



RIIC VISION

A research focused department building capacity in excellent innovative research and development

RIIC MISSION

To serve as a catalyst for cutting edge ethical research, through interdisciplinary collaboration and joint ventures that impact national and global needs

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- *Director's Remark*
- *2021 BU Research Grant*
- *Call for Proposals*

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

'Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose'

-Zora Neale

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FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK



Professor Grace O. Tayo.

Happy new year and welcome to the new semester. I seize this opportunity to thank everyone for the contributions made to enhance the research output and visibility of Babcock University during the 2019/2020 session. The year 2020 was challenging but it also created opportunities for cutting edge solutions to the problems that came with it.

In line with the agenda of BU Administration to foster research at the University, the University Research Council (URC) has been constituted. The council which is made up of representatives from each of our Schools will draw up the research agenda for the University. The Research Office (RIIC) will be intentional in supporting innovative solution-focused research through the BU research grant.

Research that is focused on proffering solutions to local problems and fills specific, identified gaps will be our priority. With your support, we will continue to drive our goal of making BU a center of excellence in research by encouraging interdisciplinary collaboration, local and international networking as well as trainings in research, grant writing, research methods and mentoring.

We wish you success in your research endeavors and a wonderful year 2021.

Thank you!

Identifying your research niche and getting started with research plans

Research has been broadly defined as an organised or structured inquiry leading to the discovery of new facts about an object, situation, or process/phenomenon. The important attributes of research are its organised structure and the novelty of the findings resulting from it. An inquiry which is not methodologically organised is likely to lead to invalid conclusions or no conclusions at all. However, this does not mean that all structured investigations will invariably lead to valid conclusions as other factors might come into play. The usual outcome of university research is the publication of research results. This may take the form of articles published in scientific or scholarly journals, or as is increasingly recommended through the registration of a patent. The scientific method of conducting research can be stated as a procedure by which ideas are formulated and tested in order to arrive at valid conclusions, and usually includes a number of key steps:

- Identification of a research topic
- Formulation of a hypothesis
- Data collection
- Data analysis and interpretation
- Acceptance, rejection, or revision of the hypothesis
- Conclusion (and iteration, if necessary)

To successfully begin a research career or build on already established career, aside from institutional factors and determinants that can foster research, there are a number of very important personal determinants that comes into play. The personal determinants that can influence an early or mid-research career include curiosity, previous research experience, communication skills, and an entrepreneurial spirit.

Curiosity is the driving force, the bedrock of all forms of research. Curiosity leads to research ideas and then sustained your interest in them. It is an intangible attribute which is difficult to teach, but which can be stimulated. The ability to ask questions that lead to productive research is not given to all, yet it can be cultivated. Reading and analysis of literature, observation, and attendance at workshops, seminars and symposia are all opportunities to learn about new findings in one's field and to ask relevant questions. Keeping a research diary can be very helpful in tracking new ideas.

Previous research training and experience is also an important personal determinant.

Furthermore, the following important research competencies should be consciously developed

- Language proficiency
- Computer literacy and training in internet use
- Familiarity with the main methods of your disciplines
- Familiarity with statistical methods
- Ability to collate, store, and manipulate large data sets

Finding a research focus

Your choice of research focus will depend on a number of variables, including the context in which you find yourself, relevance, feasibility, and the cost/affordability of the proposed project.



In examining these factors, keep in mind that there is no single linear path that must be followed. Factors that can influence area of research focus include; sustained interest, relevance of the research, academic background and the context in which the research is to be done, feasibility of the proposed research focus/topic both a theoretical and a practical basis, affordability, innovation and originality of the research.

