

The University of Nairobi is training academic staff on grant proposal writing. The 5-day training aims at strengthening the participants' skills in developing sound, fundable proposals and conducting collaborative project planning.

The training is an initiative of the office of the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Research, Production and Extension (DVC, RPE) in collaboration with University of Nairobi Enterprises and Services (UNES).

While officially opening the workshop, Prof. Lucy Irungu, DVC, RPE, said that the training workshop is geared towards sharpening skills in grant and proposal writing in different areas of specialization and interest. In her brief remarks, Prof. Irungu revealed that within the University, the disparity of research competitiveness is evidenced in the distribution of research grants by College. The College of Health Sciences accounts for 75 percent of the 3.6 Billion grant portfolio, while College of Architecture and Engineering, College of Education and External Studies and College of Humanities and Social Sciences together account for less than 10 percent of the University grants portfolio.

On his part, the Managing Director, UNES, Prof. Julius Ogeng'o, encouraged the academic staff to write more proposals and apply for grants. The University's core functions are teaching, research and service to the community. In order to enhance research, the University is building research capacity, competitiveness, research management and infrastructure.

The main determinants of a world class university are based on the quality of research undertaken and how well it attracts grants from funding agencies and governments. In addition, research output in terms of publications, innovations, technologies, patents and other forms of intellectual property are also determinants of a world class university.