**FRAMEWORK FOR GCM-TEF RESEARCH FUND TO UMaT FACULTY MEMBERS**

**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 Fund for UMaT Faculty. The objective of the Fund is to equip Faculty Members of the UMaT to engage in research of relevance to the mining industry and/or the nation, and to strengthen collaboration between UMaT Faculty and Industry.

The UMaT GCM-TEF Committee will call for application on 22nd November, 2023 and close it on 10th January, 2024. **Potential researchers will apply to the Fund with proposed solutions to their identified problems of relevance to the mining industry and/or the nation.** The UMaT GCM-TEF Committee will pre-screen the completed application documents for compliance to the application requirements, and forward it to the Governing Board for further assessment. The Board would recommend awardees for consideration to the GCM Council.

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

***2.1 Eligibility Criteria for Applicants***

To be eligible for the Staff Research Fund, the applicant must:

1. Be a Faculty Member of UMaT and physically present on campus;
2. Not have benefited in two concurrent years and three concurrent years in the case of researchers doing their PhD, unless there are no other suitable applications in the year under consideration;
3. Apply and submit a *Completed Application Form* before the deadline for the submission of applications;
4. Submit only one application; and
5. Undertake to comply with the criteria set for the disbursement of the Fund and biannual reporting of research findings.

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

1. The Fund is to be accessed online through an application portal set up by UMaT with inputs from the Governing Board;
2. Applications call will open by 22nd November, 2023 and close on 10th January, 2024;
3. Applicants must access the Fund application form online, and submit the completed form and all other relevant documents online before the deadline;
4. The application should include a research proposal, well laid out to meet a need in the industry or the nation. *The proposal should quantify the percentage of the expected budget to be borne by the University and/or the Mining Company, whose problem is the subject of investigation;*
5. Incomplete applications and applications submitted after the deadline shall not be considered;
6. The Governing Board shall consult the Chamber’s Technical Committee to vet and select short-listed candidates by the middle of February, 2024;
7. The Governing Board will announce awardees for the year by the end of May, 2024;
8. The Governing Board will release the Funds to the Awardees through UMaT by the end of June, 2024;
9. 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
10. *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 Fund for one application shall not exceed the cedi equivalent of $10,000 for Major projects and $3,000 for Seed projects, and shall cover direct research-related costs (field work, analysis, field visits, community entry, field/research assistants, accommodation, transport, meetings, time on project, stipend, airfare, conference, etc);
2. This year, the award will cover 4-6 applicants depending on the requests;
3. *Seed projects allow a researcher or a team of researchers to conduct a small or exploratory research projects focusing on exploring the feasibility of new research approaches, and allowing investigators to collect preliminary data to subsequently develop major grant applications*;
4. Research fund shall not be used to pay salaries to the researcher(s); and
5. *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 second tranche funds, 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 Principal Investigator’s Department.***

***2.5 Extension of Fund***

The Fund shall be awarded for one year; however, an extension (cost or no-cost) may be approved by the Governing Board upon satisfactory reporting and justification by the researcher and/or recommendation from UMaT. A further extension after this period may not be granted.

***2.6 Advantage for Visible Minority***

The Fund 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 Transfer of Project Lead***

In the event that the Principal Investigator (PI) is deceased/incapacitated /unavailable, the project lead will be transferred to any of the Co-Is. In such cases, the project team must notify in writing to the UMaT GCM-TEF Committee to initiate the transfer process.

***2.8 Research Output***

Research Teams are expected to produce research outputs that produce knowledge and products that are applicable outside of the research setting. The awardee is expected to produce a publication within one year after completion of the research.

***2.9 Termination of Fund***

The Fund 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 regime or any other requirements of the Fund.

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

***2.10 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.

***2.11 Close Out***

PIs are to ensure that final project and financial reports are submitted to ORIC at the end of the project. This should include a report on the entire project including any equipment that might have been acquired under the projects.

**3. Evaluation of Proposals**

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