



University of Mauritius -WTO Chairs Research Grant

Call for Research Proposal

The WTO Chair at the University of Mauritius opens a call for Research Proposal for the University of Mauritius WTO Chair Awards, 2011 Edition.

About WTO Chairs Programme

The WTO Chairs Programme (WCP) seeks to enhance knowledge and understanding of the trading system among academics, citizens and policy makers in developing countries by stimulating teaching, research and public debate on international trade and trade cooperation at the level of tertiary education and research institutions.

The WCP provides financial support for a period of four years to academic institutions, and facilitates continuous interaction between institutions and individuals associated with the WCP, including through an internet-based platform of services and products. It also supports academic institutions and associated individual scholars from developing countries in the following areas: course preparation, teaching, research and information dissemination.

The ultimate objective of the WTO Chairs Programme is to strengthen the human and institutional capacities of universities from developing countries to support governments in the formulation of sound trade policies. The programme also seeks, through the Chairs, to support and facilitate the involvement in the process of other relevant stakeholders, such as the private sector, non-state actors and civil society. Policies that are understood and supported by the public at large are far more likely to succeed than those which are simply imposed, whether by internal or external decision-makers.

One of the main objectives of WCP is to promote research focused on extending specialized knowledge and explaining the policy relevance of existing research. Institutions can support academic cooperation with other institutions of the WCP, in respect of possible joint research, cooperation arrangements on lecturing and visit exchanges.

About the University of Mauritius -WTO Chair programme

The WTO is providing annual financial support to the UoM for a period of four years to facilitate continuous interaction between the University and other national and international think-tanks. It provides financial support to the UoM and associated individual scholars towards their course preparation, teaching, research and outreach activities. This programme is part of the technical assistance and training programme that the WTO delivers, with a view to enhancing the quality and level of participation of developing countries in the multilateral trading system. As part of its research agenda, the WCP-UOM organizes international conferences on trade related aspects, encourages and facilitates networking for African researchers, engages in capacity building and also funds research.

Call for Research Proposal

Proposals for research projects are hereby solicited from African researchers on subject areas in line with the WTO mandates and objectives.

In particular, for the 2011 Edition, we welcome proposals addressing, but not limited to the following themes:

- **Trade issues in energy, natural resources, and food security**
- **WTO and climate change**
- **WTO and economic crises**
- **Governance, Trade and Economic Development**
- **Binding Constraints to Trade Expansion: Is Aid for Trade the Solution?**
- **NTMs : Obstacles to Trade and Growth**
- **Competition Policy and Trade Liberalisation: The Nexus**

Award

Awards for Research Grants are up to US\$5,000. A maximum of three (3) Research Grants will be awarded after the review by a panel of experts.

Submission of Proposals

Proposals designed along the guidelines specified below should be submitted electronically to the secretariat (wtochairmauritius@uom.ac.mu, copied to Dr V Tandrayen (vtandrayen@uom.ac.mu) and Dr B Seetanah (b.seetanah@uom.ac.mu))

Important Dates

The deadline for submitting proposals is February 28th 2011. Selected researchers will be notified by March 15th 2011 .The first draft of the study is due on 15th April 2011 and the final on 15th June 2011.

Requirements

It is expected that each proposal will include the following:

- Background: The policy context of the proposed research.
- Objective(s): A statement of the specific research objectives, the issues to be addressed, and the questions that would be answered
- Existing knowledge: A brief review of the relevant literature, and previous research on the given topic. Also the existing policy of the state on the research topic
- Proposed Methodology: a description of the proposed research methodology – surveys, interviews, econometrics, including a discussion of data requirement and availability (and, where necessary, data collection strategy)
- Results, value added, and policy relevance: Anticipated results and how they might contribute to knowledge, future research and especially public policy

Interested Researchers should also submit the following:

- CVs of the researcher/team members;
- Timeline of the proposed research, including a brief description of activities and timeline needed for each activity and the total duration of research project shall not exceed 4 months; and
- Estimated budget including expenditure by major line item, e.g., research assistants, travel, computer time, etc. Maximum budget per proposal will be USD 5,000.

Technical Queries

Technical questions and further information regarding the call for proposal can be directed to the members of the co-coordinating team:

Verena Tandrayen – v.tandrayen@uom.ac.mu;

Boopen Seetanah – b.seetanah@uom.ac.mu

Vinesh Sannassee – rvsan@uom.ac.mu

Baboo Nowbutsing – b.nowbutsing@uom.ac.mu