2022 Guidelines
for
Academic Consortium for the 21st Century (AC21)
Special Project Fund
-Focusing on thematic areas from the
United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs)-
Goal #3 Good Health and Well-being
Goal #7 Affordable and Clean Energy
Goal #9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

Application Period:

October 1, 2021 to December 15, 2021
AC21 Special Project Fund

1. Purpose
The AC21 Special Project Fund (SPF) was created to promote the development of research and educational exchanges between AC21 members by providing "seed funding" for a variety of collaborative projects and activities in research as well as in learning and teaching to promote scholarly engagement. In order to seek solutions for the global challenges that we face, the AC21 aims to incorporate the United Nation’s Sustainable Development Goals (UNSDGs) as a framework for all AC21 activities and efforts.

Activities funded by the AC21 SPF can include the organization of symposia, workshops, educational (or training) projects, as well as research projects that attempt to include as wide a circle of contacts and participants as possible (partners in higher education or industry, general public) and that aim at laying the foundation for enhanced cooperation in the future.

2. Application Eligibility
AC21 SPF seed funding will only support projects that aim to initiate new or novel collaboration. Projects that have already received AC21 funding are not eligible for additional funding in a future cycle, however successful projects leads or participants are not disqualified from future AC21 SPF applications.

Project lead(s) must be academic staff members of an eligible AC21 member institution who hold faculty positions or the equivalent. Administrative or professional staff (e.g. international office, innovation office, etc.) may contribute to the development and implementation of an AC21 SPF proposal. Additionally, input from students may be considered for a proposal, but students are not eligible to apply for the AC21 SPF.

AC21 member institutions with outstanding unpaid membership dues (as of September 30 each year) are ineligible to apply for the AC21 SPF, nor should be included as a potential project partner (see 5. Requirements and Restrictions, 4) Regarding “partners”). A list of AC21 members eligible for this year's SPF can be found in the Appendix on page 7.

3. SPF Award
- The award will range from USD $12,000 to USD $15,000, depending on the content of the proposal’s budget
- The number of AC21 SPF awards per year should range from three to five, based on the review results that the proposals demonstrate high standards across all criteria in 7. Review/Selection Process.
- To be awarded in February, as a single payment, to a designated bank account

4. Application Period
October 1, 2021 to December 15, 2021
5. Requirements and Restrictions

1) **The application deadline must be observed. Late applications will not be accepted.**

2) Each project shall have a Project Lead who acts as a representative applicant to fill out and sign the Application Form. The Project Lead’s university shall be regarded as the lead university pertaining to the project.

3) Applications should include:
   a) a completed Application Form including signatures (MS Word Format); and
   b) a detailed Budget Proposal (free form).

   Incomplete applications will not be considered.

4) Projects should include at least **three** AC21 member universities, from at least **two** different countries as *partners*. In addition, non-AC21 organizations may be involved such as:
   - Universities and research institutions
   - Industry
   - Governmental / intergovernmental organizations (incl. NPO, INGO etc.)
   - Local and regional governments and councils

5) In order to avoid any confusion or multiple submissions, Project Leads shall submit a complete set of application materials to their affiliated university's **AC21 Communicator** (see page 6), who shall then submit it to the AC21 General Secretariat.

6. Thematic areas

   Thematic areas for the 2022 AC21 SPF should reflect how the proposed activities relate to one of the three identified UN SDG’s. Applicants can select the most appropriate UN SDG in the application form (please choose one that best fits your proposal). Additionally, please elaborate the potential impact within the proposal narrative (Section 1: Contribution to AC21 activities)

   For this cycle, the following three UN SDGs will be addressed:
   - Goal #3 Good Health and Well-being
   - Goal #7 Affordable and Clean Energy
   - Goal #9 Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

   Please refer to the UN website for details about the UN SDG’s [https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/].

7. Review/Selection Process

1) All applications will be reviewed and scored by the AC21 Steering Committee (STC), in accordance with the criteria and weighting described below.

2) Based on the STC's evaluations, the General Secretariat will announce the final selection results to the applicants in late February.
[Evaluation Criteria and Weighting]

Applications will be evaluated and selected according to the following criteria:

- **Contribution to AC21 activities  40%**
  Does the proposal stimulate international collaboration that involves as many member universities from as many different countries as possible, and have the potential to be developed as an ongoing AC21 project contributing to the fields of research, education, management and international exchange? How does this project relate to the appropriate UN SDG?

- **Quality of the proposal   20%**
  Does the quality and theme of the event or project reflect positively on the goals and missions of AC21 as a motivator for international exchange and collaboration?

- **Accountability of the budget   20%**
  Is the budget spending plan realistic and legitimate? Items not be included in the budget plan are specified in 9. Guidelines for Budget Use (see page 4).

- **Sustainability and continuation of proposed collaboration   20%**
  Does the proposal have the potential to continue as a long-term project with academic and public impacts? Are there any expected outcomes which could serve as a basis for future collaborations?
  How can the proposal be financially sustainable? Are there any plans to continue the project if you do not receive the SPF?

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8. **Project Examples** (all proposals should reflect contribution to UN SDGs)

- ✔ Forum for graduate students
- ✔ International forums
- ✔ Workshops
- ✔ Joint symposia related to certain research areas
- ✔ Joint research between small groups of researchers
- ✔ Seed funds for educational projects
- ✔ Funds for startup long-term research projects or future research centers

9. **Guidelines for Budget Use**

1) Expenses may include:

   - Forum expenses
   - Travel, food and lodging expenses
   - Stationary and other consumables
   - Honorarium (lecturers, external speakers, debate moderators)
   - Other costs directly related to the project

2) Expenses may **NOT** include:

   - Salaries (for example event organizers, web designers or student assistants)
   - Scholarship for students
   - Students’ course fees
   - Office and conference equipment (PCs, projectors, furniture, etc.)
   - Indirect costs (overheads, facilities and administrative costs, analysis and communication, external audit etc.)

