

GRANT PROPOSAL WRITING WORKSHOP FOR AFRICA-BASED FOUNDATIONAL LEARNING RESEARCHERS

Introduction

[Education Sub Saharan Africa \(ESSA\)](#) and the [Research for Equitable Access and Learning \(REAL\)](#) Centre at the University of Cambridge, with funding from [Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#), invite Africa-based *Foundational Learning (FL)* researchers to apply for an upcoming in-person **Grant Proposal Writing Workshop**.

Workshop overview

The workshop addresses the professional development needs of FL researchers identified through our ongoing [Foundational Learning](#) project. The project's goal is to improve the accessibility and use of research evidence generated by Africa-based researchers focusing on FL, in decision-making by various stakeholders (e.g., policymakers, researchers, and funders/investors).

As part of the project, we investigated research priorities and professional development needs of these FL researchers through an online survey, online and in-person workshops, and consultations with experts. Among the top priorities for researchers' professional development needs was opportunities to strengthen their **grant proposal writing**. Having listened to the researchers, partners of the project are now organising this workshop **to enhance FL researchers' knowledge and skills in grant proposal writing, as well as provide opportunities for networking and potential collaboration**.

[INASP](#) will facilitate the workshop which will be held in **Accra, Ghana from Monday 22nd July to Thursday 25th July 2024**. Participants will be expected to arrive at the workshop venue (exact location to be confirmed) on Sunday 21st July and depart on Friday 26th July 2024. The sponsorship comprises accommodation, meals, and travel (i.e., economy return ticket, entry visa – if required, and travel insurance).

Eligibility Criteria

To qualify for participation, applicants must meet **ALL** these criteria:

- You are a national of and currently reside in a sub-Saharan African country. You can communicate (read, write, and speak) effectively in English.
- You have a minimum of a PhD or equivalent experience and are working in a university or other research institution in sub-Saharan Africa (we will allocate at least 50% of places to applicants from the project's focus countries comprising **Senegal, Ghana, Kenya, and Tanzania**).
- Your core research focuses on FL (i.e., improving numeracy, literacy, and socio-emotional skills of primary school children in sub-Saharan Africa).
- You are available to travel to Accra in Ghana and commit to attending the workshop in full.

Note: Female researchers, and early-career (five years post PhD, time taken off for maternity/paternity leave will not be counted) scholars who meet the eligibility criteria are strongly encouraged to apply.

Course Content

This blended learning workshop will cover all the essential skills and tools you need to master grant proposal writing for success in Foundational Learning research.

The workshop will be a mixture of lecture/Q&As, practical group work, and hands-on collaborative writing practice. Based on a needs assessment survey ahead of the event, the workshop will be adapted to the needs of the learning cohort.

By the end of the workshop, you will be able to:

- Effectively 'sell' your research idea and explain its significance.
- Navigate the grant application process with confidence and know-how.
- Identify ideal funding sources for your research.
- Construct a solid foundation with your literature review.
- Plan comprehensively before you start writing.
- Write compelling proposals with essential elements.
- Adapt and enhance your CV for grant application success.
- Avoid common pitfalls in grant proposal writing.
- Develop an effective, persuasive writing style.
- Know how to use technology and ethical AI in writing.
- Impress funders with a polished proposal.
- Transform your networking and collaboratively writing skills.

This will be a blended learning experience, meaning that as well as the physical workshop, INASP will provide:

- Interactive online learning materials for preparation before the workshop, and to reinforce learning after the workshop finishes. This will allow us to focus on hands-on writing and collaborative learning during the physical event.
- A pre-workshop virtual onboarding session to meet the facilitators and each other, introduce the learning materials and clarify any questions you have about the workshop.
- A post-course writing clinic area where for a limited time you can get additional feedback on your draft proposal from our expert facilitators.

Expectations of Attendees

- Submit details of two referees and a permission letter from institution.
- Participants are expected to fully commit their time and focus to the workshop activities throughout the duration.
- Participate enthusiastically in all activities of the workshop.
- Draft/write a grant proposal (preferably in pairs or a group) by the end of the workshop. It would be ideal if selected participants have a current or previous funding call in mind that they could use as a case study, or for practice during the workshop.

Benefits of the workshop

1. Improved knowledge and skills of participants in grant proposal writing.
2. Networking opportunities for participants to foster potential collaborations.
3. Strategies to effectively identify sources of funding, as well as approach funders directly for opportunities.

Application Timelines

- Application opens: **Friday 12th April 2024**
- Application closes: **Sunday 28th April 2024 at 00:00 hrs GMT**
- Application review and selection process begins: **Monday 13th May 2024**
- Notification of successful applicants: **Monday 27th May 2024**

How to apply

Please use this [LINK](#) to submit your application by **Sunday 28th April 2024 at 00:00 hrs GMT**.

Inclusion

At ESSA and REAL Centre, we place importance on diversity and inclusivity. We welcome applicants from various backgrounds, including women and early-career scholars, and those with disabilities. Our aim is to ensure an accessible environment for all participants. Should you have any accessibility requirements, please inform us, and we will make the necessary accommodations.

Contact Information:

For further information, please reach out to us at info@essa-africa.org