

Item 3 Research Net

Since we get approval from boards at 1st UMAP Board Meeting in May, we would like to announce the "Call for Proposals" for UMAP Research Net. The "Call for Proposals" will enhance the function of Research Net and will increase the influence of UMAP, especially in the aspect of academic reputation.

Here is some basic information for your reference.

Background:

UMAP Research-Net [URN] promotes mobility of academic faculties, researchers and students in the universities that share common interests to form networks to develop joint research, which can be part of a post-graduate UMAP Joint Study Program [UJSP], or a research project of a regular post-graduate program, or an isolated research project. UMAP Research-Net [URN] will promote mobility of researchers in universities in Asia and the Pacific region towards the areas related to "Higher Education for Sustainable Development". It will also enable successful development of collaborative research projects and meaningful and long-lasting contacts between the counterparts.

Definition:

A research-net is defined as a group of at least three researchers with at least one having completed graduate studies (Ph.D. or equivalent) and be a faculty or researcher, others may be post-graduate students or researchers in participating universities in three UMAP Member Countries/Territories.

Implementation:

The first phase of URN will start by inviting proposals from interested academic faculties or researchers who are able to establish networking for the research topic with partners in other universities according to eligibility criteria.

Eligibility:

To be eligible, a proposal for URN must meet the following requirements:

- (1) A research team must comprise of at least 3 members from UMAP participating universities each from 3 UMAP Member Countries/Territories. The main researcher must be a faculty or researcher with Ph.D. qualification or equivalent, others may be post-graduate students or researchers.
- (2) The proposal must show that the goal is to foster research network and mobility of researchers, and not to emphasize finance of the research project utilizing UMAP Grant.
- (3) The proposal must show the full research project budget indicating existing or potential sources of revenue other than that from UMAP Grant.
- (4) The proposal must include a strategy/critical path to pursue linkages after the initial activity.
- (5) Proposals and findings must be submitted in English.
- (6) The project must be evaluated by an UMAP Evaluation Committee at the end of the URN project period.

Note: Purely scientific subjects such as physics, chemistry, medicine, engineering, etc. which would not lead to a better knowledge and understanding of “Higher Education for Sustainable Development” are not eligible, nor are proposals which focus exclusively on technological or methodological issues.

Priority Issues:

A proposal for URN is expected to achieve the following results having implemented the activities;

- (1) Participation of at least 3 researchers from universities in 3 different countries;
 - A. Selection, through a call for proposals, of outstanding URN projects that manifest feasibility of research implementation and strong commitments from the main researcher and other researchers in the network, and how to successfully develop meaningful and long-lasting contacts with their counterparts.

- B. Universities' support for academic faculties and researchers to take up necessary roles in implementing the URN, and universities' support for exchange research students from counterpart universities in the form of tuition fee waiver for 1 semester to 1 academic year.
- (2) Sustainable links and research partnerships between partner universities and between individual researchers established;
- A. The project period of URN implementation anticipates responsible researchers and post-graduate students to exchange travels under the activities of the URN
 - B. Evidence for indicators on evaluation and assessment of URN
 - C. Networking events for URN fellows including support for formation and functioning of UMAP Alumni Forum.

Financial Assistance from UMAP:

The overall indicative amount made available under this call for proposals is for 3 URN proposals;

- (1) URN applicants may request funding up to 6,000 USD for the use of participating universities in the URN projects. Items included are partial support on travel expenses of the responsible researchers, costs for communications and meetings. But UMAP does not provide scholarship grants to research students for the URN.
- (2) Successful applicants will be sent a Grant Agreement detailing the value and conditions of the award. It must be signed and returned to the International secretariat within fifteen (15) days. The Grant will be paid after receipt at the International Secretariat of the signed Grant Agreement. The URN Grant is a one-time, non-renewable grant.
- (3) Applicant must identify the person who will administer the Grant.

Note: The recipients are responsible for making all arrangements relating to the URN project including: international travel, visas (if applicable), accommodation, medical and life insurance.

3. ARTICLE VII OF UMAP Constitution: BUDGET

- 7.1 The Budget shall be prepared in U.S. Dollars and administered by the Board.
- 7.2 The fiscal year of UMAP shall commence January 1 and conclude December 31.
- 7.3 The Board shall approve and give final effort to the budget and to the apportionment of financial responsibility among the member countries/territories of UMAP.
- 7.4 The Budget shall be labeled into 3 categories:
 - (a) General Fund
 - (b) Trust Fund
 - (c) Extra-budgetary Fund
- 7.5 **Expenditure in any category shall confine to the disbursement guidelines as in Attachment 5 and be subject to approval by the Board.**

ATTACHMENT 5 OF UMAP Constitution: Disbursement Guidelines of UMAP Funds

The nature of the funds to which these grants and incomes pertain are as follows

- (a) General Fund shall be used in the organization's core operation which are expenditures according to annual budget approved by the Board, and administrative expenses of IS for items approved by Finance and Audit Committee (excluding personnel and infrastructure).
- (b) Trust Fund shall be used for special programs/projects to encourage student mobility upon approval by the Board.
- (c) Extra-Budgetary Funds shall be used upon approval by the Board.