



GRANT WRITING & FUNDING PROGRAM

Accelerating Impactful Research



Leaders of Africa Institute · 2025



Bridging inquiry and creativity
is the future of development
research and advocacy

ABOUT THE LEADERS OF AFRICA INSTITUTE

The Leaders of Africa Institute (LoAI) is a special and life-changing place to upskill, engage in international networking, build personal and collaborative relationships with professors, and amplify one's voice in research, academia, international development, and business. LoAI provides Scholars and Fellows with the tools and platform to creatively transform knowledge production and society.

There are many things that make LoAI unique. We value personal relationships and collaboration, creativity and experimentation, rigor, engagement, and a mission-driven approach to skills, knowledge, and career development.

We cultivate well-rounded faculty members, graduate students, civil society, government, entrepreneurial, and emerging professionals. Everyone at the LoAI is bound by the highest standards of ethical thought leadership enshrined in our Leaders of Africa Pledge and Leaders of Africa Institute Honor Code. To learn more about our values, kindly visit: <https://www.institute.leadersofafrica.org/about/>

We encourage you to explore the ongoing and future programming at LoAI and the Leaders of Africa. We also invite you to reach out to us at institute@leadersofafrica.org, so that we may match your interests with your program offerings.

The Leaders of Africa Institute is a special institution with a distinctly international community and a personal approach to teaching and learning.

**Knowledge
Production and
Advocacy for
the Good**

GRANT WRITING AND FUNDING PROGRAM 2025

ACCELERATING IMPACTFUL RESEARCH

Quality research and social innovation require resources and partnerships. As a researcher, you are responsible for everything from preparation to write-up. Each piece of the research process has a cost, whether in money or time. Because we care so much about the outcomes of the research, we may find ourselves writing off costs, self-funding aspects of the research, or severely limiting the scope of our work. The ever-increasing demands for rigorous research mean that we need to develop and implement cutting-edge research designs and tools. This comes at an increasing cost. The Grant Writing and Funding (GWF) Program 2025 is about identifying the true cost of our research and the real value that our research and social innovation have for key stakeholders and broader society. When we know how to articulate the value of our work, we can garner significant resources and engage broader audiences for social impact.

ABOUT GWF 2025

The Grant Writing and Funding Program is a flagship program of the Leaders of Africa Institute. The program offers stakeholder and resource mobilization skills, rigorous and advanced grant writing instruction, personalized mentorship, and a supportive international research community. The program is open to all fields and to individuals from all countries internationally. It is a perfect fit for researchers, lecturers and professors, graduate students, practitioners, monitoring and evaluation specialists, institutional administrators, and social innovators. The program is delivered in a live and synchronous virtual format that is accessible from anywhere.

We invite you to learn about the program and consider whether this might be the opportunity to further your research career and mobilize resources for your research and social impact work or that of your institution.

Click below to access the program page:
<https://www.institute.leadersofafrica.org/program/grant-writing-funding-program/>.



IMPORTANT DATES & INFO

Application Deadline: February 21, 2025

Notification of Decision: By March 12, 2025

Program Dates: March 2025 – May 2025

Program Format: Live Synchronous Virtual Cloud Classroom (~3 hours per week)

Certificate: Official Leaders of Africa Certificate

CAPSTONE EXPECTATION

A Partial or Completed Grant for a specific opportunity OR a template for future opportunities

IMPACT SCHOLARSHIP & TUITION

The total tuition for the GWF Program is 3,000 USD. The Leaders of Africa Institute subsidizes the tuition through Impact Scholarships for accepted applicants. If accepted, the remaining fee is only between 220 and 320 USD.

GRANT WRITING AND FUNDING PROGRAM SKILLS

FINDING AND ASSESSING FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Grant Writing and Funding (GWF) Program provides instruction and support for finding and assessing grant opportunities. Putting together a funding application is time-consuming. Therefore, one of the key tenets of funding success is applying to the right opportunities and not chasing every existing opportunity. In the GWF, we cover different types of funding opportunities, where to find quality opportunities, how to read a call for proposals, and how to assess the fit for our research projects. We will also discuss background research on funding opportunities, including using specialized tools and platforms for sourcing grants and interpreting a funder's existing portfolio of support. Assessing funding opportunities is the first step in understanding what the funder actually wants and requires.

CRAFTING GRANT PROPOSALS

Grant writing is just one genre of research writing and has a specific set of expectations. During the program, we examine different rubrics for assessing grant proposals and discuss how the assessment criteria should shape our approach to the grant proposal. The program covers standard and non-standard grant proposal templates. In the program, we provide instruction on how to exceed the expectations for each section of a grant proposal (e.g., framing, work plan, original contribution, social impact, and public engagement). We also discuss implementing tools like LaTeX for writing proposals, as well as the ethical implementation of AI tools for bringing together information to help brainstorm the framing of grant proposals. Recognizing its importance for a successful proposal, we prioritize effectively communicating the value of our research and social impact efforts by highlighting strategies for measuring and articulating social impact clearly.

