



Queries and responses on the request for research proposals

Economic Transformation Database

Last updated 19 January 2022

Q.1 How do I submit my proposal?

A.1 You can submit your proposal through the submission links of the [request for research proposals page](#).

Q.2 Should the paper also contain the researcher's understanding of how to bring in structural transformations to reverse any such identified adverse trend(s) in the available database?

A.2 This question may need some further clarification. In any case, an understanding of how structural change interacts with some identified trends should transpire from the proposal.

Q.3 Is it possible for a person to apply twice with two proposals?

A.3 Yes.

Q.4 Does research on the covid response in Cameroon fall under the scope of the RFRP?

A.4 This topic is outside the focus of this call unless there is a clear and convincing link to structural change.

Q.5 Can I amend the given titles as to my phrasing?

A.5 Yes.

Q.6 Am I only allowed to use the variables and sectors that are detailed on the UNU-WIDER – ETD website or can other variables and sectors from another country's context be used?

A.6 We welcome extensions of the countries included in ETD in the context of a specific research question. Adding additional variables to the analysis is possible.

Q.7 Do you accept proposals submitted outside of the provided submission form?

A.7 No. All proposals must be submitted through the relevant submission link.

Q.8 Does research on resettlement programmes fall under the proposal scope?

A.8 This topic is outside the focus of this call unless there is a clear and convincing link to structural change.

Q.9 Can a research proposal focus on one region of the database (e.g. sub-Saharan Africa) or is it preferable to include all of them regarding the scope of the call?

A.9 The research can focus on all regions, a region or even just one country.

Q.10 Is there a template for the expected format of the proposal?

A.10 UNU-WIDER does not use a standard template for proposals and cannot share examples. Proposals will be assessed based on (i) relevance to the research project, (ii) strength of theoretical, methodological, or empirical contribution, and (iii) clarity of writing.

Q.11 Does any empirical analysis need to use the ETD or is it acceptable to use alternative measures?

A.11 As long as it serves the project aims, this is not a necessary condition.

Q.12 Who is eligible to apply?

A.12 Proposals from individuals (or groups of individuals) as well as non-profit organizations are welcome. Applications from women and developing country researchers are particularly encouraged.

Q.13 Is it possible to extend the empirical research by using other data sets?

A.13 Yes.

Q.14 In case of successful proposals, will the contract be issued to the researcher or their host institute?

A.14 This will be determined case-by-case. Researchers or their institutions (non-profit) will sign a consultancy contract or an institutional contractual agreement with UNU-WIDER that follows the UNU conditions of service for Consultant Contracts (CTC) or Institutional Contractual Agreements (ICA). UNU-WIDER can sign an ICA with a researcher's host institution if the researcher is not allowed to sign individual contracts with other entities.

Q.15 Are you looking for proposals from a particular discipline?

A.15 This is a research project in economics, broadly defined.

Q.16 Are there any specific criteria for writing the proposal?

A.16 Each proposal will be reviewed for scientific merit and feasibility. Proposals will be selected on the basis of three criteria: (i) relevance to the research project, (ii) strength of theoretical, methodological, or empirical contribution, and (iii) clarity of writing. Furthermore, the aim is to have these papers published in high-quality journals or books in economics, political science, development studies, or related fields.

Q.17 Can I use microfinance and livelihoods in the research proposal?

A.17 As long as it serves the aims of the project.

Q.18 Is it possible to get comments on the proposal?

A.18 Only the final decision on whether to fund the proposal or not will be communicated to applicants. Applicants must not expect feedback on their proposals.

Q.19 One of the objectives of this RFRP suggests improving the quantity of information in the ETD. What types of data are primarily being sought by researchers if there is no field research component to this project? Without primary data collection in the field, are there any specific types of data the ETD would prefer?

A.19 As an example, the quantity and quality of the ETD might be improved by making innovative use of data collected and released by national statistical institutes.

Q.20 Is the proposal review team open to proposals which seek to add one or more countries to the ETD, using the same categories of data?

A.20 Yes.

Q.21 To what extent should we detail our proposed methods in our responses to this solicitation? Is a step-by-step breakdown necessary, or will an overview suffice?

A.21 Describe the proposed method in sufficient detail to allow for an evaluation.

Q.22 How many proposals are expected to be awarded?

A.22 We are looking at up to 8 proposals being funded for USD6000 each.

Q.23 Will researchers on separate proposals be offered opportunities to collaborate?

A.23 This is an interesting suggestion that we will take into account and seek to stimulate if opportunities arise.

Q.24 When would research commence, and what would be the deadline?

A.24 Please see the timeline in the [announcement](#).

Q.25 Can we use secondary data for our study and not refer to the published ETD data?

A.25 Yes, as long as it serves the aims of the project.

Q.26 Is there an expected format for the proposal?

A.26 No.

Q.27 Is there any limit to the size of the team?

A.27 No. However, kindly note that, as a standard procedure, we only contract the lead author with the understanding that additional co-authors will be remunerated by the lead author.

Q.28 Q.28: Is any institutional sanction/no objection certificate (NOC) needed for candidates who are currently employed?

A.28 No, but please make sure that the institute you work with allows you to sign an individual contract with us.