

INTERNAL CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: UCI FACULTY PILOT FUNDING GRANTS

Grant funding No: 002

Issue Date: 29th April 2026

Application Deadline: 29th May 2026

Overview

The Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI), under the East Africa's Centres of Excellence for Skills and Tertiary Education in Biomedical Sciences Phase 1 – Additional Funding, is pleased to announce the availability of pilot research grants to strengthen cancer research capacity and address key knowledge gaps in cancer in Uganda. This call targets staff of the Uganda Cancer Institute.

A total of 400,000,000 ugx has been allocated for these grants, which will support faculty-led research projects aligned with UCI's research priorities. These grants aim to foster innovative research, promote mentorship of junior investigators, and enhance evidence-based cancer care across UCI facilities and the country. Grants of up to 20,000,000 ugx per award will be awarded to UCI Staff. Senior UCI faculty are strongly encouraged to collaborate with junior investigators from UCI to build research capacity and mentorship opportunities. The goal of these grants is primarily to support junior staff to take on research careers and to also generate pilot to apply for international grants. Only UCI staff and faculty **are eligible** for this grant category.

Research Priorities

Proposals must align with at least one of the following UCI cancer research priorities:

1. **Cancer Epidemiology and Cancer Registration**
Studies seeking to understand the distribution of cancer in Uganda and the local risk factors associated with cancer in Uganda.
2. **Early Detection and Diagnosis Research**
Studies focusing on the development of feasible screening strategies, point-of-care diagnostics, pathology, and molecular diagnostics to increase stage 1/2 diagnoses and validate tests for resource-limited settings.
3. **Clinical Research and Clinical Trials**
Facilitate development of locally-led clinical trials and optimisation of cancer therapies. Development of locally appropriate treatment guidelines is also allowed.
4. **Implementation Research and Health Systems Research**
Understanding local barriers to evidence-based care including health economics, cancer health policies and implementation strategies. Research on Antimicrobial resistance and quality systems is also allowed.
5. **Population-Specific and Infection/HIV-Associated Cancers**
Studies on cancers in specific populations including Paediatrics and other special populations. Infection related including HIV-associated and other pathogen -associated, cancers.

6. Basic and Translational Science

Studies aimed at improving understanding of cancer in Uganda and the adoption of precision cancer care including molecular/genomic research on Ugandan cancers, biomarker development, OMICS and biobanking.

Eligibility

- Principal Investigators (PIs) must be UCI faculty members or affiliated researchers with a primary appointment at UCI.
- Proposals must involve partnerships with junior investigators with priority being UCI staff as well (e.g., early-career faculty, fellows or graduate students) for mentorship and capacity building.
- Research must be conducted at UCI facilities or in collaboration with UCI, and align with one or more of the UCI research priorities outlined below.
- Proposals must demonstrate relevance to cancer research in resource-limited settings, particularly in Uganda.
 - Applicants must commit to actively taking part in the UCI research mentorship class

Funding details

- Award Amounts: UGX 20,000,000
- Total Funding Available: 400,000,000 (supporting multiple awards based on merit and budget availability).
- Project Duration: Up to 12 months.
- Allowable Costs: Reagents, patient reimbursement costs, Research supplies, local travel for data collection, and other direct research expenses. Indirect costs are not allowable. Staff salaries will not be supported however facilitation for data collection for research assistants is allowed.
- Grants will be administered through the UCI Grants Office

Application Process

- Proposal Requirements: Submit a research proposal including:
 - Title and abstract.
 - Introduction/literature review (problem statement, significance, purpose, alignment with UCI priorities, research career plan, mentorship plan for junior investigators, and collaboration rationale).
 - Methodology (research design, context/population/sampling, instruments, procedures, data analysis plan).
 - Budget
 - Budget justification.
 - References (using a reference manager, emphasizing peer-reviewed sources).

- PI and co-investigator detail Bio sketches: Names, affiliations, UCI partner, and proof of employment.
- Proposals will be evaluated using the UCI Research Proposal Evaluation Rubric, assessing scientific merit, innovation, feasibility and sustainability of the proposed study or intervention.
- Submission Format: Single PDF document, not exceeding 10 pages (excluding references, budget, and proof documents). Please attach Bio sketches of key personnel
- How to Submit: Email to UCI Grants Office at research@uci.or.ug with subject "**UCI Faculty Research Grant Application_Firstname Lastname**" in the subject line.

Key Dates

- Announcement Date: 29th April 2026.
- Application Deadline: 29th May , 2026, 11:59 PM EAT
- Review Period: 1st June – June 24th , 2026.
- Award Notifications: By 30th June, 2026.
- Project Start Date: 1st July, 2026.

Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Webinar Information

A physical presentation with Q and A will be organized in the research in progress meeting on Tuesday 5th May 2026 5pm at Global Oncology Research Centre to provide guidance on these collaborative grants program, including eligibility, priorities, application tips, and the evaluation rubric. This session will also address how to strengthen university-UCI partnerships but also local cancer research in proposals. To register online send an email to birungiolive@gmail.com requesting to register for research in progress

Contact Information

For more information, contact the UCI Grants Office:

- Email: anecho.ezra@uci.or.ug
- Global Oncology Research Centre Room G25
- Office Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:00 AM–5:00 PM EAT