

# Call for Proposals

## Educational Technology Innovation Grants

### FY 2026/2027

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#### Overview of KENET's Educational Technology Innovation Grants Program

One of KENET's mandates is to catalyze collaboration in research and education among its member universities and research institutions. KENET promotes collaboration through facilitation of Special Interest Groups (SIGs) in priority academic areas, discovery of active researchers/faculty, provision of research and education grants to researchers and member institutions, as well as travel grants for faculty and/or graduate students in SIG areas.

As of April 2026, KENET was supporting three Special Interest Group areas, namely, Computer Science and Information Systems, Computational Modelling and Materials Science, and Engineering. The target group for this Call for Proposal is early career PhD faculty and/or researchers in the three KENET SIG areas. However, it is possible for the Principal Investigator in the call to collaborate with faculty or researchers in other academic domains.

The educational technology aims to enhance the learning outcomes in undergraduate education in the Special Interest Group areas. This is considered for increased research productivity of graduate students in the respective SIGs in the future. For example, in 2014, the educational technology grants were used to promote the use of low-cost Raspberry Pi to support electrical engineering and computer science programs. In 2023, KENET awarded educational technology grants to pilot the use of Generative AI in teaching computer science courses.

Artificial Intelligence continues to have great impact on the education sector and is forcing academics to adapt how they teach and assess learning outcomes. In Kenya, the impact of AI is compounded by the limited resources available at most of our institutions of higher learning. In addition, to effectively take advantage of the AI opportunity, STEM education must be enhanced to keep up with emerging trends and to prepare graduates capable of leveraging AI and other technologies for problem solving.

This 2026 call, therefore, seeks to fund educators at Kenyan universities that teach **foundational** courses in Engineering, Computer Science and Physics to effectively integrate AI tools into their teaching and learning processes.

We seek to fund projects that:

1. will involve teaching a specified foundational course (see a list of eligible courses at the end of this CfP in Engineering, Computer Science and Information Systems or Computational Modelling and Materials Science over a semester in the 2026/2027 academic year;
2. will involve significant integration of AI into the teaching and learning process;
3. will provide measurable impact of AI integration; and
4. will produce learning materials that can be adopted and adapted by other faculty and/or learning institutions.

#### Grants: Structure and Schedule

##### Grants Structure

1. Up to six (6) grants will be awarded for the 2026/2027 round of funding (up to two for each Special Interest Group area).
2. Each education technology innovation grant will be a maximum of KES 2 million.
3. The grant period is 12 months.

## Schedule

The table below shows the EdTech Innovation grants call timeline.

Table 1: EdTech innovation grants call timeline.

Activity	Dates
Call for Proposals open for submissions	May 11 – July 10, 2026 (2 months)
Review and evaluation of received proposals	July 11 – July 31, 2026
Presentations of shortlisted applicants	August 1 – August 14, 2026
Finalists announced and grants awarded	August 18, 2026
Grantees on-boarding	September 7 – September 11, 2026
Implementation period	September 2026 – June 2027
Evaluation, monitoring, reporting and close-out	E & M – quarterly per group

## Eligibility, Terms and Conditions

### Eligibility

Applicants must:

1. Have a PhD in Engineering, Computer Science, Information Systems or Physics.
2. Have taught the proposed foundational course for at least three years at one of the member universities in Kenya.
3. Obtain written approval from the Head of Department and Dean/Director of respective School of Engineering/Computer Science/Science.

### Post-Award Requirements

The successful grantees will be expected to:

1. Provide quarterly progress reports to the research associates of the respective Special Interest Groups (CSIS, CMMS, or Engineering).
2. Prepare quarterly blog posts on innovation work for posting to the KENET website.
3. Participate and present project work at selected meet-ups organized by KENET.
4. Grow a community of improved teaching and education practice.
5. Actively seek funding to further their innovation work by writing (joint) funding proposals to other agencies.
6. Prepare a final project report at the end of the grant period and submit it to KENET.
7. Prepare an abridged version of the project report for profiling on KENET's and institutional websites.
8. Publish paper(s) on their work in reputable journals. These papers should acknowledge the KENET grant.

## Proposal Submission

### Concept Note Format

1. The concept note should not exceed 6 pages (12pt, single spacing, excluding appendices).
2. The concept note should be submitted in PDF format.
3. The innovation area should be clearly indicated in the title page.
4. No personal identification (names) or institutional affiliation should be included in the concept note.

