**GHANA CHAMBER OF MINES (GCM) - TERTIARY EDUCATION FUND (TEF)**

**FRAMEWORK FOR GCM-TEF RESEARCH GRANT FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS**

**1. Introduction**

The Ghana Chamber of Mines (GCM) is a voluntary private sector employers association representing companies and organisations engaged in the minerals and mining industry. The mission of GCM is to represent the mining industry in Ghana using the resources and capabilities of its members to deliver services that address members, government and community needs, in order to enhance development. In line with its mission, GCM launched its Tertiary Education Fund (TEF) in October, 2019, with the initial phase of *five years* earmarked for the University of Mines and Technology (UMaT), Tarkwa, which is the premier mining institution in Ghana, to aid in producing high calibre mining professionals for the local industry and beyond. UMaT also recognises the need to continuously conceive and develop research interventions in partnership with external stakeholders, especially industry and policy actors, for the human and economic development of Ghana. To enhance the contribution of UMaT in developing projects with readily implementable outputs and uptake, the Council of GCM approved the establishment of the GCM-TEFResearch Grant for UMaT Postgraduate Students. The objective of the Grant is to provide financial support for Postgraduate Students to engage in industry-related research for their theses.

The UMaT GCM-TEF Committee will call for application on 22nd November, 2023 and close it on 10th January, 2024. **Interested Masters and Doctoral students should apply to the Grant using their thesis topics with proposed solutions that should be relevant to the mining industry. Before submission, the applicant must obtain support letters from a Technical Person from Industry (who will serve as an Industry Advisor) and an Academic Supervisor from UMaT.** The UMaT GCM-TEF Committee will pre-screen the completed application documents for compliance to the application requirements, and forward shortlisted applications to the Governing Board for further assessment. The Board would recommend awardees (after assessment by the Chamber’s Technical Committee) for consideration to the GCM Council.

**2. Guidelines for Implementation of the Grant**

***2.1 Eligibility Criteria for Applicants***

To be eligible for the Postgraduate Research Grant, the applicant must:

1. Be a Masters or Doctoral Student of UMaT and must have completed the first semester of the first year successfully;
2. Not have benefited from the grant before (for Master students) and for two concurrent years (for Doctoral students), unless under special circumstances to be determined by the Governing Board;
3. Apply and submit a *Completed Application Form with Research Proposal and all Other Relevant Documents Before* the deadline for the submission of the application;
4. Submit only one application; and
5. Undertake to comply with the criteria set for the disbursement of the grant and biannual reporting of research findings.

***2.2 Accessing the Fund*** ***and Important Deadlines***

1. The Grant is to be accessed online through the application portal set up by the UMaT GCM-TEF Committee;
2. Application will open by 22nd November, 2023 and close on 10th January, 2024;
3. Applicants must access the Grant application form online, and submit the completed form online before the deadline;
4. The application should include a research proposal and a work plan with milestones and proposed budget. For PhD candidates who would require funding for more than one year, the application should include the work plan, milestones and budget for each phase (year) of the project. *The proposal should quantify the percentage of the expected budget to be borne by the Mining Company, whose problem is the subject of investigation;*
5. The completed application should include support letters from a Technical Advisor from Industry and the Supervisor of the thesis;
6. Incomplete applications, and applications submitted after the deadline shall not be considered;
7. The Governing Board shall consult the Chamber’s Technical Committee to vet and select short-listed candidates by the middle of February, 2024;
8. The Governing Board will announce awardees for the year by the end of May, 2024;
9. The Governing Board will release the Funds to the Awardees through UMaT by the end of June, 2024;
10. UMaT will release the fund in two tranches for major projects. The first tranche will be released upon receipt of the award letter and the second tranche upon the presentation and approval of mid-year report. Full funding shall be released for seed projects. *Please note that UMaT Policy on research/consultancy will apply*; and
11. *Awardees must obtain ethical clearance for the study from the UMaT ORIC before the start of the project.*

***2.3 Value of the Fund***

1. The value of the Grant for one applicant shall not exceed the cedi equivalent of $5,000, and shall cover direct research-related costs such as field work, analysis, field visit, community entry, field/research assistants, seminars, accommodation during field visit/work, transportation, meetings, stipend, conference, publications, but not salaries;
2. This year, the award will cover 10-20 applicants depending on the requests; and
3. *In cases where the research has a direct benefit to a mining company, the company shall be expected to bear part of the cost requested by the applicant by contributing in cash and/or in kind.*

***2.4 Payment to Awardees***

1. Payment of the support amount shall be made directly to the UMaT Project Account. Based on approved budget, an awardee shall request for first tranche of payment (70%) with a list of activities to be carried out;
2. The second tranche (30%) of the fund shall be released upon submission and approval of mid-term report of the project;
3. Payment shall be retired before the release of the next tranche grant, and such shall also be retired; and
4. In the case of purchase of equipment or where appropriate, procurement processes shall be followed. ***Such equipment with a useful life beyond the project period shall remain the property of the Awardee’s Department***.

***2.5 Renewal of Grant***

The Grant shall be awarded for one academic year for Master’s Students. PhD candidates can benefit for two consecutive years, which may be extended under special circumstances to be determined by the Governing Board. Renewal for the second year will be subject to evidence of satisfactory progress on the thesis and biannual reporting on the research. *For PhD candidates who would require funding for more than one year, the application should include the work plan, milestones and budget for each year of the project.*

***2.6 Advantage for Visible Minority***

The Grant is open to all qualified applicants. However, in the event of parity, females and disadvantaged persons (*for example, persons with disability, persons from less endowed departments*) who meet the required criteria would be given preference.

***2.7 Termination of Grant***

The Grant of an awardee may be terminated if the beneficiary:

1. Is deceased;
2. Abandons the research for which the Fund was originally meant; and
3. Does not keep up with the required biannual reporting.

***NB: For points b. and c., the awardee shall be required to refund the amount received in full.***

***2.8 Intellectual Property***

For innovative solutions which result in significant cost savings for the industry, the *Intellectual Property* should be protected through a patent which recognises the Researcher, the University and the Chamber of Mines.

***2.9 Close Out***

Awardees are required to submit a copy of their final thesis to the Ghana Chamber of Mines through the School of Postgraduate Studies.

**3. Evaluation of Proposals**

All sections in the application form are relevant and will be evaluated.