

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: UCI-ACADEMIA RESEARCH FUNDING GRANTS CALL

Grant funding No: 001

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.

The Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) is pleased to announce research grants totalling 430,000,000 UGX to support cancer research priorities and foster strong partnerships between UCI and identified universities. This funding aims to build collaborative research capacity, promote joint investigations, and advance evidence-based cancer care in Uganda through university-UCI collaborations.

All grants require demonstrated collaboration between UCI and partner public universities (Makerere University, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, Muni University, Gulu University, Busitema University and Soroti University), with every application including at least two investigators: one from UCI and one from a partner university.

Applicants must provide proof of employment or affiliation (e.g., employment letters or official university/UCI verification) with their respective institutions. Research must align with UCI's cancer research priorities and be conducted in partnership to strengthen ties, mentorship, and knowledge exchange. Grants are available in two categories:

Graduate Student Research Grants and Faculty Research Grants.

No investigator/individual or research project may receive more than one grant under this program.

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

- General Requirements:
 - All applications must involve co-investigators from both UCI and one of the partner universities
 - Proof of employment/affiliation with UCI and the partner university must be submitted (e.g., scanned employment letters).
 - Research must address at least one UCI research priority and demonstrate potential for publication or broader impact in resource-limited settings. The purpose of the grants calls is to collect pilot data to apply for bigger grants
 - Projects must be collaborative, with clear roles for investigators from both organizations to build partnerships.
- Graduate Student Research Grants:
 - Open to graduate students (Master's or PhD level) enrolled at the above Universities
 - Must have a UCI-based co-supervisor as one of the investigators.
 - Research must be cancer-related and lead to a publication.
- Faculty Research Grants:
 - Open to faculty members from any of the partner universities
 - Must partner with a UCI-based faculty member as co-investigator.

Funding details

- Graduate Student Research Grants: 15,000,000 UGX per grant; up to 12 awards
- Faculty Research Grants: 50,000,000 UGX per grant; up to 5 awards.
- 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 are not allowed though compensation for data collection/ research assistants are accepted
- 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 and research plan post project implementation, 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-UNIVERSITY Research Grant Application_Firstname Lastname**" in the subject line.

Key Dates

- Announcement Date: 29th April 2026.
- Application Deadline: 29st 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.

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