problem or opportunity, its significance to Kenya's priorities, interdisciplinary need, and a brief literature context.

SECTION 4: OBJECTIVES AND RESEARCH QUESTIONS (150–200 words)

List general objective and 2–4 specific objectives or research questions.

SECTION 5: METHODOLOGY (300–350 words)

Outline design, data collection, sampling, analysis, ethics, and interdisciplinary roles.

SECTION 6: EXPECTED OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES (200–250 words)

List expected outputs: publications, innovations, commercialization, and contribution to university visibility.

SECTION 7: COMMERCIALISATION / INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT PLAN (200–250 words)

Identify potential users/markets, industry partners, IP plans, or community beneficiaries.

SECTION 8: TEAM COMPOSITION AND CAPACITY (150–200 words)

Describe team interdisciplinarity, roles, early-career vs senior researchers.

SECTION 9: WORK PLAN AND TIMELINE

Insert Table:

| Activity | Responsible Person | Timeline (Month) | Expected Output |

SECTION 10: BUDGET AND JUSTIFICATION

Insert Table:

| Item | Description | Amount (KES) | Justification |

SECTION 11: REFERENCES (APA Style)

List all cited sources.

SECTION 12: DECLARATION AND APPROVALS (TO BE SENT SEPARATELY TO DEAN OF SCHOOL FOR SIGNATURE)

Principal Investigator: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

1. Dean: _____ Signature: _____ School: _____

2. Dean: _____ Signature: _____ School: _____

3. Dean: _____ Signature: _____ School: _____

4. Dean: _____ Signature: _____ School: _____

5. Dean: _____ Signature: _____ School: _____

6. Dean: _____ Signature: _____ School: _____

7. Dean: _____ Signature: _____ School: _____

Checklist Before Submission

❖ Abstract within word limit
❖ At least two schools represented
❖ Inclusion of early-career researcher(s)
❖ Commercialization/Industry engagement plan attached
❖ Budget complete and justified
❖ Endorsement by Dean(s)/Director(s)