



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

FOR AN IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS JOURNAL

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) seeks to establish a high-quality open access peer reviewed research journal code named “the Uganda Communications Journal” for the Communications sector.

This journal is in support of UCC’s mandate of “promoting research into the development and use of new communications techniques and technologies, including those that promote accessibility of persons with disability and other members of society.”

The journal is envisaged to bridge the current wide gap between academic research, innovations, and commercialisation of the developed ideas through the publication of qualified (yet to be published) research work in the ICT sector in Uganda.

It is against this background that UCC seeks to partner with a competent team of academicians to actualise or operationalise the Uganda Communications Journal (UCJ).

The Implementation Partner shall be engaged for an initial period of one (1) year and is expected to have oversight of two (2) issues of the UCJ in this period.

Applicants are to submit their applications that **MUST** include technical and financial proposals.

The deadline for applications is **July 26th, 2024**, in conformity with attached Terms of Reference. Submissions in PDF format should be emailed to registry@ucc.co.ug and research@ucc.co.ug

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TERMS OF REFERENCE

FOR AN IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS JOURNAL

1. BACKGROUND

The Uganda Communications Commission (UCC) is the regulator of the communications sector in Uganda. Established by the Uganda Communications Act 2013, the Commission is responsible for facilitating the development of a modern communications sector, which includes Telecommunications, Broadcasting, Radio Communications, Postal Communications, Data Communication, and Infrastructure in Uganda.

Among other functions, UCC is mandated to:

- a) Promote research into the development and use of new communications techniques and technologies, including those that promote accessibility of persons with disability and other members of society to communications services.
- b) Conduct or authorize any person to conduct technical evaluations relating to communications services.
- c) Coordinate and collaborate with the relevant national and international organizations in matters relating to communications.

In pursuit of the above functions, UCC seeks to establish a high-quality open access peer reviewed research journal code-named the “Uganda Communications Journal (UCJ).”

The Journal is envisaged to bridge the current wide gap between academic research, innovations, and commercialisation of the developed ideas through the publication of several qualified and yet to be published research work in the ICT sector in Uganda. It is against this background that UCC is looking to partner with a competent team of academicians (at individual or faculty levels or closely related level) to work with the UCC team responsible for the UCJ in the implementation of the UCJ.

2. ROLES OF THE IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER

Working jointly with the UCJ secretariat and in line with the UCC framework for establishment of the UCJ, the Implementing Partner is expected to:

- a) Guide the UCC team in the actual setting up of the UCJ, which among others shall include design and development of the UCJ, and the UCJ online portal using available IT infrastructure and resources.
- b) Guide the UCC team on all aspects of the peer-review process in the editorial management system and supervise its implementation.
- c) Publish the UCJ at least twice a year and in line with the UCC Corporate Communications Policy.
- d) Be part of the process of appointing and building an effective editorial board for the UCJ, including finding local and international subject experts to participate on the editorial board.
- e) Oversee the management of the authors, reviewers, editors, and publishers.
- f) Train the UCJ Secretariat in publication and online journal management.

3.EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- a) A training report of the secretariat trained staff in best practice journal management.
- b) A comprehensive online UCJ platform
- c) Inaugural journal articles, in addition to at least two (2) Volumes Issues of the journal during the initial 1-year period.

4. QUALIFICATIONS, COMPETENCES & EXPERIENCE

- a) The Team Leader of the Implementation Partner should be at least a PHD holder, a Ugandan citizen(s) and academic staff from a registered university in Uganda.
- b) The Implementing Partner lead should be a full-time lecturer with a continuing appointment for at least two (2) years.
- c) All proposed team members by the Implementation Partner MUST have at least 6 peer-reviewed publications for members and at least 10- peer-reviewed publications for the Team Leader. The publications must be of regional/internationally accredited journals.
- d) Editorial experience at Team Leader level or individual proposed team members, ideally with an academic journal.
- e) Experience of publishing, i.e., traditional, and digital publishing, in multiple or closely related fields will be an added advantage.
- f) Strong professional and academic links.

N.B. The Implementing Partner Team Lead must have an alternate Team Lead throughout the period.

5. EVALUATION OF APPLICANTS

In addition to the qualifications, competencies, and experience above, applicants MUST include the following, which together with section 4 (above) will be used in the evaluation of their application:

- a) Detailed current CV(s)
- b) At least a 3–5-page statement expressing interest, summarizing qualifications, presenting a vision for the journal, and demonstrating that the Implementing Partner role of this scale will be feasible, given your other commitments.
- c) A technical plan or proposal and financial proposal for operationalisation of the UCJ. The financial proposal should be annualised over the initial 3 years.
- d) Applicants who apply as a team, school, or college or collaboratively with other universities, are specifically encouraged. In such a case, an MOU between the collaborating partners is a MUST. Participating universities and colleges should have valid registration and accreditation.

6.DURATION

The UCJ Implementation Partner will manage the operational aspects of the UCJ under the oversight of UCC for an initial period of one (1) year, which may be renewed upon satisfactory performance.

7.REPORTING

The implementation partner shall report to the UCJ Secretariat under the stewardship of the Director ICT and Research.

8. COPYRIGHT AND DISCLOSURE

All information generated, tools and deliverables shall remain the property of Uganda Communications Commission during and after the contract implementation period and shall under no circumstance whatsoever be disclosed/reproduced without the prior written consent of the Commission. Non-disclosure agreements shall be entered into as deemed appropriate.