

Lancaster University

Name of Organisation:

Lancaster University

Fellowship Summary

Against a backdrop of sustained engagement with African stakeholders, we were funded through the British Council's Digital University Africa programme to conduct action research around the development of an exemplar digital training programme that will 'stimulate sustainable entrepreneurial thinking in scientists' (SETS) in Africa. We worked with 5 African partners in Nigeria, Ghana and Kenya to undertake the co-design and piloting activities and developed an online toolkit to empower institutions to develop their own entrepreneurial capacity as well as design their own programmes that create impactful collaborative solutions to place-based challenges.

The toolkit provides the essential ingredients to engage scientists, researchers, and academics in thinking more entrepreneurially, and being more creative in how they generate greater impact from their research activities. These Fellowships will strengthen this pilot programme and support 4 Professional Fellows to champion the toolkit and encourage a catalytic effect on uptake and outcomes from connected entrepreneurial ecosystems.

Weblink for Candidates

<https://recirculate.global/sets/>

Eligibility

1. Early career/mid-career researcher or academic in a licensed African institution within sub-Saharan Africa. All candidates must have a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) background or must be part of the international partnerships and research coordination offices of their institutions.
2. Must have an interest or some experience in entrepreneurship or in the utilisation of research output for societal impact or community change.
3. Candidates must commit to support the implementation of the Stimulating Sustainable Entrepreneurial Thinking in Scientists (SSETS) Toolkit in their institutions.

Proposed Fellowship Dates

21/02/2024 to 04/04/2024

Proposed Activity

Week 1

Wednesday 21 February

Introductory presentations

Campus orientation

Thursday 22 February: Training session

Student experience

Friday 23 February: Training sessions

Utilising the Stimulating Entrepreneurial Thinking in Scientists (SETS) Toolkit 1

Utilising the SETS Toolkit 2

Week 2

Monday 26 February: Training session

Enterprise Team, work in progress

Individual project work

An evening with African post-graduate students (sharing experiences)

Tuesday 27 February: Training sessions

Aligning your research work with SDGs

Career Enhancement and Resilience 1

Wednesday 28 February: Training session

Intellectual Property (IP), spin-outs and commercialisation

Excursion – talks and tours of Halton Mill and sustainable business workspaces

Thursday 29 February: Training sessions

Knowledge transfer models

Communication and engagement

Friday 1 March

Excursion

Week 3

Monday 4 March

Review of week

Group session

Tuesday 5 March: Training session

Developing research partnerships

Meeting with co-located small and medium enterprises (SMEs)

Wednesday 6 March

Individual project work

Thursday 7 March

Excursion – Eden Project, Cornwall

Friday 8 March

Excursion – Eden Project, Cornwall

Week 4

Monday 11 March: Training sessions

Career enhancement and resilience

Research ethics

Tuesday 12 March

Individual project work

Wednesday 13 March

Individual project work

Thursday 14 March

Excursion – Centre for Alternative Technology, Powys

Friday 15 March

Excursion – Centre for Alternative Technology, Powys

Week 5

Monday 18 March

Joining MBA masterclass – Lancaster University Management School (LUMS)

Tuesday 19 March

Joining MBA masterclass – Lancaster University Management School (LUMS)

Wednesday 20 March

Joining MBA masterclass – Lancaster University Management School (LUMS)

Thursday 21 March

Excursion (all day) – Cockerham Bioenergy Plant, Lancashire

Friday 22 March

Project work

Week 6

Monday 25 March: Training session

Understanding international funding and grantsmanship

Tuesday 26 March

Individual project work

Week 7

Thursday 4 April

Professional Fellows final presentations

Saturday 6 April

Return home

Priority Theme

Science and technology for development