



PREAMBLE - ATU RESEARCH FUND (ARIF) 2024

Accra Technical University (ATU) has been established since 1949 with the mandate to promote Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) development in Ghana through cutting-edge applied research and linkage with industry. Three years ago, the Vice-Chancellor and Management established the ATU Research and Innovation Fund (ARIF), a grant which provides financial support to ATU staff and students to carry out innovative research activities. From its inception in 2020, ARIF has provided funding support to the production of significant research outputs based on its first and second call for proposals. DRIPTT is therefore happy to announce the fourth call of ARIF proposals which is focused on the theme - **Applied Research Towards Innovation and Sustainable Development** for the 2023-2024 academic year.

In order to foster global transformation and align our research endeavours to international policy agenda, faculty and staff of ATU are invited to undertake/conduct applied and **impact-oriented research driven by Pillar 2 (Specifically Objective 2.3)** of the **ATU's Strategic Plan (2021-2025)** and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 3,4,5,6,7,8,9 shown below:



Objective 2.3 of the ATU strategic Plan is as follows.

Establish the ATU Research and Innovation Fund (ARIF) to increase support for the acceleration of innovation, technology development and technology transfer by staff.

ARIF 2024 aims to encourage researchers to conduct high-quality applied research of national and international relevance. Consequently, this aim will put premium on proposals that demonstrate strong promise regarding relevance to impact oriented and applied research in the areas of Engineering, Applied Sciences, Applied Arts, Built Environment, Social Sciences, Humanities and Business. Furthermore, as stated above, the focus of the fourth ARIF call seeks to solicit proposals aligned with the theme **Accelerating Applied Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship for National Development** connected with the following UN SDGs:

- ✓ SDG 3: Good Health;
- ✓ SDG 7: Clean Energy;
- ✓ SDG 4: Quality Education;
- ✓ SDG 8: Good Jobs and Economic Growth;
- ✓ SDG 5: Gender Equality;
- ✓ SDG 9: Innovation and Infrastructure
- ✓ SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation;

Additionally, all submitted ARIF 2024 proposals are expected to:

- Contribute to Knowledge and Innovation.
- Promote National Development Orientation;
- Have a Positive Impact on Society;
- Positively Impact ATU's Visibility
- Foster Industrial Linkages;

ELIGIBILITY

- There shall be a lead researcher i.e., Principal Investigator (PI) in each submitted research proposal who will serve as the main correspondent and budget holder of the application.

- A submitted application should involve a very experienced academic/researcher (evident in his/her CV) as part of the research team.
- Research teams which involve members from industry in and out of Ghana are highly encouraged.
- Applicants should have relevant qualifications and competence in the subject area of the proposed project.
- In relation to research interests, the roles which will be played by each contributor/investigator should be clearly stated in the proposal.
- A PI for this call is not allowed to lead more than one ARIF proposal. A PI may co-investigate / co-author another proposal provided there is enough justification on the role(s) to be performed.
- Preferences shall be given to proposals that present significant impact for ATU, Ghana and beyond.

An application for ARIF-2023 should be submitted by:

- ✓ A cross-functional team from a minimum of two (2) departments in the university is encouraged to improve multidisciplinary research, impact-oriented research and joint proposal writing.
- ✓ A team of not less than three (3) academics/researchers, including a PI who is a staff of the university.

FUNDING INFORMATION

- The minimum amount of funding is Gh¢ 5,000.00 and the maximum is Gh¢ 20,000.00.
- The duration for a project is 6 to 12 months, but can be extended with enough justification without budget review.
- Industry partners are allowed to provide additional funding to the project if it becomes necessary, but such funding will not be regulated by DRIPTT.

DELIVERABLES

- Quarterly reporting on the project to DRIPTT for verification and documentation.
- Presentation to the ARIF committee on the project progress at Mid-way and completion should be captured in the project timelines and be observed accordingly.
- A minimum of one peer-reviewed paper publication in a high impact and reputable journal is mandatory as part of the project closure requirement

APPLICATION DEADLINES

- Submission of ARIF Concept Notes: 18th March, 2024 – 1st April, 2024
- Notification of Accepted Concept Notes: 1st April, 2024 – 8th April, 2024
- Submission for Full ARIF Proposals: 8th April, 2024 – 29th April, 2024
- Notification of Outcome of Application: 29th May, 2024

ELIGIBILITY

All proposals, communications and requests for clarifications should be submitted via e-mail at the following address riptt@atu.edu.gh. Template for Concept Notes and ARIF Proposal can be downloaded from <https://atu.edu.gh/research-opportunities-alert/> available on the Research page of the ATU Website (www.atu.edu.gh) for staff members to download.

NOTE

The Review Board for ARIF 2024 Proposals, acting on behalf of management, reserves the right to approve, deny or request changes to any proposal submitted for their consideration based on thorough assessment of the proposal and its potential impacts. Their decision shall be communicated to the applicants with justifications in due time.