

## CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (UCC) RESEARCH SUPPORT TO ACADEMIA

### 1. Introduction

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) invites applications for research support for academic proposals. Per section 5(1)(l) of the Uganda Communications Act, 2013, this initiative aims to promote research focused on developing and utilising new communications techniques and technologies. It also seeks to enhance accessibility to communication services for persons with disabilities and other members of society, as outlined in the UCC Research Support and Collaboration Framework 2022-2025.

UCC calls for research proposals that are in line with the following themes: -

1. Competition and Pricing of ICT services
2. Consumer Protection issues in the ICT sector
3. Cyber Security
4. Emerging technologies in oil and gas, health, agriculture and education
5. Smart Cities
6. Digital Financial Services
7. Technological Literacy and Youth Development
8. ICT innovation and Entrepreneurship
9. Social media access and usage study
10. Postal service access and usage study
11. Pay TV service access and usage assessments
12. Impact of the deployment of private mobile networks on the operations of public mobile networks
13. Uptake of advanced communication technologies by mobile network operators
14. Regulation of Internet of Things (IoT) and Machine-to-Machine(M2M) communications

### 2. Eligibility

The following types of researchers are eligible: -

1. Graduate students, in which case the projects must have been approved by the project supervisor (i.e., faculty member).
2. Inter-university researchers (academic staff and graduate/postgraduate or post-doctorate students)
3. Post-doctorate researchers
4. Undergraduate students, in which case the projects must have been approved by the project supervisor (i.e., faculty member).

### 3. Research Support Category

The research projects will be supported under the following four (4) lots:

1. Lot 1- Support to undergraduate research.
2. Lot 2- Support to postgraduate research.
3. Lot 3- Support to inter-university research collaborations.
4. Lot 4- Support to research by academia for Industry.

In the research support to academia: -

- a. Lot 1 and Lot 2 will provide partial or full research support funding in cash or in kind to undergraduate or postgraduate students seeking Bachelors, Masters, or Doctoral degrees for research in an area of interest to UCC and in support of UCC's strategic direction.
- b. Lot 3 shall offer partial or full research support funding in cash or in kind to collaborative research initiatives that involve research participants (academic staff members and or students) drawn from at least two tertiary institutions with the lead institution from Uganda.
- c. Lot 4 shall offer partial or full research support funding in cash or kind to a team of academia with a project aimed at addressing the identified problem or challenges by the licensees/ operators.

The table below shows the maximum capping for each of the lots by project type:-

	<b>Lot 1 (UGX)</b>	<b>Lot 2 (UGX)</b>	<b>Lot 3 (UGX)</b>	<b>Lot 4 (UGX)</b>
Discipline-specific	10, 000,000	30, 000,000	80, 000,000	55, 200,000
Interdisciplinary	20, 000,000	50, 000,000	100, 000,000	55, 200,000

### 4. Submission guidelines

The research proposal shall be written in Microsoft Word, Times New Roman, Font 12, single spacing, and normal margins. Proposals should not exceed Twenty (20) pages.

The proposal shall be submitted in soft copy to the email [research@ucc.co.ug](mailto:research@ucc.co.ug) by Friday, 28th February 2025, at 5:00 PM. Addressed to: -

The proposal shall be addressed to: -

Executive Director  
Uganda Communications Commission  
UCC House, Plot 42-44, Spring Road, Bugolobi  
P O Box 7376, Kampala  
Toll-free: 0800133911; Tel: 0312, 339000/0414 339000  
Fax: 0414 348832/Email: [ucc@ucc.co.ug](mailto:ucc@ucc.co.ug)

Please Note that any late submissions will be rejected. The proposal should consist of the following sections: -

1. Title Page: Include a precise research study title of not more than 20 words, name(s), Department, Faculty/School of the applicant(s), and names of the investigator.
2. Project Summary: Maximum of 300 words.

3. Introduction and Background: Describe the need for the project, how the proposal was developed, why the project is being proposed, how it relates to indicator achievement, and its innovative aspects. This section should also introduce the project and its objectives. Maximum of two pages.
4. Problem Statement: Provide a clear statement of the work to be undertaken, including research questions and objectives. Maximum of one page.
5. Objectives/Major Research Questions: Maximum of one page.
6. Research Questions/Hypotheses: Where applicable, a maximum of one page.
7. Justification: Maximum of one page.
8. Methodology: Include a research plan specifying how the students will spend their time on the proposed project. Elaborate on what you want to do, how you plan to do it, your research timeline, and why you want to do it (importance to your field/discipline, importance to your professional development, etc.). Maximum of four pages. Attach separate quantitative and/or qualitative data collection tools.
9. Implementation Plan: Maximum of one page.
10. Contribution to Cross-Cutting Issues: For example, gender, disability, marginalised groups, and climate change, maximum of one page.
11. Literature Review: Use APA 7th edition, a maximum of two pages.
12. Budget and Budget Justification: Provide a detailed budget. If funds for materials or equipment are requested, ensure that the costs are reasonable and credible. Maximum of three pages.
13. Applicant's Curriculum Vitae (Maximum one page for Principle Investigator and one page for each Co-Principle Investigator).

## 5. Restrictions

The support schemes are subject to the following conditions: -

1. The UCC research support to academia (undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral) will be limited to the following: -
  - a. Reimbursement of expenses (i.e., retroactive support) for completed activity is not possible.
  - b. The support cannot be used for infrastructure costs normally covered by your school or department.
  - c. Costs such as fees, stipends/salaries and other remuneration will not be eligible.
  - d. An applicant has priority if he/she has not received prior funding from the undergraduate research program, within the same academic year.
  - e. Support to more than one student delivering the same presentation abroad.
2. The funding under the inter-university research collaborations (academic staff and graduate/postgraduate or post-doctorate students) shall be restricted to the following: -
  - a. Reimbursement of expenses (i.e., retroactive support) for completed activity is not possible.

- b. The support cannot be used for infrastructure costs normally covered by the Universities.
- c. Costs such as fees, stipends/salaries and other remuneration will not be eligible.
- d. Funding shall be only for collaborating universities/ institutions of higher learning.

A project or research proposal is required for all applicants. We encourage students to collaborate on ideas with their research supervisors, but the proposal must be developed and submitted by the student.

## 6. Notification

The Calls for Proposals for Research Support will be uploaded on the Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) website and will also be disseminated by email and UCC Social Media Platforms.

## 7. Administration of the Research Support to Academia.

1. At the end of the selection process, the UCC will announce the successful applicants, who will be required to sign a Bonding Agreement with the UCC.
2. The UCC will then Issue out the support as per the terms in the bonding agreement.
3. Monthly progress reports shall be submitted by the recipients to the UCC Project Implementation team.
4. A final report shall be submitted as per the approved project time frame.

## 8. Outputs

On completion of the research project, a recipient is required to:

1. Disseminate the research findings during a scheduled conference (s) or dissemination workshop to be held at UCC.
2. Publish at least one article in a reputable/credible peer-reviewed journal.
3. Submit the article for archiving in the UCC Research Repository.
4. Provide evidence that the student who was on the project has completed in case of master's Students (Award letter) or on course to graduate for PhD students (Evidence of article published)
5. Submit end-of-project report.

Please note that the research project must be completed by 31 October 2025.

## 9. Selection Process

All proposals will be subjected to:

1. Administrative review for Eligibility.
2. Shortlisting of Qualifying Applicants.
3. Selection by the Selection committee.