



Pacific Islands Universities Regional Network

Call for Proposals

Background

The Pacific Islands Universities Regional Network (PIURN), founded in 2013, is a consortium of 15 Member Universities from the Pacific Islands Countries and Territories (PICTs). Co-chaired by The University of the South Pacific (USP) and the University of New Caledonia (UNC), PIURN has enabled closer collaboration among researchers, while addressing social priorities, economic growth and environmental challenges in the Pacific region.

The vision of the network is **“to collectively empower the Pacific Universities to become key contributors to finding solutions for challenges facing the region”**.

To serve its vision, PIURN’s mission is **“To empower the new generation of Pacific leaders, researchers and professionals to better serve the needs and aspirations of the Pacific communities, in accordance with the education, research and technology pillar of the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent”**.

Objectives

This Call for Proposals ambitions to strengthen the impacts of the network and to provide innovative and local solutions to the Pacific Communities. Aligned with the SDGs, the research projects aim to be a catalyst for initiatives with positive impacts on the Pacific Region.

Since 2017, PIURN Call for Proposals have been launched annually, allowing PIURN Member Universities to propose and engage in research projects, aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These calls were funded by the University of the South Pacific and the University of New Caledonia, co-chairs of the network.

For the period 2017 – 2024, UNC funded 17 projects – **258 615 euros / 431 235 AUD / 270 110 USD** and USP funded 8 projects – **272 954 FJD / 112 780 euros / 189 810 AUD / 117 800 USD**. 9 PIURN Members Universities were involved in these calls for proposals, as well as **12 External partners** and 16 scientific publications emanated from the projects. **PIURN Projects attracted 2 534 000 euros** for research grants.

To sustain and strengthen PIURN collaborative efforts, the **2025 Call for Proposals will therefore be a collaborative effort from the consortium to highlight PIURN’s goal by strengthening research capacity though this regional initiative**.

Divine Word University, National University of Vanuatu, Pacific Adventist University, Papua New Guinea University of Technology, University of Goroka, University of New Caledonia and The University of the South Pacific are launching the first regional PIURN Call for Proposals, with an exceptional participation from the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.



Eligibility Criteria

Eligible projects must meet the following criteria:

- The lead applicant should be from Divine Word University, Pacific Adventist University, Papua New Guinea University of Technology, National University of Vanuatu, University of Goroka, University of New Caledonia, The University of the South Pacific¹
- The lead applicant has **to partner with at least one PIURN Member Universities** (a signed letter of support from the PIURN partner university and a CV from the PIURN researcher have to be submitted):
 - University of New Caledonia (New Caledonia)
 - The University of the South Pacific
 - Christ University in Pacific (Tonga)
 - Divine Word University (Papua New Guinea)
 - Fiji National University (Fiji)
 - National University of Samoa (Samoa)
 - National University of Vanuatu (Vanuatu)
 - Pacific Adventist University (Papua New Guinea)
 - University of Fiji (Fiji)
 - Solomon Islands National University (Solomon Islands)
 - The University of French Polynesia (French Polynesia)
 - The Papua New Guinea University of Natural Resources and Environment (Papua New Guinea)
 - The Papua New Guinea University of Technology (Papua New Guinea)
 - The University of Goroka (Papua New Guinea)
 - The University of Papua New Guinea (Papua New Guinea)
- The total amount requested for the project **cannot exceed 35,000.00 AUD**
- Projects have to be multi-countries (minimum 2)
- Projects must be aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals and be Pacific-focused
- Timeframe should not exceed December 2027.

Selection Criteria

- Projects can be interdisciplinary, and include participatory sciences
- External partners are welcomed to join (research institutes, non PIURN Universities, NGOs) and propose co-funding (cash, in-kind support....) – PIURN Member Universities can propose matching-funds to specific projects
- Projects with several PIURN Member Universities partnering will be given due attention
- Projects with quality impact on local communities will be given due attention
- Projects should provide excellent scientific methodologies

¹ Universities that are contributing to the 2025 PIURN Call for Proposals funding



Submission of the proposal

The proposal should be submitted here: [PIURN Project submission portal](#)

The research proposal will be comprised of:

- Consortium composition (a signed letter of support from the PIURN partner university and a CV from the PIURN researcher have to be submitted)
- Budget
- Project description (summary, background, methodology, objective, timeframe, impact)
- Gantt chart

If you have any queries, please contact Mathilde Souchon, PIURN Coordinator – mathilde.souchon@usp.ac.fj

Calendar

Application deadline: **15 June 2025**

Date of publication results: **3 July 2025**, at the end of the 6th PIURN Conference organized by Papua New Guinea University of Technology - <https://piurn2025.sciencesconf.org/>