

TETFund NATIONAL RESEARCH FUND (NRF) 2026 GRANT CYCLE CALL FOR CONCEPT NOTES

INTRODUCTION

Following the successful completion of the processing of the research proposals submitted to NRF under the 2025 Grant Cycle, culminating in the total award of a little over N6.09 billion to support 174 Research Projects, the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) wishes to inform the Nigerian research community, in particular, and the public in general, that the Federal Government has approved a total sum of N10 billion for the NRF 2026 Grant Cycle. The process of accessing the 2026 NRF Grant starts with the response to this Call-for-Submission-of-Concept-Notes by Principal Investigators of the proposed Research Projects. This will be followed by the submission of Full Proposals by only those whose Concept Notes have been evaluated and the Research Projects are considered fundable.

THEMATIC AREAS FOR THE 2026 GRANT APPLICATION

The thirty prioritized thematic areas of research are in three categories: Humanities & Social Sciences; Science, Engineering, Technology & Innovation and Cross-Cutting

Category 1	Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)
Thematic Area 1	Citizenship and National Integration
Thematic Area 2	Conflict, Defense and Security
Thematic Area 3	Economic Development and Globalization
Thematic Area 4	Education and Human Capital
Thematic Area 5	Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion
Thematic Area 6	Governance, Politics, Law and Ethics
Thematic Area 7	History, Culture and Identities
Thematic Area 8	Humanities, Social Sciences, Technology and Business Interface
Thematic Area 9	Languages, Literatures and Media
Thematic Area 10	Population and Migration
Thematic Area 11	Social Development and Welfare
Thematic Area 12	Tourism, Sports and Recreation
Category 2	Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation (SETI)
Thematic Area 13	Agriculture and Food Security
Thematic Area 14	Geosciences
Thematic Area 15	Health and Social Welfare
Thematic Area 16	Industry and Innovation
Thematic Area 17	Information Technology, Computing and Telecommunications
Thematic Area 18	Power and Energy
Thematic Area 19	Science and Engineering
Thematic Area 20	Space Science and Technology
Thematic Area 21	Sustainable use of Natural Resources and Terrestrial Ecosystems
Thematic Area 22	Transport and Infrastructure
Thematic Area 23	Water and Sanitation

Category 3	Cross-Cutting (CC)
Thematic Area 24	Blue Economy
Thematic Area 25	Clean and Affordable Energy
Thematic Area 26	Entrepreneurship and Wealth Creation
Thematic Area 27	Environment, Housing, Urban and Regional Development
Thematic Area 28	Innovation and Technology in National Defense Capabilities
Thematic Area 29	Resource Governance
Thematic Area 30	National System of Innovation

ELIGIBILITY

Lecturers in Public Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria are eligible. Multidisciplinary and Interdisciplinary researches, comprising researchers from various disciplines, are encouraged. The Principal Investigator (PI), will lead the Research Team and be personally responsible and held accountable for the conduct of the research. An added requirement is that the PI must be institution-based, with the PI's institution regarded as the Coordinating Institution and guarantor of proper application of the funds for the project.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The process of application is entirely on an online platform. The Principal Investigator is expected to visit nrf.tetfund.gov.ng, where he or she will be closely guided on the preparation and final submission of the Concept Note as well as the Research Proposal. Applicants are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the Research Brief and the Guidelines for the application.

All the submitted Concept Notes will be evaluated by the National Research Fund Screening and Monitoring Committee (NRFS&MC). The PIs of the successful Concept Notes will be communicated to proceed to the preparation of the Full Proposals, which will also be processed online. The PI and, at least, a member of the Research Team of a proposal that has been screened and adjudged fundable, shall be invited to defend their proposal before the NRFS&MC. Thereafter, the successful proposals for the award of grant will be presented to the Board of Trustees of TETFund for approval and disbursement of funds.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF CONCEPT NOTES

The Portal will be open for the submission of Concept Notes from 31/08/2026. Deadline for submission of Concept Notes shall be on 15/10/2026, Nigerian time. **There will be no extension.** For enquiries, please contact the TETFund NRF Secretariat using the following email addresses: zanginas@tetfund.gov.ng, odoju@tetfund.gov.ng, ukimci@tetfund.gov.ng, ugwubs@tetfund.gov.ng

Signed:
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The Executive Secretary