※Contact the AC21 General Secretariat for inquiries.
10. Timeline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Oct. 1, 2021 - Dec. 15, 2021</th>
<th>Application period for AC21 SPF 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jan-Feb, 2022</td>
<td>Evaluation / selection period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb, 2022</td>
<td>Announcement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2022 - February 28, 2023</td>
<td>Grant period</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 1, 2022</td>
<td>Submission 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>March 1, 2023</td>
<td>Submission 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11. Fund Recipient Obligations

1) Submission 1: by September 1, 2022
   - Progress report (Template 1)

2) Submission 2: by March 1, 2023
   - Article for the AC21 Newsletter (Template 2)
   - Final project report (Template 3)
   - Final financial report (Template 4)

*NOTE: Failing to submit these documents will render applicants' ineligible for future applications.*

3) Fund Recipients are requested to acknowledge the support received from AC21 in presentations, publications, events and publicity materials stemming from project activities.
   (e.g. AC21 logos to be placed on necessary documents)

Please download report templates from the AC21 website

12. Consent to Disclosure

Applicants must consent to the disclosure of information, details of which can be found below. The submission of applications will be regarded as acceptance thereof.

- The following information will be disclosed via email to unsuccessful applicants who submit individual requests, limited to, if, and when the request is received and approved by the General Secretariat:
  1. The content of each successful proposal as provided in their Application Forms, excluding personal information such as names and contacts, etc.
  2. A list of successful proposals with the total scores indicated, along with the total score of the requestor's proposal

13. Submission

Applicants (Project Lead) should submit applications to their university's AC21 Communicator, who will then collectively submit all applications from the university to the AC21 General Secretariat by December 15, 2021. The submission should be made via email both in original (MS Word, Excel, etc.) and PDF formats.
AC21 Communicator Contact Details (For distribution in your university)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name:</th>
<th>E-mail:</th>
<th>Tel:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Applications (both in original and PDF formats) should be submitted by the AC21 Communicator indicated above to the AC21 General Secretariat via email at office@ac21.org

AC21 General Secretariat, Nagoya University, Furo-cho, Chikusa-ku, Nagoya 464-8601, Japan
Email: office@ac21.org
http://www.ac21.org/
## Appendix

**AC21 Member Institutions eligible for SPF 2022 applications**  
*(As of October 1, 2021)*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>The University of Adelaide</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jilin University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Nanjing University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Northeastern University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Shanghai Jiao Tong University</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Tongji University</td>
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<tr>
<td>China</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>The University of Strasbourg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>University of Freiburg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>Universitas Gadjah Mada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>Nagoya University</td>
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<tr>
<td>New Zealand</td>
<td>University of Canterbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Stellenbosch University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>Kasetsart University</td>
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<tr>
<td>U.S.A.</td>
<td>North Carolina State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
AC21 Special Project Fund
Application Form

Applicants should submit application forms to the AC21 Communicator at their institution (see 5. Requirements and Restrictions and 13. Submission of the Guidelines).

Application Period: From October 1, 2021 to December 15, 2021

| Full name and title of applicant (Project Lead) | |
| Department | |
| University | |
| Contact details | Email: Telephone: |
| Applicant signature | |
| AC21 Communicator (name and signature) | |

Application submission checklist:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Please check the appropriate box</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Is this your first time applying for AC21 SPF?</td>
<td>□ Yes • □ No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Have you or one of the principle researchers/lecturers of the participating partner institutions (as indicated in the application form) received funding from AC21 SPF in the past?</td>
<td>□ Yes* • □ Never</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>*If “Yes” please provide the following information:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thematic areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Awarded year:</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. The completed Application Form (including this page)</td>
<td>□ Done</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Project Title</td>
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<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Thematic areas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please state which of the three thematic areas the application comes under by</td>
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<tr>
<td>checking the appropriate box:</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ SDGs Theme #3 (Good Health and Well-being)</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ SDGs Theme #7 (Affordable and Clean Energy)</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ SDGs Theme #9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure)</td>
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<td>3. Project Type</td>
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<tr>
<td>Please check the appropriate box that best describes your project type:</td>
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<tr>
<td>□ Joint Research</td>
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<td>□ Joint Education</td>
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<td>□ International Forum</td>
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<td>□ Symposium</td>
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<td>□ Workshop</td>
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<td>□ Other (please specify)</td>
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<td>4. Project Description</td>
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<td>(no more than 400 words)</td>
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<td>5. Contribution to AC21</td>
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<td>6. Partner Institution/s</td>
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<td>Additional AC21 Members:</td>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>2.</td>
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Other non-AC21 Institutions (if any):
(Please include the country location)

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<tr>
<th>7. Total Project Budget:</th>
<th>Grant amount sought:</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(Up to USD $15,000)</td>
<td>(Up to USD $15,000)</td>
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<tr>
<td>* The award will range from USD $12,000 to USD $15,000, depending on the content of the proposal</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Attach a separate detailed itemized budget)</td>
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**University in charge of budget management** (please note that the grant will be paid into the bank account of the Project Group Leader's affiliated university):

8. Timeline of Activities

<p>| March, 2022 | |
| April, 2022 | |
| May, 2022 | |
| June, 2022 | |
| July, 2022 | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August, 2022</td>
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<td>September, 2022</td>
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<td>December, 2022</td>
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<td>January, 2023</td>
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<td>February, 2023</td>
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