DELTAS Africa II Call for Applications
Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science in Africa

June 2020
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BUDGETS

1. We usually calculate our indirect and estates costs using a specific rate – is this acceptable?
   Indirect office support costs consist of costs incurred centrally for the benefit of common or joint objectives for the Institution that ultimately benefit all programmes. They are not directly related to any single project or activity but are a necessary part of the costs of undertaking the project or activity.
   *Please note that the calculation for indirect costs should be supported by the Institutional policies.*

2. Directly Incurred staff: do you pay 100% of the costs requested for staff who will be funded directly by this project? ie (if we request £5,000 for a 10% FTE Research Assistant, do you pay 100% of this £5,000, or another %?)
   Applicants should budget for personnel who **directly** support the programme, the level of effort (FTE) will be indicated as a percentage of actual salaries paid and applicable institutional benefits for the positions included in the budget request. For more details on budgets, please refer to [DELTAS Africa II budget guidelines](#).

3. Will a budget template be provided?
   The budget template has been provided on the DELTAS Africa II webpage as well as in the online application template.

4. Will AAS provide inflationary and flexible funding for DELTAS Africa II?
   Inflationary costs should be built into the budgets where possible and applicants should be in a position to justify such costs when called upon. There will be no miscellaneous or flexible funding costs for DELTAS Africa II.

5. Should we factor in fellowship stipends under personnel costs?
   No. All fellowship costs including stipends, travel and communication should be costed under the cost category labelled **Fellowships Costs** in the budget template. This category will cover for salaries/stipends, research costs and fees for Masters, PhD students and postdoctoral research fellows. NB full stipend, fees and research costs should be requested for all students and fellows to fully support their studies/research. Supervisor payments: Our normal policy is not to provide payments or salary recovery to supervisors. Fellowship costs should also include the travel costs for selected fellows/students.

6. Will northern partners receive a budget?
   Allocation of budgets is at the discretion of the lead applicant and is mostly dependent on the nature of the application at hand. Northern partners can receive budgets that do not exceed 10% of the total budget proposed by the consortium. If funded, the portion of the budget for northern partners will be managed by the AAS.
GOOD FINANCIAL GRANT PRACTICE (GFGP)

1. **How do we start the path to GFGP certification during the full application phase?**
   It is anticipated that the GFGP pre-certification assessment should be complete within the full application window. This process shall be initiated through the lead applicant to enable the Academy establish linkages with the most appropriate team within their institution that will carry this process through until completion. The lead applicant will be kept informed of the progress of this activity at all times. If the administering institution has already completed the pre-certification assessment, is already certified, or on the path to certification, customized assessment will be undertaken as feasible. For any support needed or information required, the Global Grant Community (GGC) helpdesk team will be available on globalgrantcommunity@aasciences.africa to assist you.

2. **How will the costs of GFGP certification be borne?**
   The AAS shall cover the full cost of GFGP certification for DELTAS Africa II institutions.

PARTNERSHIPS AND COLLABORATION

1. **What is the scope of the consortium? Can partners be drawn from the same country?**
   Consortia can be formed by drawing in institutions from countries across the globe. See page-16 of the **DELTAS Africa II Guidance Notes** for more information. Applications stand better chances in being more expansive in the selection of partners as opposed to single country or regional selections.

2. **What is the minimum number of partners?**
   To achieve a measure of equity, and without compromising on excellence, institutions that are generally recognised as strong or high performing research institutions will be required to pair with institutions across countries and regions that are generally perceived as not being strong in research. AAS intends to use the consortia approach to achieve this goal. All consortia must be no less than 3 African institutions with other partners from within Africa and international institutions, normally up to a maximum number of 8 institutions. Applicants are advised to carefully consider the number of partner institutions. More notes about consortia formation can found in the **DELTAS Africa II Guidance Notes** on the DELTAS Africa II webpage: https://www.google.com/search?q=deltas+africa+ii&oq=del&aqs=chrome.1.69i57j35i39j69i59i2j35i39j0i3.5178j1j8&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8

3. **In the full application, do you need to show proof of UK or EU collaborators?**
   It is mandatory for a consortium to be comprised of lead institution partnering with up to eight partners institutions. However, it is not mandatory that some of these partners be from northern countries. It is not mandatory for a consortium to have collaborators, or for these collaborators, where identified, to be from northern countries. Applicants can include a maximum of three Northern partners (Europe, USA, Japan or other high-income countries) who can receive budgets, but total budget allocated to Northern partners cannot exceed 10% of entire DELTAS Africa budget.
4. Can all the members of the consortium be collaborators without partners
   This is not recommended, and a single institution application shall not be able to submit an application unless this condition is fulfilled. For DELTAS Africa II, a partner is defined as an institution that receives funding to deliver a specific set of skills in the consortium and selection of partners is mandatory.

5. How many consortia will be funded and for how long shall they be funded for?
   At most, 15 qualifying consortia shall be funded under DELTAS Africa II over a period of at most 60 months (five years). The budget range is US$ 3 – 6 million for the total implementation period.

6. Is it possible to have more than one partner from the same institution and must the lead applicant come from the lead institution?
   Yes, it is possible for an institution to be a partner in several applications depending on what each of the partners is offering to the consortium. The lead applicant should be based at the lead institution to enable proper grant administration set up.

7. Do partner institutions need to have legal status?
   All institutions selected into the consortium should have a valid legal status. This ensures that should the consortium be successful, the institutions within the consortia have the ability sign up for the terms and conditions of the award in their capacity as legal entities.

