EPFL (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) and Mohammed VI Polytechnic University | Excellence in Africa: Junior Faculty Development Program

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) focus area(s)

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Faculty Specific Deadline: 17th March 2020

BACKGROUND

Africa’s growth has been accelerating in recent years, creating an ever-increasing need for highly educated researchers in science and technology across the African continent.

Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) in Morocco and the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland have decided to launch the Excellence in Africa initiative with the aim of supporting the training of professors and doctoral students in Africa. This pathbreaking initiative is intended to hone the research skills of early-stage researchers through collaboration with EPFL professors. It is based on the premise that this will help build their career as researchers and professors and thereby enable them to have a significant economic and societal impact in Africa.

The Junior Faculty Development program awards funding to outstanding researchers looking to set up or consolidate their own independent research team, laboratory, or project. The program awards funding for a period of a minimum of 48 months to a maximum of 60 months. The maximum total amount that can be granted to each project across all beneficiaries is 720’000 Swiss Francs (approximately 650’000 Euro).

Please note that if funding is awarded for contract research (excluding scholarships), a 15% UP recovery is applicable and should be budgeted for by the applicant.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Citizens of any nationality may apply to the Junior Faculty Development program; they may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application but must be employed during the project by a higher education or research institution in Africa.
- Applicants must hold a doctorate (PhD) from a recognized higher education institution, and the PhD must have been awarded between 1st January 2011 and 31st March 2020 (inclusive).
- Applicants must have an outstanding and proven track record of activity and publication in their research field and be qualified to independently conduct the proposed research project and supervise doctoral theses.
- Applicants must already be employed or due to be hired by a higher education or research institution (host institution) in an African country before the start of the project.
- The African host institution must provide appropriate conditions for granted applicants to independently conduct research and manage funding.
- During the project, granted applicants must remain employed by the African host institution at a 100% rate for the full duration of the program (4 to 5 years).
- Successful applicants must spend at least 60% of their working time on research.

HOW TO APPLY

The following documents should accompany the application:

- Research proposal (please see the attached guidelines for more information)
• Career plan (please see the attached guidelines for more information)
• CV (please see the attached guidelines for more information)
• Publication list (please see the attached guidelines for more information)
• Copy of all higher education grade transcripts and diplomas
• Reference letters (please see the attached guidelines for more information)
• Copy of passport
• Host institution endorsement letter

In terms of the host institution endorsement letter:
Please do not submit application forms directly to the Office of the Dean for a signature. The application, with all supporting documents must be submitted to the Research Office for verification at least two weeks prior to the funder’s deadline (date given in this document). No late applications will be accepted and processed for submission; ensure that the internal deadline is met (17 March 2020). The Faculty Research Office will process it for the required signatures if it meets all the eligibility criteria.

Send all documents to the Faculty Research Office for processing: natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za

Please use the following link to apply once the host institution endorsement letter has been returned to you.

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