



## **PIURN Research Collaboration Pilot Program**

### **Call for Research Proposals**

**Commencing 2017**

The Pacific Islands Universities Research Network (PIURN) is pleased to announce that the University of the South Pacific and the University of the New Caledonia are making available FJ\$250,000 to fund research projects between member universities, namely:

1. Divine Word University (DWU, PNG)
2. Fiji National University (FNU, Fiji)
3. National University of Samoa (NUS, Samoa)
4. Pacific Adventist University (PAU, PNG)
5. PNG University of Natural Resources and Environment (UNRE)
6. PNG University of Technology (UNITECH)
7. Solomon Islands National University (SINU, Solomon Is)
8. The University of the South Pacific (12 PICS)
9. University of Fiji (UOF, Fiji)
10. University of French Polynesia (UPF, Tahiti)
11. University of Goroka (UOG, PNG)
12. University of New Caledonia (UNC, New Caledonia)
13. University of Papua New Guinea (UPNG)

This initiative aims to promote research collaborations among member universities and fund projects that not only address regional needs, but also can morph into larger sustainable research programs that will become the source of continuous publications and new masters and PhD students, and attract external funding.

The following set of criteria will be used to identify fundable proposals. The footnotes are noteworthy:

1. The proposal must align with one or more of the following Strategic Research Themes and indicate potential regional impact by linking research to PIURN member country priorities;<sup>1</sup>

<b>The University of the South Pacific</b>	<b>University of New Caledonia</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Human Capacity Building and Leadership;</li> <li>2. Economic Growth, Regional Co-operation and Integration for Sustainable Pacific Economies;</li> <li>3. Pacific Ocean and Natural Resources;</li> <li>4. Pacific cultures and Societies;</li> <li>5. ICT and Knowledge Economy;</li> <li>6. Government, Public Policy and Social Cohesion; and</li> <li>7. Environment, Sustainable Development and Climate Change.</li> </ol>	<p>The action scope of the Consortium for Cooperation in Research, University Education and Innovation in new-Caledonia (CRESICA) has an integrated approach backed up by the continuum of the catchments and is based on:</p> <p>Three main topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The valuation/recognition of natural resources (bio-diversity, mines and environment);</li> <li>2. The enhancement of health connected to environment and societies;</li> <li>3. The support of institutional, societal and cultural changes;</li> </ol> <p>And two cross-cutting themes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Insularity-globalization;</li> <li>2. Climate change.</li> </ol> <p>The main goal of the 2017-2021 framework convention with the Ministry of education (“Contrat de site”) of the University of New-Caledonia (UNC) wishes to be fully aligned with the thematic objectives and cross-cutting themes of the CRESICA. In order to do so, the UNC focuses its priorities under the following theme: “Valuation and enhancement of various physical, living, social and institutional evolutions in New-Caledonia”.</p>

2. The research, to be led by a USP researcher as Principal Investigator if an SRT is chosen from the 7 USP SRTs, or to be led by a UNC researcher as Principal Investigator if an SRT is chosen from UNC’s list, must be multi-disciplinary involving cross-school, cross-faculty and cross-PIURN participations;<sup>2</sup>
3. The proposal must indicate how the research will contribute to research capacity-building within a PIURN member university (for example, by providing research mentoring to junior staff, building research student networks attached to the research project, forging multi-disciplinary linkages within the University, etc.);<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Projects that directly address a national or regional problem via research will be given priority.

<sup>2</sup> A project must involve at least two member universities;

<sup>3</sup> A research program can only be sustainable if capacity-building is at its core.

4. The proposal must indicate potential or existing co-funders<sup>4</sup> including details of their level of cash and/or in-kind support. Supporting evidence to be provided;
5. A dissemination plan (including a publication plan that indicates quality academic outcomes) must be included in each proposal.<sup>5</sup>
6. Use the template attached. Do not extend beyond 5 pages. Use Time New Roman, 11pt font. List references as footnotes.<sup>6</sup>

The following tentative timeline will be followed:

- **31 July 2017:** Closing date;
- **31 August 2017:** Feasible projects identified and concerned Research Team contacted to work with the Research Office in improving or enhancing the proposals;
- **30 September 2017:** Successful proposals announced at the latest;
- **1 October 2017:** Projects commence at the latest.

Queries on and proposals for USP-led projects are to be emailed to Professor Jito Vanualailai, USP:

[jito.vanualailai@usp.ac.fj](mailto:jito.vanualailai@usp.ac.fj)

For UNC-led proposals, please email Ms. Gwenaelle Renaud, UNC:

[gwenaelle.renaud@univ-nc.nc](mailto:gwenaelle.renaud@univ-nc.nc)

Or for more information on partnerships with UNC, please contact Ms. Marine Pirodeau:

[marine.pirodeau@invite.univ-nc.nc](mailto:marine.pirodeau@invite.univ-nc.nc)

Online information for this Call for Proposals can be accessed at

[https://research.usp.ac.fj/?page\\_id=5594](https://research.usp.ac.fj/?page_id=5594)

---

<sup>4</sup> Local non-PIURN partners can include government ministries, NGOs, and/or companies. International (outside PIURN member countries) partners can include researchers from other universities. They can fund an item in the Budget and/or support the project in other financially measurable ways (e.g., provide access to research facilities or data, and human resources);

<sup>5</sup> This is important to attract future funding and to increase publishable research outputs from the region.

<sup>6</sup> This initiative is not looking at funding many small projects, but several seed projects (roughly up to FJD\$100K) that can continue to become sustainable research programs.