



Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programme

Call for Research Proposals

Background

Since its establishment in 1995, the Marine Research Grant (MARG) Programme of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) has sought to enhance the capacity of scientists in the WIO region to conduct research, so as to increase our understanding of various aspects of marine science. The MARG programme provides young and upcoming scientists with a reliable and flexible mechanism to turn their ideas into research projects and also offers opportunity for presentation of research results at various regional and international fora.

Types, level and duration of funding available

WIOMSA is calling for research proposals for consideration for funding support under the MARG programme. Three types of grants are awarded:

MARG-I: These awards are intended to provide opportunities to emerging research scientists including MSc and PhD students wishing to turn their ideas into real research projects to carry out well-defined research activities in their countries/institutions. The MARG-I Research Grant is awarded for a duration of 1 year, renewable for a maximum of one term. The maximum amount offered is US\$ 6,000 per year. Proposals for MARG I Grants are reviewed once a year.

MARG-II: These awards are intended to provide opportunities to individual research scientists for the purpose of sharing their work, or gaining technical experience such as to work at a specific laboratory, as well as data processing and manuscript write-up within the WIO region and, where necessary, outside the region. The duration of MARG-II is 3 months, and the maximum amount offered is US\$ 6,000. Proposals for MARG II Grants are reviewed continuously through the year.

MARG-III: These awards are intended to provide opportunities to individual researchers to travel to attend scientific meetings and conferences for the purpose of presenting their work and to learn from others. The maximum amount offered is US\$ 3,000. Proposals for MARG III Grants are reviewed continuously through the year.

Eligibility

Young and upcoming scientists and resource managers involved in research in the marine sciences in the WIO region are eligible to apply as individuals or as teams. Additional requirements are:

- **Affiliation:** Employment at a recognised institution in the region.
- **Educational background:** Academic degree of not less than a bachelor's or equivalent.
- **Expertise:** Proof that the applicant possesses relevant expertise in the field in which the funding is being sought.

Review Process

Applications for MARG support should be made online by visiting the WIOMSA website. Once received, the proposals are pre-screened at the Secretariat then assessed by a specially convened review team. Applications which do not include copies of all required supporting documents by the application deadline will be considered incomplete and will be disqualified at this stage. Proof of institutional support is required.

The reviewers will assess the qualifications of the applicant, the scientific quality and feasibility of the proposal, financial requirements and the relevance of the expected results.

Priority will be given to applicants requesting partial support and to quality proposals from MSc and PhD students which meet the requirements.

Applications from women researchers, and from scientists in WIO countries whose working language is not English, are encouraged.

Publication of Research Results

For the purpose of raising the profile of the MARG Programme as well as making the research results easily accessible, MARG I and II grantees are required, in addition to submission of a final report, to:

- i) publish the results of their research in an international or regional peer-reviewed journal; and
- ii) submit to the Secretariat during the course of their research projects, short summaries (one to two pages) of their preliminary results, for publication in the *WIOMSA Newsbriefs* as well as the WIOMSA website.

Transfer of funds

MARG grants funds will be channelled through grantees' institutions. It is therefore a requirement that grants applications are endorsed by heads of institutions.

Submission of Application

Please note that from this year, applications will only be submitted through the new online system. Only those applications submitted via this system will be processed. Applications should be completed and support documents uploaded at the WIOMSA website links provided;

- i) For MARG I: <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/the-marine-research-grant-programme-application-for-marine-research-grant-marg-i/>
- ii) For MARG II: <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/the-marine-research-grant-programme-application-for-marine-research-grant-marg-ii/>
- iii) For MARG III: <http://proposals.wiomsa.org/the-marine-research-grant-programme-application-for-marine-research-grant-marg-iii/>

Please read the instructions carefully before completing the relevant form.

The deadline for submission of MARG I applications is 28th **March 2015**. Submissions for MARG II will be accepted from **January to September 2015** while MARG III proposals may be submitted at any time. For MARG II and III grants, the acceptance of proposals will be dependent on the availability of funds at the time of submission.

For any information contact, **The Executive Secretary, Email: secretary@wiomsa.org**.