



AIMS

African Institute for
Mathematical Sciences
RESEARCH & INNOVATION

JOB DESCRIPTION

Job Title: Entrepreneurship Manager, Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at AIMS

AIMS Centre: AIMS Research and Innovation Centre, Kigali – Rwanda

Report to: Director Programs Delivery and Reporting

Direct reports: None

About AIMS

The African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) is a pan-African network of Centres of Excellence for post-graduate training, research, and public engagement in mathematical sciences. The network comprises six AIMS Centres in five countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal, and South Africa). One of these is the AIMS Research and Innovation Centre (AIMS RIC), a research-oriented Centre facilitating high-quality research by creating a world-class environment that fosters creativity and innovation.

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at AIMS supports the development of talented young Africans, enabling them to become ethical and transformative leaders who positively contribute to their communities. A significant aspect of the program is promoting entrepreneurship and empowering young people to create meaningful employment opportunities for themselves and others.

If you are passionate about supporting young people in generating and developing entrepreneurial ideas and innovations and tackling key challenges in Africa, this position offers an opportunity to develop and mentor talented young African entrepreneurs.

Job area

Entrepreneurship development, entrepreneurship education, innovation management, program leadership, stakeholder engagement, mentorship, industry partnerships development, incubation, acceleration, fundraising, and networking.

Job Overview

The Entrepreneurship Manager will oversee the entrepreneurship and innovation components of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at AIMS. This role, with its focus on creating and executing strategies to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset among AIMS students, offering them the necessary skills, resources, and networks to establish successful ventures and contribute to Africa's economic transformation, is crucial in shaping the future of Africa. The Manager will also collaborate closely with academic partners, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs to ensure students are prepared to navigate the distinctive challenges of entrepreneurship in Africa.

Key Responsibilities

The responsibilities of the Entrepreneurship Manager include:

- **Entrepreneurship Development Strategy:** Design and implement a comprehensive entrepreneurship development strategy that aligns with the objectives of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. Oversee the entrepreneurship and innovation programs, ensuring they provide students with practical skills, mentorship, and access to funding opportunities. Support AIMS students in identifying and addressing societal challenges through entrepreneurship while encouraging innovation in STEM-related fields.

- **Entrepreneurship Program Development:** Lead in developing and delivering entrepreneurship curricula, workshops, and boot camps tailored to students' needs. Organize hackathons, pitch competitions, and innovation challenges to identify promising entrepreneurial ideas among students. Support these ideas by helping students access incubation programs, mentorship, and seed funding. Collaborate with academic and industry partners to design co-op programs, internships, and applied research projects, seamlessly integrating entrepreneurship training with work-based learning experiences. Oversee the launch and scaling of entrepreneurship projects by students and alumni, providing them with the necessary support to succeed.
- **Mentorship and Networking:** Establish and manage an entrepreneurship mentorship program that connects students with seasoned entrepreneurs, industry experts, and investors. Organize networking events, pitch competitions, and entrepreneurship forums to expose students to potential collaborators and funders. Facilitate students' participation in regional and global entrepreneurship platforms, increasing their visibility and access to opportunities.
- **Partnership Development:** Build and manage strategic partnerships with key stakeholders, including entrepreneurship hubs, incubators, accelerators, and funding institutions across Africa and beyond. Collaborate with industry leaders to secure resources and funding for student-led ventures and entrepreneurship programs. Engage with government agencies, NGOs, and private sector entities to create supportive ecosystems for student entrepreneurs.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Develop and implement a monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of entrepreneurship initiatives on scholars' career outcomes and economic development. Track the success of students and alumni's ventures, ensuring that they align with the program's goals of fostering job creation and economic growth. Provide regular reports to program leadership and external stakeholders detailing the outcomes of entrepreneurship programs and initiatives.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Identify and pursue funding opportunities to expand entrepreneurship programs, including grant writing and fundraising. Work with students to help them secure seed funding, venture capital, and other financial support for their entrepreneurial ventures.
- Providing support to other AIMS departments as required from time to time.

Competencies and other requirements

- Master's degree in entrepreneurship, innovation, business administration, economics, or a related field.
- 7-10 years of experience in entrepreneurship development, business incubation, or innovation management in Africa.
- Proven track record of developing and scaling entrepreneurship programs or initiatives.
- Strong understanding of the African entrepreneurship ecosystem, including knowledge of funding and investment landscapes.
- Excellent communication, leadership, and project management skills.
- Ability to build and maintain relationships with diverse stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, industry leaders, academic institutions, and investors.
- Experience working with youth, particularly in leadership development and capacity building.
- Ability to work in a fast-paced, multicultural environment with high autonomy and adaptability.

Working Conditions

- This position is based at the AIMS Research and Innovation Centre in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Occasional travel may be required to support entrepreneurship initiatives across the AIMS network and beyond.

NB:

1. AIMS is an equal opportunity employer.
2. This job description is a general outline and may not include all tasks and responsibilities. The Entrepreneurship Manager may be given additional duties as the line manager requires.