8. Is there a budget for collaborators or can we only source fellows from them?
   A collaborator is an institution that support delivery of the research objectives but are not receiving budgets and do not need to be GFGP compliant. There will be no limits on number of collaborators, but the numbers should be indicated in their applications and where they are based i.e. African, Northern or South-South collaborations. Applicants are advised to carefully consider the number of collaborators, so consortia are manageable and realistic, and in proportion to the work plan and budget.

MAKING AN APPLICATION

1. Please share an editable version of the DELTAS Africa II application form.
   DELTAS Africa II only accepts online application forms and corresponding attachments. It is only by accessing the online form that one can abide by the word limits for each section and invite partners electronically. Any application material submitted via email before or after the application deadline shall not be valid. The form closes on August 28, 2020 at 1700hrs EAT.

2. Studying the application form for the DELTAS Africa call, I note that these are advertised as grants for up to five years, and yet the maximum duration that can be inserted on the form is 59 months, rather than the 60 months expected in a five-year programme.
   Plan your programme for 60 months. The grants management system adds an extra year if 60 months are set up, because 2020 is a leap year. Award letters to successful candidates shall provide for the 60 months grant duration.
3. We are interested in submitting an application for this grant. We seek guidance on grant formats, and if possible, a copy of a successful previous grant. We cannot share a previous successful application owing to our commitment to data protection. However, guidance to applicants is provided if you visit the DELTAS Africa webpage. We shall be posting information about the upcoming webinar on the same page next week, so please keep checking for this information. You can also refer to the 10 Tips to Winning a DELTAS Africa Grant that can be found on the DELTAS Africa II webpage https://www.aasciences.africa/calls/deltas-africa-phase-ii-call-proposals.

4. What is the maximum funding amount one can apply for?
The budget range is US$ 3-6 million per network

5. What type of training packages can be proposed for fellows?
Training packages are varied and dependent on the goals of the consortium to enable trainees be competitive and complete researchers on the continent. These could include training on grants management, leadership, science communication, statistics, budgeting and accounting, etc.

6. Is it possible to take up an external resource to support on Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) deliverables?
MEL is an important component of programme implementation and the budgets should cater for this. MEL expertise can be drawn from within the consortium or externally sourced. In each case, a budget needs to be provided to cater for activities costed under MEL.

7. Concerning management of data, what is expected from applicants?
Data management shall be governed by the relevant AAS policies such as the Open Access & Publishing policy which reads in part:

6.1 Research Data from AAS-funded Innovators and Researchers
a) Open access to research data resulting from AAS funding must be available in an easy, immediate, user-friendly format that is Internet-based.

b) Data access arrangements should respect the legal rights and legitimate interests of all stakeholders. The AAS acknowledges that access to, and use of, certain research data may be limited by various types of legal requirements.

c) Institutional arrangements for the management of research data must be based on relevant professional standards and values embodied in the codes of conduct of the scientific communities involved.

d) The value and utility of research data depends, to a large extent, on the quality of the data itself. AAS grantees should pay particular attention to ensuring compliance with explicit quality standards.
8. Will consortia be allowed to stagger fellows? This will mean the last ones in might not complete before the end of the grant. Or, we enroll in Year 1 & 2 only so that they finish on time? In DELTAS Africa I we had used the staggered approach and some have not completed. Will this affect our DELTAS Africa II application.

Staggering fellowship enrolment is possible. A no-cost extension period is available for fellows that are recruited later to enable them to complete their courses without additional funding. DELTAS Africa I consortia wrapping up their activities within a no-cost extension period will not be penalized for doing so.

9. What is the minimum status or qualification for a lead applicant?

There are no prescribed minimum qualifications for lead applicants, though it is expected that they should be eminent and qualified scientists based in Africa.

10. Can the DELTAS Africa II call allow development of new postgraduate programme or use existing postgraduate programme in the lead institution?

If the consortia is comprised of academic institutions, it is possible to explore a responsive post graduate programme and have it accredited through prescribed channels within the various countries. Note that fellowships can be funded within the consortium or external to it depending on the availability of the programmes on offer. Although the lead institution coordinates all these activities, it does not have the sole mandate of offering fellowship programmes.

11. How important is gender balance among PIs Co-PIs for the call?

Gender, diversity and inclusion is important for AAS. Leadership by women will be particularly encouraged both as lead and/or co-applicants. Merit will remain the key criterion, however gender diversity with regard to consortia leadership is encouraged i.e. networks will be strongly encouraged to consider gender of PIs/Co-PIs when considering partners. Upon award, recruitment of fellows, staff and students will be tracked to seek gender parity and equity.

12. Must fellows be recruited or they could be part of the study team?

Consortia have the leeway to choose the mode in which they would like to select fellows, as long as this is supported by a rationale and is fair and transparent.

13. Would there be another pot of funding specifically for public engagement or should we budget in this application?

Public engagement costs should be included in the DELTAS Africa II applications as a direct cost item.

14. Following on your limit for number funded per institution, is there a limit to a number of awards per country?

Excellence and merit are the key considerations through which applications shall be reviewed and shortlisted.
15. Must co-PIs be PhD holders?
   Not necessarily

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS
1. Will humanities and social science consortia compete against other streams or will each stream be assessed separately?
   Each application is assessed on its own merit so applications will not be separated in separate tracks during review.