DOF CRIPBaR
David Oyedepo Foundation Special Fund for Community-Relevant, Industry and Product-Based Research

RESEARCH FUNDING

Call for Proposals

Introduction
In pursuit of the research component of Vision 7:2030, the David Oyedepo Foundation (DOF) has approved a special fund for Community-Relevant, Industry and Product-Based Research (DOF- CRIPBaR) to take research endeavours to the next level by upstaging research, innovation and discovery to product-based research relevant to industry and society at large.

The DOF CRIPBaR Special fund is a unique strategy by DOF to provide proven solutions to some of the pressing challenges in the country, thereby creating more resilient, prosperous and sustainable societies in Nigeria. The DOF-CRIPBaR fund is designed to support innovative ideas that contribute to alleviating the social, economic and environmental challenges confronting our nation. The DOF-CRIPBaR seeks to fund basic and applied research that generates products, processes, services or solutions, which may already be in existence at a prototype stage or at a concept stage, and which require testing with real-life users or in real-life situations.

Priority Areas
For this year, the research fund will support innovative product development ideas related to Nigeria's pressing challenges. The proposed research must directly address at least one of the following key priority areas:
- Governance (e.g., smart systems for public administration)
- Renewable Energy (e.g., solar, bioenergy, energy storage)
- Food Security (e.g., agri-tech, sustainable farming)
- Waste Management (e.g., recycling, upcycling, waste-to-energy)
- Affordable Healthcare (e.g., medical devices, diagnostics, telemedicine)
- Smart Agriculture (e.g., precision farming, IoT-enabled solutions)
- Infrastructure (e.g., smart cities, sustainable construction)
- Environment & Climate Change (e.g., climate adaptation, green tech)
- Education (e.g., edtech solutions, STEM innovation, vocational training tech)
- Water and Sanitation (e.g., clean water access, purification tech, smart irrigation, flood management)

Available Budget
Three categories of grant exist under this call. These include:
Category A - Maximum of $30,000
Category B - Maximum of $10,000
Category C - Maximum of $5,000

Based on the proposals received and evaluation reports, the grant committee reserves the right not to award all the available funds or to redistribute the funds between the call priorities.
At least 80% of funding should be applied towards non-personnel costs.
The budget for the proposed project should be prepared knowing that funds will be distributed in two instalments: 60% at the start of the project, and 40% upon receipt of a satisfactory six-month progress report.

Implementation Period
Projects should last 12 months.

Eligibility Criteria for Research Projects Leading to Product Development

(a) Technical Viability, Novelty & Scalability
The project must be technically feasible with a clear developmental roadmap. It should demonstrate innovation (new solution or significant improvement over existing ones). The proposed product must have scalability potential for mass adoption or commercialization.

(b) Research Team Competence & Structure
The Principal Investigator (PI) should be a faculty member (minimum rank: Lecturer II with PhD for Category C Grants; Lecturer I with PhD for Category B Grants; Senior Lecturer and above for Category A Grants) from either Covenant University or Landmark University, with relevant expertise in the proposed field. Persons on non-tenured appointments including those on sabbatical, the International Visiting Scholars (IVS) programme, adjunct appointments, or other temporary appointments may apply only as Co-Investigators. Industry practitioners may also apply only as Co-Investigators.

The team composition should include multidisciplinary members (e.g., engineers, business developers, scientists) to ensure holistic execution. Postgraduate students may be included as co-researchers under faculty supervision. The PI should provide quarterly financial, scientific, and progress reports to the grant committee.

(c) Market Relevance & Commercial Potential
The project must address a clear market need with evidence of demand. It should present a competitive advantage over existing solutions. A business model/sustainability plan should be included, showing how the product will remain viable post-grant.

(d) Budget Appropriateness & Justification
The requested funds must be reasonable and well-justified for the proposed outcomes. The budget should cover R&D (research, design, experimentation), prototyping & testing, and commercialization steps (regulatory compliance, pilot testing, IP filing). Preference will be given to projects with co-funding or industry partnerships to extend impact.

(e) Compliance with Ethical & Safety Standards
The project should adhere to Covenant University, Landmark University and National ethical guidelines. The resulting product must comply with safety and industry regulations (e.g., NAFDAC, SON, ISO standards).

(f) Social, Environmental & Long-Term Impact
The project should demonstrate measurable social benefits (e.g., job creation, poverty reduction, improved healthcare access). It should promote environmental sustainability (e.g., reduced carbon footprint, waste reduction). A long-term viability plan must be included (e.g., revenue model, investor engagement).

(g) Minimum Viable Product (MVP) Delivery Timeline
The project must deliver a functional MVP within 12 months of funding. Clear milestones and key performance indicators (KPIs) should be provided.

(h) Industry & Government Partnerships
Evidence of collaboration with relevant companies, agencies, or investors is preferred. Projects with letters of support/partnership from industry or government will be prioritised.

Application Requirements
Interested applicants should submit:
1. A detailed research proposal (max 10 pages) including:
   - Problem statement & innovation
   - Methodology & development plan
   - Market analysis & commercialization strategy
   - Budget breakdown & justification
   - Expected impact & sustainability plan
2. CV of the PI and team members (highlighting relevant experience).
3. Supporting documents (e.g., partnership agreements, preliminary research findings).

Selection Process
- Stage 1: Administrative screening for completeness & eligibility.
- Stage 2: Technical review by an expert panel (academia & industry).
- Stage 3: Shortlisted applicants may be invited for a pitch presentation.
- Final Decision: Approved projects will be announced with funding disbursed in tranches tied to milestones.

Key Dates
- Call now opens on: **May 16, 2025**
- Submission Deadline: **July 30, 2025**
- Announcement of Awards: **October 1, 2025**

Proposal Submission
All submissions should be made using the link below:
https://bit.ly/DOFCRIPBaR_SubmissionLink