As a fact, interdisciplinary and collaborative research endeavor is encouraged and advised. This is because of the following:

- Preferences by funding sources: most funding agencies now fund only collaborative research
- Demand for expanded capacity: this facilitates conducting research with a grander scope. It permits research to be conducted at disparate locations either at a national or international level
- It encourages division of labor to complete tasks on time
- It enhances ability to share and exchange resources
- Provides opportunity to learn from other disciplines
- Helps in risk management
- Opportunity to engage in collegiality: This helps to maintain a social environment promoting cooperation and trust in the academic and research world
- Opportunity to lend credibility and validity to project: Participation of investigators having more experience in a desirable area of research can be very beneficial. This experience could include a history of successful proposal submissions, insightful and innovative approaches to problem solving, and significant publications in the field. Collaboration with such experienced researchers can lend credibility and increase validation to most project. This alliance can both facilitate successful ongoing research efforts as well as future collaboration

In conclusion, it is pertinent to state that while science can benefit from the practice of collaboration, investigators should be aware of both the positive and negative impact on the responsible conduct of research. For instance, working with a large staff can enhance the investigation of multifaceted aspects of a research question, there could be logistical challenges in dealing with a more complex project, as well as a disagreements about the appropriateness of methodologies and analyses. This disagreement can results in acrimony among research teams if not properly addressed. Adding a recognized name to a proposal in order to enhance a submission's credibility must be followed-up by real participation, rather than in name only. Responsible conduct in research is encouraged

Culled from ACU Structured Training for Africans Researcher (www.acu.ac.uk/stars.)

BABCOCK UNIVERSITY RESEARCH GRANT 2021

The Office of Research, Innovation and International Cooperation (RIIC) is pleased to receive applications from interested faculty, staff and students for the 2021 Babcock University Research Grant. The Research Grant award which started since 2017 is coordinated and managed by the Office of RIIC with funding support from the University. For the 2021 Research Grant, funding will be available for only these areas of research themes;

- Waste Management
- Digitalization and software development
- E-Agriculture
- Policy impact research in Education, Humanity, Public Health, and Social Sciences
- Health, Wellbeing, Illness and Recovery- Experimental study (Clinical trials optional)
- Experimental clinical and non-clinical studies

Interested applicants can submit **(4)** copies of their research proposal to the RIIC Office (Room C201) and a soft copy to riic@babcock.edu.ng. The Proposal should contain; cover letter, title page, introduction, background to the study to include need/problem statement, objectives (long- and short-term), target and beneficiary groups, expected outcomes, work plan, budget and list of references. Kindly note that, selection will be based on; research's relevance, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary nature of the research, appropriateness of the methodology and timely submission of the proposal.

Deadline for submission: 31st March, 2021.

JAPAN INTERNATIONAL AWARD FOR YOUNG AGRICULTURAL RESEARCHERS 2021-22

Applications are hereby invited from qualified young researchers for the Japan International Award for Agricultural Researchers in developing countries 2021-22. The Japan Award which was started in 2007 is presented and organized by the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council (AFFRC), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) of Japan with support from Japan International Research Center for Agricultural Sciences (JIRCAS). The award is to in-

crease motivation among young researchers towards contributing to research and development in agriculture, forestry, fisheries and allied industries in the developing nations

Grant Sponsor(s): Japan Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and JIRCAS

Grant to be taken at: Developing Regions

Grant level: Early Career Researchers

Grant Worth: \$5,000

Subject Eligibility: Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries and Related fields

Check: https://www.jircas.go.jp/en/young_award/2020 for details

Application Deadline: 22 March, 2021.

ERNEST SOLVAY FUND 2021 FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Applications are invited from qualified applicants for the Ernest Solvay Fund 2021 for Scientific and Technological Research. The fund seeks to support initiatives in both education and entrepreneurship in areas of science and technology such as chemistry, physics, biology, mathematics and earth science.

Projects with potential impact and an innovative character are encouraged to apply for the fund. It is the desire of the fund sponsors that the advancement in science and technology cuts across all the countries of the world. Applications for support can be submitted by completing the online form.

Program Sponsor(s): King Baudouin Foundation

Program Worth: €7,500

Subject Eligibility: Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics and Earth Sciences

Country Eligibility: All nationalities

Application Deadline: 15th March, 2021.

