



African Virtual University Universite Virtuelle Africaine Universidade Virtual Africana

RE-ADVERTISEMENT CONSULTANT - TO WRITE POLICY BRIEFS

The African Virtual University (AVU) www.avu.org is an equal opportunity employer.

The successful candidate will be appointed for two months with a possibility of extension for 1 month.

Application must include an application letter and a detailed curriculum vitae with: a telephone number; email address; and names with contact addresses of three professional references.

Applications should be sent to job@avu.org and must have CONSULTANT - POLICY BRIEFS as the email subject

The closing date for this application is February 17th 2016 at 18:00 East African Time (UTC/GMT + 3)

Note: ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted

1.0. INTRODUCTION

The African Virtual University (AVU) www.avu.org is a Pan African Intergovernmental Organization established by charter with the mandate of significantly increasing access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of information communication technologies. A Charter, establishing the AVU as an Intergovernmental Organization, has been signed so far by nineteen (19) African Governments - Kenya, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan, Sudan, The Gambia, and Guinea-Bissau. The AVU has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and a Regional office in Dakar Senegal with Host-Country Agreements and Diplomatic Status with the two governments.

The AfDB is funding a second phase of the Multinational Project which will build on the first phase (2005 - 2011) and will extend its benefits to more countries. The overall objective of the AVU Multinational Project II is to strengthen the capacity of the AVU and a network of 27 institutions to deliver and manage quality ICT integrated education and training opportunities in 21 African countries. The project has the following activities: (1) Establishment of new Open Distance and eLearning (ODEL) Centers and/or upgrading of existing AVU Learning Centers as well as Internet connectivity provision at AVU Partner Institutions; (2) Development and/or improvement, and delivery of four ICT integrated Programs: AVU Capacity Enhancement Program (ACEP); Teacher Education (TE), Computer Science (CS), and Peace and Conflict Resolution; (3) Gender Mainstreaming, (4) Research and Development; (5) Promotion and development of Open Education Resources (OERs); and (6) Enhancement of AVU Capacity .

1.0. AVU POLICY BRIEFS

The AVU is in the process of developing policy briefs on topical and current issues in Open, Distance and eLearning (ODEL). To date the AVU has developed a guide and template to help guide the development of all its policy briefs. The first batch of AVU policy briefs were developed using this guide and template. The content of these policy briefs were mainly drawn from research studies that were presented at the 1st international Conference of the AVU. The development of policy briefs is an ongoing activity based on the experiences of the AVU in the design, delivery and implementation of ODeL programs. To help accomplish this important task, the AVU seeks to engage a number of consultants who will help develop more policy briefs on issues and topics of relevance to AVU programs and projects in ODeL.

2.0. SCOPE OF AVU POLICY BRIEFS

The scope of the AVU policy briefs includes but is not limited to the following categories:

- **IT in higher education** e.g. design and implementation ODeL, learning management systems, cloud computing, infrastructure, mobile lab
- **Design and Delivery of Learning Resources** e.g. in Teacher Education, Computer Science , Peace and Conflict Resolution, Professional Development in ODEL, collaboration across languages and geographic spaces, instructional design, assessment, localization of OERs, cloud authoring, learner engagement and support, communities of practice and action research;
- **Gender Mainstreaming**, e.g. in design and development of learning resources; scholarship programs;
- **Research and Development** e.g. open access scholarly publishing, mapping institutional research, funding for research, intellectual property, collaborative research, emerging research tools, and research agenda in ODeL;
- **Open Education Resources (OERs) and practices, MOOCs** e.g. creation, use, licensing, policy etc.
- **Business Development** e.g. business models in ODeL, OERs, MOOCs, University-industry-government partnerships in Higher Education, fundraising strategies ,

- digital marketing and communication;
- **Quality Assurance**, program assessment, monitoring and evaluation etc.
- Any other topical issue deemed relevant.

3.0. SCOPE OF WORK

The consultants will work with all the AVU unit managers and will report to Manager Research and Development. The consultants' responsibilities will be to:

- Develop approx. 3 page policy briefs as per provided AVU guide and template for writing policy briefs;
- Help conceptualize topics for policy briefs in the categories indicated in item 3.0 above;
- Liaise with all AVU managers in developing policy briefs on issues or topics related to their respective units;
- Offer expert guidance to AVU staff on conceptualizing topics of relevance to their activities;
- Submit policy briefs for review to the respective unit managers;
- Finalize policy briefs after review by AVU managers;
- Develop policy briefs in a timely manner;
- Any other tasks related to the development of policy briefs.

4.0. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES

- The consultant will be expected to develop 30-35 policy briefs over a period of 2 months
- Enhanced capacity of AVU units/staff to develop policy briefs.

5.0. QUALIFICATIONS

- A PhD in any area of Education including Open, Distance and eLearning, ICTs in Education, Educational Technology, Instructional Technology/Design, Educational Policy/ Leadership/Management, Curriculum Development, Economics of Education etc.
- Prior experience in developing policy and strategy documents. Please provide a written sample of your work when applying.
- Experience in successfully completing similar assignments.
- Excellent knowledge and expertise on issues relevant to the categories cited in item 3.0.
- Strong writing skills in English. Bilingualism (English French or English Portuguese) is an asset.
- A good knowledge of AVU and its activities would be an added advantage.

6.0. DURATION/ MODALITIES OF WORK

- The estimated duration of the assignment is about 2 months with the possibility of extension for one additional month.

- The consultant will be based at the AVU fulltime for the duration of the assignment.
- The consultant will be provided with various AVU documents based on the categories in item 3.0 to help him/her develop the briefs.
- In addition the consultant will liaise with the appropriate unit head as required during the process of the development of the briefs.

7.0. REPORTING

The consultants will work with all the unit managers under the coordination of the Manager, Research and Development.

8.0. COPYRIGHT

Ownership of copyright of policy brief contents remains with the client (AVU). The consultants do not retain the right to do anything they wish with the developed AVU policy briefs. The retained right of the client specifically includes the right to post the policy brief on AVU's websites, newsletters or institutional repositories.

9.0 PAYMENT

Payment will be commensurate with the qualification and experience of the successful candidate.