

Essential Grant Writing Skills Programme 2024: AREF Early-Career African Health Researchers

Notes	Dates	
Please note that your sponsor/mentor is a signatory on this application form.	28 Aug 2024	<p>PLEASE NOTE: After submitting the application as the lead applicant, this will move the application to the Awaiting Signatory Approval stage. Only at this point can the signatories (sponsors/admin personnel) sign off the application.</p> <p>The application is not fully submitted to Africa Research Excellence Fund until after the final signatory has approved it. Please allow enough time for all approvals to be completed before the application deadline; no approvals or submissions will be accepted after the deadline under any circumstance.</p>
AREF final closing date	30 Aug 2024	https://www.africanresearchers.org/essential-grant-writing-skills-programme-2024-aref-invites-applications-from-early-career-african-health-researchers/#:~:text=Programme%20Overview,December%209th%20to%2011th%2C%202024

For attention: Early-career health researchers (*in the early stages of a research career, having completed a research doctorate or a medical/clinical qualification plus a research-relevant master's degree, awarded within the last six years.*)

The Africa Research Excellence Fund (AREF) is inviting applications from emerging biomedical and health researchers in Africa to participate in its Essential Grant Writing Skills Programme, an initiative designed to equip researchers with the skills needed to successfully secure competitive research funding. This programme represents a valuable opportunity for early-career researchers to enhance their grant writing skills and increase their chances of securing funding for impactful health research in Africa.

Programme overview

The Essential Grant Writing Skills Programme is an intensive, fully online series aimed at empowering early-career health researchers in Africa. Participants will engage in eight three-hour sessions held over two separate weeks: from **21 to 25 October 2024**, and from **9 to 11 December 2024**. During the six-week interval between these sessions, participants are expected to draft a mini research proposal and engage in peer review activities. This structure is designed to ensure that by the end of the programme, participants will have made substantial progress toward a well-crafted grant proposal.

Programme objectives

The main goal of the programme is to enable promising early-career researchers from African countries to develop the skills required to create compelling research and fellowship proposals that meet the standards for securing international, regional, and national funding.

The programme will focus on the following:

- **Defining and communicating a unique research niche:** Participants will learn how to effectively express their research focus and articulate its importance.
- **Formulating research questions:** The programme will guide researchers in crafting clear and impactful research questions that align with funders' priorities.
- **Understanding funders' requirements:** Participants will gain insights into the expectations of various funding bodies.
- **Writing in plain English:** The ability to convey complex scientific ideas in clear, concise language will be emphasised.
- **Developing a proposal's key sections:** Researchers will learn how to structure a proposal, covering essential elements such as project descriptions and budgets.
- **Managing collaborations and teams:** The programme will also cover strategies for effectively managing research teams and collaborations.
- **Preparing for fellowship interviews:** Participants will receive guidance on how to present their research and themselves in fellowship interviews.

Eligibility and selection criteria

To be eligible for this programme, applicants must

- be citizens of an African country and be employed in Africa by a recognised university or specialist research institution;
- be in the early stages of their research career, having completed a research doctorate or a medical/clinical qualification plus a research-relevant master's degree, awarded within the last six years;
- be actively involved in health research as a significant part of their current role;
- not have participated in similar grant-writing training before; and
- not already have a significant portfolio of international research grants (defined as a combined value of £250 000 or more).

How to apply

Interested researchers must apply via the AREF portal (<https://programmes.aref-africa.org.uk/>) by creating an account and completing the application form.