

# Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund

## Terms & Conditions 2026

### 1. Eligibility

The purpose of the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund is to encourage **research, training and engagement** activities between Cambridge and Africa. Applicants from Cambridge apply jointly with applicants from universities in Africa and co-create the projects. It is important that the funding is not simply used to provide services that will be carried out at one institution on behalf of the other, and that **true collaboration** is demonstrated in the application.

An important function of the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund is to act as a **seed fund/catalyst** to enable the development of new research activity and further joint funding applications. Priority will be given to applications that build new partnerships (or expand existing ones) with the potential for long-term collaboration. Projects should also ideally strengthen research capacity of the Africa researcher and/or the African research institution/university.

Both applicants must be at **post-doctoral level or above**, and by completing an application, it is understood that they are both doing so with support from their Head of Department or equivalent. Both applicants should have an employment contract to a research group/department/faculty in their home institution. It is also expected that both applicants remain employed beyond the end date of their ALBORADA awards. The awards are not intended to support post-graduate students, however, limited support for students (e.g. as part of a research project or training visit) will be considered when there is a clear demonstration that this will enhance the relationship between the Cambridge and African Principal Investigators (PIs).

The Cambridge applicant must be either working at the University of Cambridge, or at a Research Institute affiliated with the University. Previous successful Cambridge applicants have included those from Wellcome Sanger Institute, National Institute of Agricultural Botany (NIAB) and British Antarctic Survey. The Cambridge applicants will act as the lead applicants, for administrative purposes, as the awards have to be paid to their Cambridge Departments/Faculties/Institutes.

The African applicant must be based in an African University or a Research Institute of equivalent standing to a University.

### 2. Awards available

Applications should either be for a workshop or a research catalyst grant within the standard limits of funding indicated.

Please note that the fund **cannot** cover overheads or administration costs. As the awards are small, we do not cover salaries of either PI. Furthermore, the fund will not support conference registration and attendance or publication costs. For queries on eligible costs, please contact [alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk)

Category	Standard limit
Support for a workshop or research training course in Africa	£15,000
Research project **	£25,000

\* All equipment purchased using the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund must be for use in Africa and must remain with the collaborating African partner institution/university upon completion of the project.

\*\*There are uniform funding limits for research projects across all disciplines. It is important to note that budgets must be well justified.

### 3. Application

Both applicants must register and complete a saveable online application form, available on the [Cambridge-Africa website](#). Final submissions should include the following documents (uploaded online):

- Case for support, which includes details of both the research and collaboration plans
- An itemised budget (template provided)

- A letter of support from the department/faculty of the Cambridge PI. (For the Department of Engineering, a letter of support from the Head of Division is needed) An email from an institutional email account is also acceptable
- A letter of support from the department/institution of the African PI
- CVs (maximum 2 pages) for both the Cambridge and Africa PI

The details of two suggested referees are also required; these should be individuals who have no conflicts of interest with the project or investigators (e.g. they should not be from either applicants' institution).

The deadline for submission is **3 September 2026** and applications can be submitted at any time before this. Any queries should be sent to [alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk)

#### 4. Returning recipients

Requests for additional support from **returning Cambridge or African recipients** will only be considered in the following instances:

- Support for **workshops** in Africa, whether previously funded or new. Applicants should explain why the funding is needed, what other funding options have been explored, and how the activity could be sustained in the future. Applicants who have previously received funding must have submitted the required reports.
- Requests for **research funding** (e.g. reagents, equipment, or travel) with an existing or new collaborator for a new project. Applicants who have previously received funding must have submitted the required reports.

#### 5. Award administration

Awards will be administered by the Department/Faculty of the Cambridge PI.

##### 5a. Pre-award administration

A member of staff with responsibility for the administration of the grant within this department/faculty must be named in the application form and applicants must confirm that prior discussion has taken place with this staff member.

Please note that you are not required to use Worktribe at the application stage. However, if the Cambridge department wishes to use the Worktribe project module to draft project costs before submitting an application, they can create the costing on Worktribe. The Worktribe project costing should remain in "Bid Development" and should not be approved or submitted to the Research Operations Office, as only project costs for awarded projects are to be submitted to the Research Operations Office. Full instructions will be provided to successful applicants and departmental Research Grant Administrators after funding decisions are made. All enquiries should be directed to [alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk); please do not contact the Research Operations Office directly about your application.

##### 5b. Post-award Administration

Successful applicants will receive an award letter to be signed and returned by the Cambridge PI and, where appropriate, a research collaboration agreement which must be executed by the delegated legal authority at the partner Institution, prior to the transfer of any funds. Templates are available [here](#).

Please note that the Collaboration Agreement Letters are not negotiable.

Awards will only be activated and assigned a project number by the Research Operations Office at Cambridge University on receipt of signed Award and Collaboration Agreement Letters where Collaboration Agreement Letters are issued. It is expected that the Cambridge University Department will **advance** the proportion of funds required for use by the collaborating institution on execution of the collaboration agreement and will subsequently reconcile expenditure against the advance.

The collaborating institution must acknowledge receipt of any items of equipment bought by the Fund with the administering Cambridge department and in the final report.

## 6. Research conduct and standards

All research and equipment transfer must be in accordance with national laws and institutional policies and guidelines. This includes the policies of both the University of Cambridge and the African Institution and the import and export laws of both the UK and the African country.

For health-related research projects which involve humans, their tissue and/or data further guidance is available [here](#). All projects should consider:

- [Ethics and sensitive data](#)
- [Material transfer](#)
- [Transport of scientific materials](#)
- [Other safety considerations and codes of practice](#)

## 7. Extensions & reporting

An End of Grant report is required to be submitted to [alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk) within 45 days of the award end date, as stated in the Award letter. A report template is available [here](#).

Please consider the necessary timescale for your project when applying; most grants will be in the range of 6-18 months. In exceptional circumstances an extension may be requested in writing to the Cambridge-Africa ALBORDA Research Fund Coordinator before the original end date of your grant.

We also recommend that you choose a start date for your project not earlier than 1 December 2026 to allow enough time for your grant to be activated.

The End of Grant report should detail achievements so far, including:

- Details of the collaboration between the Cambridge and African institutes/universities
- Outputs of the project/collaboration, including publications, presentations, awards and further grant applications. Please acknowledge Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund in publications or presentations related to your project
- Examples of publicity generated by the project (where applicable)
- Photographs of activities are encouraged. We would wish to use them for publicity purposes or include them in our reports to the ALBORADA Trust.
- Financial statement indicating how the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund was used

Some projects may be required to submit an interim report. This requirement will be stated in the award letter, where applicable. Those awarded workshop/training course awards will be required to write a blog on the impact of the workshop/training course on completion of the activity. It is anticipated that all workshops will have an evaluation component at the conclusion of the workshop

Informal updates and sharing of news, photographs and publicity outside of the specified reporting times are also encouraged, **as are any longer-term or subsequent outcomes**. Please send all to [alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk). For those who use social media, please tag @CambridgeAfrica

## 8. Timelines for the 2026 Call

Wednesday, 3 June 2026	Applications open
Thursday, 3 September 2026	Applications close
September-October 2026	Referees contacted Panel meeting Further information may be requested from applicants by the Panel
End of October 2026	Application outcomes confirmed