



Queries and responses on the request for research proposals

Data for tax revenue mobilization

Last updated: 05 October 2021

Q.1 Is the honorarium for accepted proposals fixed at USD 5,000?

A.1 As part of the RFRP, an honorarium of USD 5,000 per accepted proposal will be paid. In the event that there is more than one author, the payment will be divided equally among the co-authors.

Q.2 Is studying the relationship between aid and domestic resource mobilization within the scope of this call?

A.2 Yes, studying the impact of aid on domestic resource mobilization – especially the impact of aid on taxes – is an interesting research question in and of itself. There is significant amount of literature on the relationship, therefore studies using novel empirical strategies to test the robustness of previous findings would be welcome.

Q.3 Does UNU-WIDER has a particular format for research proposals that must be respected? Can you share an example of a previously accepted proposal?

A.3 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 empirical and policy contributions, and (iii) quality and clarity of writing.

Q.4 What type of data (time series, panel, etc.) the GRD provides?

A.4 The GRD provides cross-country data on various revenue and tax aggregates. The researcher determines the type of data to be downloaded from the database. For example, if there is an interest in looking at tax revenue mobilization in Mozambique, then data on Mozambique is obtainable, and so forth. Background notes on the GRD can be found on the [UNU-WIDER website](#).

Q.5 Is it possible to co-author in more than one proposal?

A.5 Yes.

Q.6 Should the categories answer, at the least, all the policy topics described in the call? Are there other policy topics of concern?

A.6 The policy topics listed in the call are indicative and a proposal does not have to respond to each of the policy topics discussed in the call. There are many other policy topics which may be relevant.

Q.7 What is the scope of the research? Which are the developing countries of concern? Is it developing countries in a region or regions (e.g. Africa, Asia, Americas, etc.), by income levels (e.g. low-income, low-middle income, etc.), or fuel-exporting or resource exporting developing countries?

A.7 There is no scope per se. All the groups mentioned can be analysed. For example, if the researcher is interested in comparing tax performance across regions (say Sub-Saharan Africa and Latin America) then the researcher collects data for countries in those regions. Likewise, if interest is in comparing tax performance across resource rich and non-resource rich countries, the researcher collects data on both groups of countries.

Q.8 What is the period of concern? Is it at least 40 years (What explains the observed variation in revenue mobilization both within and across developing countries over the past four decades?)? That is, from 1980 onwards?

A.8 The sample period will depend entirely on the specific research question.

Q.9 The offer and expectations says: ‘researchers may be asked to respond to reasonable requests by the project team and UNU-WIDER Publications Team with respect to finalization of the working papers. ‘What are examples of the reasonable requests?’

A.9 General communication leading up to the completion of the working paper and those related to meeting contractual obligations. Furthermore, as standard procedure authors are expected to answer copy edit queries during finalization of the working paper, and subsequent requests should the paper be selected for inclusion in a journal special issue; e.g. to meet specifications of the given journal and/or publisher.

Q.10 Is it possible to apply for both GRD and Inequality calls if my proposal seems relevant for both? Or should I choose one and tailor the proposal to it?

A.10 A researcher can respond to both the GRD, and Inequality calls but cannot use the same proposal for both calls.

Q.11 Should the initial proposal include bibliography?

A.11 Yes, preferably a short one.

Q.12 Could you clarify the definition and components of ‘other taxes’ on column BG of the excel document labelled GRD 2021 Central?

A.12 The definition of all the aggregates and their components can be found in the technical notes on the Institute’s website.

Q.13 Are you aiming to have the papers selected as part of this RFP feature in a journal special issue? If so, which journals are you targeting, and what is the probability of a journal special issue occurring? Have you already initiated contact with any particular journals? If so, which ones?

A.13 We may consider the accepted papers for a journal special issue. However, this is dependent on the quality of proposals received. If the proposals are of a higher quality, then a journal special issue will be considered. Potential journal outlets would include development studies journals, as well as public administration and even pure tax journals.

Q.14 If a journal special issue occurs and the researcher is not satisfied with the journal, can the researcher request that UNU-WIDER transfer

back the copyright, providing that the researcher has not accepted any payment or is willing to return the money if compensation has already been accepted?

A.14 In the event that an author does not wish to be part of a journal special issue submission, the copyright can be transferred to the author.

Q.15 By what date will UNU-WIDER inform selected researchers whether it will relinquish the copyright and allow researchers to submit the paper to a journal of their choosing?

A.15 The timeline of a possible journal special issue will be discussed in the GRD Project Workshop in March/April 2022. If a paper will not be included in a possible journal special issue, the copyright can be transferred back to the author.

Q.16 Can a study undertaken in pursuance of this RFRP make a case for expanding the scope/dataset/parameters of the GRP in order to further its novel applications for tax revenue mobilization?

A.16 Yes. Any research that combines the GRD with other novel sources of data, in order to better understand tax revenue mobilization, is welcome.

Q.17 Is the aim of the RFRP to look at tax revenue mobilization from the point of view of direct taxes, indirect taxes or both?

A.17 This RFRP aims to look at the mobilization of taxes from all dimensions, therefore a proposal could focus on either or both. A proposal could also include components of direct taxes (such as corporate income taxes) and indirect (such as international trade taxes or VAT). Broader aggregates (total taxation, total government revenue) can also be analysed.

Q.18 What are the prospects of the Working Paper culminating into a larger research project, where we can extensively delve into the issue of tax mobilization in various states in India?

A.18 The GRD does not provide such granularity across countries, therefore such a project would not be possible under the GRD project.

Q.19 What is the policy of the UNU-WIDER with regards to the funding for carrying out the empirical research?

A.19 The honorarium is all-inclusive.