



GHANA YOUNG ACADEMY

The voice of young scientists around the country

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Ghana Young Academy (GhYA) Position Statement on the Launch of the Ghana National Research Fund (GNRF)

The Ghana Young Academy (GhYA) warmly welcomes the launch of the Ghana National Research Fund (GNRF) by the Government of Ghana on 16 June 2026. The establishment of the Fund under the Ghana National Research Fund Act, 2020 (Act 1056), represents a landmark investment in Ghana's research, innovation, and knowledge ecosystem and demonstrates the Government's commitment to leveraging science, technology, and innovation for national development.

As the national network of outstanding early- and mid-career researchers, GhYA recognizes that research and innovation are essential drivers of economic transformation, industrialization, evidence-informed policymaking, and sustainable development. We therefore commend His Excellency President John Dramani Mahama for his leadership in launching the Fund and reaffirming the critical role of research and innovation in Ghana's economic transformation agenda. We also acknowledge the efforts of the Government of Ghana, the Ministry of Education, the Governing Board of the Ghana National Research Fund, and all stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to operationalize this important national initiative.

GhYA further recognizes the leadership and commitment of Professor Eric Yirenkyi Danquah, Chairperson of the Governing Board of the Ghana National Research Fund, Professor Abigail Opoku Mensah, Acting Administrator of the Fund, and all other stakeholders for their invaluable contributions to shaping the direction, credibility, and operationalization of this strategic national institution.

While celebrating this milestone, GhYA emphasizes the need for the Fund to create dedicated and competitive funding pathways for early- and mid-career researchers, who constitute a critical segment of Ghana's scientific workforce. These researchers are at the forefront of generating new knowledge, developing innovative solutions, training future scientists, and addressing pressing national challenges in health, agriculture, energy, climate change, education, and industrial development.

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GhYA calls for the Fund to ensure that its operations are accessible, transparent, merit-based, inclusive, and responsive to the needs of emerging researchers. Specific funding windows should be established to support:

- Early-career investigator grants;
- Mid-career research leadership awards;
- Interdisciplinary and collaborative research projects;
- Research infrastructure and laboratory access;
- Innovation, commercialization, and technology transfer;
- Scientific publication and dissemination;
- Science-policy and community-engagement initiatives.

The Young Academy further encourages the GNRF to promote equitable access across institutions, disciplines, regions, and gender groups, ensuring that talented researchers throughout Ghana have the opportunity to contribute to national development.

GhYA stands ready to collaborate with the Ghana National Research Fund, government agencies, academia, industry, and development partners to strengthen Ghana's research ecosystem and maximize the impact of the Fund. We believe that investing in the immense potential and talent of Ghana's early- and mid-career researchers is an investment in the nation's future prosperity, resilience, and global competitiveness.

When Ghana invests in its researchers, Ghana invests in innovation, development, and a brighter future for all.



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