

African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE) - Pilot Programme

Expression of Interest: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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. They include cost categories such as:

a) Central Support Functions (CSF) costs

These are costs of functions or departments that provide services across the Institution they include, finance, legal, human resources, IT and software, office administration, communications etc

b) Estate and Premises

These are costs of buildings and utilities for operating the institutions physical locations. They include rent, repairs, insurance, security etc

c) Office Consumables

These are costs of items used up in the office operations. They include printing, kitchen supplies etc

d) Governance

These are costs of providing oversight. They include Board costs, institutional audit etc

e) Strategy & Fundraising

These are costs that help achieve strategic objectives and resource mobilization. They include strategy, institutional marketing, and branding etc

Please note that the calculation for indirect costs should be supported by the institutional policies.

The AAS supports a maximum of 7% of total direct costs as indirect costs. You could also use your institution (lead institution) rate provided for your institutional policies as long as it is within this range. That said, all costs, both direct and indirect, should be itemized and justifiable. Please refer to the [Budget Guidelines](#) on the ARISE-PP page.

2. Directly incurred staff costs: do you pay 100% of the costs requested for staff who will be funded directly by this project? I.e. (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 will be indicated as a percentage of actual salaries paid and applicable institutional benefits for the positions included in the budget request.

3. Will a budget template be provided?

At the preliminary application stage, the application form has both the narrative and budget entry fields to allow for an overview of the proposed programme. At full application stage, a separate budget template shall be provided to applicants that qualify, to enable a detailed budget that corresponds with the detailed narrative proposal format.

4. Will AAS provide inflationary and flexible funding for ARISE-PP grants?

Inflationary costs should be built into the budgets where possible and applicants should be able to justify such costs when called upon. There will be no miscellaneous or flexible funding costs for ARISE-PP grants.

Eligibility

1. I am an African wanting to relocate from the diaspora to Africa. Am I eligible to lead an application?

You can apply as a lead applicant if you can show affiliation to a lead institution based in Africa. However, you can be included in an application as a co-applicant regardless of whether you are based in Africa or not.

2. Concerning the criteria that the lead applicant be based at the lead institution for the duration of grant; could the lead applicant be based at the institution 50% of the time or less but be there for the duration of the grant?

The main issue to consider is whether the lead applicant has an appointment with the lead institution for the duration of the grant, and whether they can dedicate the time commensurate with the workload and responsibilities required for implementing and managing a project of the magnitude of the ARISE-PP grant. The basic requirement is for the PI to be based at the host institution during the project period. However, every case has its merits and demerits and shall be evaluated by an independent committee before a final decision to award is made.

3. How many research foci areas are applications expected to be focused on?

All applicants are required to articulate key/broad research questions that they will focus on over the five-year period. These can be on a single thematic area or cross-cutting multidisciplinary approaches across various areas. The thematic areas outlined in the ARISE-PP guidance document are not exhaustive and applications outside these proposed areas are welcome.

Good Financial Grant Practice (GFGP)

1. Do you have a list of GFGP compliant African institutions (including the level of compliance)?

This list exists, however, this information is not for public sharing because of the firm commitment to data privacy and protection of all records in the possession of AAS in the performance of its duties and responsibilities.

GFGP certification should not prevent potential applicants from submitting their expressions of interest for the ARISE-PP grants. Host institutions for applicants that progress to the pre-award stage shall be taken through the GFGP pre-certification assessment process, if they have not already done so, and costs for this will be borne by the ARISE-PP. In summary, no applicant will be deemed ineligible at the Expressions of Interest stage because of their GFGP status.

2. Do (all) institutions need to be compliant at the time of the pre-application, or will the AAS audit institutions as part of the grant process?

See the response in 1. above. In addition, the pre-certification assessment information shall be confirmed during due diligence for host institutions that are shortlisted for the ARISE-PP grant. Not attaining the benchmarked level for a particular institution shall not necessarily disqualify the institution or the applicant. Rather, the institution will be supported to make incremental progress towards the desired status within a defined timeframe.

Partnerships and Collaboration

- 1. Regarding the ARISE-PP applications, it is unclear from the call guidance text and supporting documentation if a lead organisation in Africa can lead on more than one project i.e. can multiple submissions be made by a lead organisation (each being submitted by a different lead applicant) or should a lead institution only submit a single application?**

A lead institution (check eligible status of a lead institution in the guidance notes) can lead on more than one application and can also be a partner in more than one application. In principle, ARISE-PP grants will be awarded to only one lead host institution per country in Africa.

- 2. Is it mandatory to work with partners and collaborators in the ARISE-PP grants?**

Partnerships and/or collaborations are not mandatory for ARISE-PP grants. However, transdisciplinary and multidisciplinary collaborations, especially within Africa, are highly encouraged.

Submitting an application

- 1. How can I access the ARISE-PP application form?**

The online form is accessible on the AAS Ishango online grants management system (Ishango). The link for login is available on the ARISE call for applications webpage <https://www.aasciences.africa/call/arise> and/or at <https://aasishango.ccgrantracker.com/Login.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2f>

Once registered and logged in, the ARISE-PP call will appear under the **New Grant Application** tab.

- 2. Can I submit by application via email?**

Applications for ARISE-PP can only be submitted online via Ishango. Applications submitted otherwise will not be considered. The online form closes on 30 July 2021, at 1700hrs EAT.