## Concept Note Structure

The concept note should have the following structure:

1. Title
2. Problem definition and justification
3. Proposed solution and justification
4. Methodology
5. Resources (human, hardware, software, etc.)
6. Work plan (not exceeding 12 months in duration)
7. Detailed Budget (not exceeding KES 2 Million)
8. Appendices

## Supporting Documents

The following documents should be included as part of the concept note submission:

1. Team profile document, indicating the names, institutional affiliation and brief biographies of the lead researcher(s). Details of other team members and any collaborating institutions should also be included in the team profile.
2. CVs of the lead researcher(s), clearly profiling research activities undertaken to date as well as relevant publications.
3. Letters of Commitment from team members and any collaborating institutions.

## Concept Note Submission

Concept notes with all supporting documentation should be sent via email to [edutechgrants@kenet.or.ke](mailto:edutechgrants@kenet.or.ke) by **10<sup>th</sup> July 2026, 5.00PM EAT**.

## Enquiries and Applicant Support

All enquiries and requests for further information related to this call should be addressed to [grantsadmin@kenet.or.ke](mailto:grantsadmin@kenet.or.ke).

## Proposal Evaluation

Proposals will be evaluated on:

1. Feasibility of proposed teaching and learning AI integration.
2. Ability to deliver on proposed work – does the team have the required expertise?
3. Team composition.
4. Institutional support – is there support for the proposed activity from the host institution?
5. Integrity – plagiarism and other forms of academic fraud will be grounds for disqualification.
6. Sustainability – is this work able to attract further research funding?

Table 2 below shows elements of this evaluation in greater detail.

## Evaluation Criteria:

Table 2: EdTech evaluation criteria.

Evaluation Criteria	Evaluation Aspects	Weighted Score
Justification	Does the work have the potential to have a significant impact on teaching and learning?	10%
Contribution	Is the contribution of the work clear? Does the work fill a clearly identified research gap?	10%
Methodology	Are the methods appropriate and adequately described?	40%
Team composition	Does the team possess the technical skills in the area of focus? Are postgraduate students involved in the work? Is there a track record of postgraduate student supervision?	20%
Community engagement	Will the team create a community of teaching practice in the chosen discipline? Will the team share data and research outcomes? Is the mechanism for dissemination clear?	10%
Sustainability	Is there potential for future funding?	10%

## Evaluation Process

1. KENET will constitute a review panel of leading experts in each of the SIG areas. Members of the review panel will sign Non-Disclosure Agreements, as well as statements acknowledging that they will make no claim to the intellectual property developed by the grantees.
2. The reviewers will review all received applications as per the evaluation criteria provided in Table 2 and select the top proposals.
3. The finalists will be invited for a final face-to-face presentation. During the oral presentations, the applicants will respond to and clarify any questions from the panel that will have arisen out of their written submissions. They will also be required to respond to any ad-hoc questions arising from the oral presentation.
4. After the oral presentations, the reviewers will make their final decisions on which six (6) proposals will receive the grants.
5. Selected grantees will be notified formally and profiled on KENET's website.

## Eligible Foundational Courses

Table 3: Eligible Foundational Courses in KENET's Special Interest Group areas

**SIG – Engineering** – based on **ABET** (Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology) and Engineering Board of Kenya guidelines.

Discipline	Course
Electrical Engineering or equivalent	Circuit Theory
	Electromagnetics
	Control Theory
Mechanical Engineering	Mechanics of Materials
	Thermodynamics
	Machine Design Statics & Dynamics
Chemical & Biomedical Engineering	Organic Chemistry & Material Balances
Civil Engineering	Strength of Materials
	Hydraulics
	Foundation Engineering Statics & Dynamics
<b>SIG – Computational Modelling and Materials Science</b>	
Discipline	Course
Physics	Electricity and Magnetism
	Solid State Physics
	Modern Physics
	Mathematical Physics
	Classical Mechanics
	Vibrations and Waves
	Heat and Thermodynamics
	Geometrical and Physical Optics

SIG – Computer Science and Information Systems	
Discipline	Course
Computer Science (ACM/IEEE guidelines)	Discrete Mathematics Probability and Statistics Linear Algebra Introduction to Programming Data Structures & Algorithms
Information Systems (IS 2020 guidelines)	IS Foundations Data and Information Management Systems Analysis and Design