



APPLICATION DEADLINE

27th July 2021

BACKGROUND

[The World Academy of Sciences \(TWAS\)](#), for the advancement of science in developing countries, is an autonomous international organization founded in Trieste, Italy, in 1983. Under a 1991 agreement, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) assumed administration of TWAS funds and personnel. TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to **promote scientific capacity and excellence for science-based development** in the Global South.

The Seed Grant for New African Principal Investigators (SG-NAPI), which is supported by the [German Federal Ministry of Education and Research \(BMBF\)](#), was established in response to the needs of researchers in developing countries, particularly those attached to institutions that lack appropriate research facilities. Under this scheme, grants can be awarded for research projects in **Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Information Computer Technology, Mathematics, Medical Sciences and Physics** to Principal Investigators in the **African countries lagging in science and technology** identified by [TWAS](#), to enable them to **purchase the research facilities** they need to enhance their **productivity**. The SG-NAPI aims to support early-career scientists in Sub-Saharan Africa, with particular emphasis on Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- PI must **not be** more than **40 years of age**
- Must have obtained their **PhD** (with good research experience) **within the last 5 years in a country other than their home country** and **returned** to their home country within the last **36 months**
- Must hold, be offered or be in the process of accepting a **position at an academic and/or research institution** (including international research centres) in their home country
- Must be national of an eligible **African country that is lagging in science and technology**
-The grant should operate within a university or a research institution in one of the African countries lagging in science and technology
- PI must at the time of application **NOT** have an active research grant with TWAS or OWSD Early Career Women Scientists (ECWS) Fellowship
- Applications from **women scientists** and those working in Least Developed Countries are especially encouraged

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATIONS:

- SG-NAPI Grants are awarded to **high-level promising research projects** in Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Earth Sciences, Engineering, Information Computer Technology, Mathematics, Medical Sciences and Physics carried out by Principal Investigators (PI) in the **African countries lagging in science and technology** identified by TWAS.
- Research Grants to research units amount to a **maximum of USD 67,700**.
- The grants, which are normally provided for a period of **24 months**, may be used to purchase **scientific equipment, consumables, which can include fieldwork and maintenance of equipment and specialized**

literature (textbooks and proceedings only). The grant **does not cover salaries** of the Principal Investigator or travel expenses unless they are clearly related to one of the conference and/or mobility components mentioned below. In addition, the purchase of laptops, tablets, drones and laboratory animals is **not** supported.

- Awarded PIs may also **support MSc student** as part of the project, request funding for international conference grant, industrial link grant, mobility grant and open access publication grant.
- The programme has an additional component which seeks to **enhance the productivity of female scientists returning to academia after a maternity leave, *scientist-after-child* grant.**
- Please note that South Africa is **not** listed as one of the [African countries lagging in science and technology](#).

HOW TO APPLY

Please be advised that applicants may apply for only one programme per calendar year in the TWAS and OWSD portfolio. Applicants will not be eligible to visit another institution in that year under the TWAS Visiting Scientists the Visiting Professor programmes. One exception: The head of an institution who *invites* an external scholar to share his/her expertise under the TWAS Visiting Professor programme or the TWAS Visiting Expert programme may still apply for another programme.

Applications must be completed [online](#).

Applicants must submit a strong research proposal (guidelines on writing a strong research proposal can be found [here](#)).

Application details can be found [here](#) and on the attached documents.

Please send a complete copy with all supporting documents, that you have submitted online to the Faculty Research Office – natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za.

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CONTACTS FOR CALL QUERIES

Faculty Contact person: Mrs Natasha Jeftha on 012 319 2378 (Natasha.jeftha@up.ac.za)

TWAS SG-NAPI Contact person: sgnapi@twas.org