Check: https://www.kbs-frb.be/en/Activities/Calls/2021/20201201_Solvay_IT for details



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE FULBRIGHT AFRICAN RESEARCH SCHOLAR PROGRAM, FY 2022-2023

The Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Mission in Nigeria are pleased to announce annual call for applications for the Fulbright African Research Scholar Program (ARSP) for the 2022/2023 academic year. The program offers senior faculty from select Nigerian universities the opportunity to conduct research or carry out curriculum development activities at U.S. academic or research institutions. ARSP also known as the Fulbright Visiting Scholar Program is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA), with funding provided by the U.S. government, and administered by the Public Affairs Sections of the U.S. Mission in Nigeria. Please note that the selection process and final award of grants are extremely competitive.

Application Deadline: The STRICT deadline for submitting online applications with supplemental documents uploaded as part of the applications is **Tuesday, June 1, 2021**.

Application and Instructions: Applications must be completed online at <https://apply.iie.org/fvsp2022> Applicant should click on "create an account" to start a new application.

Program Information: ARSP offers two categories of grants: research grant and, program and curriculum development grant. Applicants must indicate the grant category for which they are applying.

1. **Research Grant:** ARSP research grant offers senior faculty from select Nigerian universities or research institutes, opportunity to conduct research in any academic discipline at a U.S. academic or research institution for a minimum of three (3) months and a maximum of nine (9) months, beginning no earlier than August 2022 and no later than March 2023.

2. **Program and Curriculum Development Grant:** ARSP program and curriculum development grant offers senior faculty or administrators from select Nigerian universities or research institutes, opportunity to conduct research in any academic discipline at a U.S. academic or research institution for a minimum of three (3) months and a maximum of five (5) months beginning no earlier than August 2022 and no later than March 2023. Proposals should be linked to

professional duties and demonstrate how the scholar will use the knowledge gained to develop new courses, curricula, or other academic programs at the home institution.

Grant Benefits: The grant covers the candidate's J-1 visa, round trip airfare to the U.S., a settling-in allowance, professional allowance, monthly stipend, housing allowance, books-and-supplies allowance, and computer allowance. The grant also covers basic university health insurance as a primary insurance coverage and the Fulbright ASPE health benefit as secondary coverage. Also, the grant covers travel of one dependent if he/she will stay with the grantee for at least 80% of the grant period. Moreover, it covers dependent allowance.

Eligibility Requirements:

1. An intended applicant must be a citizen of Nigeria or a permanent resident, and should hold a valid passport issued by the Nigerian government.
2. ARSP is open to scholars in all disciplines and without regard to gender or age; however, proposals for clinical medical research involving patient contact cannot be approved under the Fulbright Program.
3. Applications for doctoral dissertation research, postdoctoral research immediately following the completion of a doctorate degree, or general professional travel, are ineligible.
4. Preference will be given to candidates who have not previously received a Fulbright scholar grant, and have had no experience or limited experience in the U.S.
5. Each application must include three letters of reference.
6. Letters of invitation from U.S. academic or research institutions are strongly encouraged but not required. Applicants unfamiliar with U.S. institutions may request that the Institute of International Education (IIE) identify suitable placements.

The Fulbright program is a popular program and the Public Affairs Section will only notify shortlisted candidates. No response will be sent to unsuccessful applicants.

Applicants with specific questions should send e-mails to AyegbusiCO@state.gov indicating Fulbright ARSP" in the subject line.

CDCS POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS 2021-22 AT THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The Center on Digital Culture and Society at the University of Pennsylvania announces the commencement of application for the CDS **Postdoctoral Fellowships** 2021-22 academic year. The Center on Digital Culture and Society (CDCS) supports critical approaches to digital cultural studies and collaborations.

CDCS postdoctoral fellowships support research on all aspect of digital culture and society which fall within the broad mission of CDCS. Fellows at the CDCS pursue their own research and participate in the activities of the Center. Interested applicants are encouraged to apply for the position before the application deadline.

Fellowship Sponsor(s): Center on Digital Culture and Society

Fellowship to be taken: University of Pennsylvania

Fellowship Level: Postdoctoral

Fellowship Worth: \$63,000 + Health insurance

Subject Eligibility: All disciplines in the humanities and social sciences

Application Deadline: 20 February 2021

Check: <https://cdcs.asc.upenn.edu/call-for-applications-cdcs-postdoctoral-fellowships-2021-2022/> for details

For technical support and suggestions, kindly contact any of the following RIIC Staff



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