TRANSPARENT BUDGETING

A major part of a grant proposal or application is the financial ask. The program covers processes for creating budgets that will reasonably cover the research and social innovation work from start to finish and how to justify budgetary items in the funding proposal.

RESEARCH WRITING AND COMMUNICATION

Grant writing involves framing your research and social innovation work and emphasizing the expected impact in ways that can be understood by reviewers within and outside (or adjacent to) your area of expertise. Many calls for proposals and applications are broad enough that non-experts may review your proposal. In the program, we practice balancing our in-depth field knowledge with accessibility.

ENGAGEMENT WITH FUNDING STAKEHOLDERS

Engaging with relevant organizations and individuals in advance of sharing a grant proposal can be beneficial in most cases. Many times, this occurs indirectly through our previous research and collaborations, and other times directly by reaching out to relevant stakeholders. The program provides approaches to strategically engaging with stakeholders so that mobilizing support and resources becomes more likely and consistent.

PERSONAL MENTORSHIP

The program offers mentoring and a personalized relationship with instructors. The program also offers a framework for international networking and building research relationships that span the globe. Scholars will also have access to the Leaders of Africa Institute's professional network.

GWF SPOTLIGHT

GWF Scholars are talented and recognized researchers and social innovators with a proven track record of producing impactful research that addresses critical social challenges. Their work translates academic excellence into actionable solutions, fostering positive change in communities worldwide. The GWF supports their ambition to garner funding and partnerships to expand their impact. To highlight and showcase our Scholars, we are proud to feature four Grant Writing Scholars from the 2024 Cohort:



DEBORAH EKUSAI SEBATA

UGANDA, GWF 2024

I am a bioethicist and social scientist working at the interface of public health and international development. Presently, I am a doctoral student studying bioethics at Makerere University in conjunction with Johns Hopkins University. My Capstone Project in the Research Methods Program examines the creation and implementation of data-sharing frameworks for genomics research. Ultimately, I aim to develop and disseminate impactful guidelines that lead to a more equitable approach to sharing genomics research worldwide.



ROLAND MADY

COTE D'IVOIRE, GWF 2024

I am a public health researcher at Johns Hopkins University and formerly a statistician engineer from Ecole Nationale Supérieure de Statistique et d'Economie Appliquée (ENSEA). I have contributed to the National Council for Nutrition, Feeding, and Early Childhood Development, under the National Information Platform for Nutrition (NIPN). The project is a European Union initiative that provides evidence to support the development of public policies in several sectors in Côte d'Ivoire.



PROF. ALICE NAKIYEMBA

UGANDA, GWF 2024

I am an Associate Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences at Busitema University, a public university in Uganda. My work focuses on climate change and environmental sustainability, with a passion for networking with other researchers to conduct interdisciplinary research that improves environmental sustainability for vulnerable communities. I have contributed to projects on climate change-induced disasters, sustainable land management, and the ecological management of rodents, among others.



LOVE EBGBONI

NIGERIA, GWF 2024

I completed my Bachelor of Law Degree at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria and a Master's degree in Law at the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. Presently, I am a Master's candidate in criminology and criminal justice at Northern Arizona University in the United States. My research focuses on human rights and preventing sexual violence against women and girls.

A GLOBAL NETWORK OF IMPACT LEADERS

Through the global network of mentors and alumni, the Leaders of Africa Institute and the Grant Writing and Funding Program offer a worldwide network of data analysts and research leaders, as well as opportunities for international exposure in data advocacy and impact. To date, the Leaders of Africa Institute has welcomed Scholars and Fellows from over 45 countries.



Leaders of Africa Institute Scholars and Alumni

APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

APPLICATION MATERIALS

To complete the application, you will need the following materials:

- Curriculum vitae/ resume (one PDF of up to 5 MB)
- Statement of Interest (500 words maximum). Your Statement of Interest should include:
 - What are your research, thematic, and professional interests?
 - What shaped your interest in research and/or social innovation?
 - What do you hope to learn from the Grant Writing and Funding Program at the Leaders of Africa Institute?
 - What is your experience applying for research funding and grants? What successes have you had and what challenges have you faced? If you do not have experience, you can share this.
 - How will this program help you meet or achieve your career and educational goals?

**DEADLINE:
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2025
AT 11.59 PM UTC**

**APPLICATION
PORTAL**

Application Portal Link:

<https://zfrmz.com/22FKQBJQtsUfYAr6GRxj>

The Grant Writing and Funding Program is open to all fields and from all countries internationally. If you have any questions, reach out to the Leaders of Africa Institute at institute@leadersofafrica.org.



Connect with the Leaders of Africa Institute on social media. Click the social media icon to connect.



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