

Amu/9/64/143

20 NOV 2025

Call for Research Concept Notes

Thematic Research Projects – Arba Minch University

Issued by: Research Affairs Directorate

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2025

Submission Platform: Research and Outreach Management System (ROMS)

Background

Arba Minch University (AMU), recognized as one of Ethiopia's research-intensive universities, is pleased to announce a call for **Research Concept Notes** under its **Thematic Research Scheme**. This initiative is anchored in the **Revised Research and Publications Guideline (2025)** and the University's **Ten Thematic Research Areas**, which reflect national development priorities and regional challenges.

This call aims to foster **multidisciplinary, demand-driven, and impactful research** that contributes to knowledge generation, innovation, and community transformation.

Thematic Focus Areas

Concept notes must align with one or more of AMU's ten prioritized thematic areas:

1. Water, Earth, and Atmospheric Science
2. Agriculture and Life Science
3. Manufacturing, Energy, Mining, and Built Environment
4. Digital Technologies and Artificial Intelligence
5. Health and Wellbeing
6. Basic Sciences
7. Economic, Entrepreneurial, and Social Development
8. Tourism, Indigenous, and Socio-Cultural Studies
9. Law, Governance, Regional Integration, and International Relations
10. Education Research



For detailed descriptions and sub-themes, refer to the **Research Thematic Areas Document** and **Annex 22** of the Revised Research Guideline.

Eligibility

- Open to **teaching and research staff** of Arba Minch University
 - **Multidisciplinary teams** are required
 - Priority will be given to concept notes that:
 - Are **female-led**
 - Align with **national and regional development goals**
 - Demonstrate potential for **external funding or scalability**
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☐ Mandatory Team Composition

Each thematic research team must include:

- Experts from **at least three distinct disciplines**
 - **Three senior staff members**, with one designated as **Lead Principal Investigator (PI)**
 - **Two PhD students and one Master's student**
 - **At least one female staff member**
 - **One junior staff member**
 - **One professional** from a relevant industry or sector office
 - A clearly defined **role and work package** for each team member
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Concept Note Format and Content

Concept notes serve as an initial screening tool for thematic relevance and feasibility. They must:

- Be **maximum five pages**, single-spaced, Times New Roman 12 pt font
- Follow **APA referencing style**
- Include the following sections:
 1. Project Title
 2. Introduction and Problem Statement
 3. Key Research Objectives (goal and specific objectives)
 4. Overview of Proposed Methodology
 5. Expected Outcomes and Impact
 6. Alignment with AMU's Thematic Areas
 7. Target Groups/Beneficiaries
 8. Project Duration and Timeline
 9. Budget Summary/Estimate
 10. PI and Co-Investigators with Specializations
 11. Contact Information
 12. References



Budget and Duration

- **Maximum Budget:** ETB 2–5 million per project
 - Budget depends on thematic project type, project scope, lab/field intensity, and intervention components (See the guideline for details) and subject to budget defence
 - **Project Duration:** 3 to 4 years
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Key Dates

Activity	Date
Concept Note Submission Deadline	November 15, 2025
Notification and Feedback	November 25, 2025
Proposal Development Workshop	November 25, 2025
Full Proposal Submission	December 25, 2025

Evaluation Process

All Concept notes will be reviewed by a panel of thematic area experts.

- **Minimum Score for Acceptance:** 75%
 - Evaluation Criteria (see Annex 4 of the guideline):
 - Strategic Alignment (15%)
 - Societal Relevance (15%)
 - Scientific Merit (15%)
 - Impact Potential (15%)
 - Partnership & Funding Viability (15%)
 - MEL Compatibility (10%)
 - Compliance with Required Components (15%)
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Submission Process

All concept notes must be submitted via the **Research and Outreach Management System (ROMS)**.

For login credentials or technical support, contact the ROMS team.

↪ Contact

Research Affairs Directorate

✉ erd@amu.edu.et

✈ Next Steps

Concept notes that meet the thematic and quality criteria will be invited to submit **full proposals** for the second round of competition.

We look forward to receiving your innovative and transformative research ideas.

