



Scholars Program



FAWE Forum for African Women Educationalists
Forum des éducatrices africaines



Call for Application for Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF) for Tertiary Scholars/Alumni under FAWE-Mastercard Foundation Programme

Summary

FAWE invites applications for grants to support scholar’s entrepreneurship initiatives under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF) that will be implemented from March 2020 to March 2021. The SEF aims at nurturing creative and innovative Scholars’ business ideas to enable them productively and positively contribute to socio-economic development of their communities/countries. This project is being implemented in Rwanda and is administered by FAWE Rwanda. The target group is the FAWE-Mastercard Foundation Scholars and alumni at tertiary education levels in Rwanda. This application was to be done in three rounds but due to time constraints the second and third cohort will be combined. This shall form the last call for this specific grant. The application period for this call runs from 22nd January, 2020 to 20th February, 2020. The application period ends at 11:59pm on 20th February 2020. If your business idea or project will contribute to socio-economic impact in your community or country then you are the right applicant. Review our application guidelines to enable you to present your business idea/project for consideration.

Call description

- This is the last call for application for the best cutting-edge and/or creative business ideas/projects with high scalability potential as well as social and economic impact.
- The grant is supported by the Mastercard Foundation — <https://mastercardfdn.org/> and administered by Forum for African Women Educationalist (FAWE) — www.fawe.org and implemented by FAWE Rwanda.
- The call targets Scholars and alumni at tertiary education levels
- Submission of a business idea/ project will be by an individual or in small groups (max 5 members which may also include not more than 2 non-Scholars at their university). The funding period for the second and third rounds of applicants will run from March 2020 to March 2021 with possible funding for any single project capped at a minimum of USD 500 to a maximum of USD 5000.

Funding details

Project details and Funding

Scholars Entrepreneurship Fund (SEF) is a grant established by the Mastercard Foundation in response to Scholars’ and partner institutions’ request for scholars/community livelihood enhancement. It integrates scholars in all processes ranging from design, execution and follow-up with the aim of transforming not only the individual Scholars but also the community at large. The proposed ideas are expected to continue beyond the funding Phase as such, progress shall be reported to FAWE on a quarterly basis for a period not less than five years or as shall be determined by FAWE.

The fund will be disbursed following the completion of a rigorous selection process in line with the agreed criteria. The funds will be released to Scholars in three

	<p>Instalments (I — 40%, II — 30% and III — 30%) to enhance accountability and prudent utilization of the grant. All applicants will be required to make contribution to the proposed projects and provide explanation of the alternative source of funding. FAWE’s funding will be a top up to the contribution.</p>
<p>Scope</p>	<p><u>The SEF has the following objectives:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To expand Scholars’ capacity to exercise transformative leadership and give-back, by catalyzing economic opportunities for others (students and community). ▪ To support viable Scholars’ projects that bring solutions to needs identified in their communities and which will result in improved livelihoods, diversified income generation or job creation. ▪ To document the processes and significance of financing and developing entrepreneurship among African Youth/Scholars. <p><u>Selection Criteria will based on the business idea’s/project’s:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Feasibility and viability – attainable outcomes, profitability and socio-economic impact. ▪ Potential to respond to community/market needs — basic market analysis/research of the problem to be addressed by the project, improved livelihood (income, jobs) ▪ Costing and budget of the proposed project — cost-effectiveness, leverage, realistic budget with a growth plan ▪ Creativity and innovativeness — source of funds, balance between academics and project ▪ Experience in the area of interest (self or mentor) i.e. if technical expertise is needed to implement a project; ▪ Potential for expansion and/scalability ▪ Potential for job creation ▪ Compliance — meets ethical standards and Rwanda’s government regulatory frameworks.
<p>Eligibility</p>	<p><u>Who can apply</u></p> <p>A project lead who must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be a FAWE Mastercard Foundation ongoing Scholar at the University of Rwanda or INES-Ruhengeri or be a Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program Alumni ▪ Have a business idea/project to be implemented in Rwanda ▪ Submit only one business idea/project per round. <p><u>Projects we will not fund</u></p> <p>We will not fund business ideas/projects that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Do not meet the competition scope ▪ Do not exercise the innovation and creativity levels i.e. neither realistic nor has the potential to meet local and/or international market needs

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cannot present evidence that their idea or concept has the potential to lead to significant return on investment (ROI), positive economic impact, growth and expansion of the business ▪ Do not comply with ethical regulations in business and government regulatory frameworks. ▪ Are currently funded by the Foundation or any other funder within the period of the competition. <p>Participation in subsequent calls for application</p> <p>Scholars are encouraged to reapply in subsequent calls for applications should their first attempt be unsuccessful. A project may be resubmitted in its improved form should an unsuccessful applicant wish to do so.</p>																					
<p>Important Timelines</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>S/N</th> <th>Dates</th> <th>Activity</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>1)</td> <td>22nd January, 2020</td> <td>Call for application/competition opens</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2)</td> <td>21st February, 2020</td> <td>Call for application closes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3)</td> <td>6th March , 2020</td> <td>Applicants notified of the outcome</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4)</td> <td>11th March, 2020</td> <td>Verification process and qualifiers trainings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5)</td> <td>24th March, 2020</td> <td>First disbursement to selected projects</td> </tr> <tr> <td>6)</td> <td>June , 2019 onwards</td> <td>Quarterly follow up on the project progress</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	S/N	Dates	Activity	1)	22 nd January, 2020	Call for application/competition opens	2)	21 st February, 2020	Call for application closes	3)	6 th March , 2020	Applicants notified of the outcome	4)	11 th March, 2020	Verification process and qualifiers trainings	5)	24 th March, 2020	First disbursement to selected projects	6)	June , 2019 onwards	Quarterly follow up on the project progress
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<p>How to Apply</p>	<p>All applications MUST be submitted through an online application form provided https://tinyurl.com/y3mw699x. Applications through other mechanisms will neither be accepted nor reviewed. For every application, there must be a lead applicant to whom all communication related to the project shall be communicated. To apply, the lead applicant must create an account or sign in as a representative of the business/project idea.</p>																					