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| UNIVERSITY OF GHANA  MAKERSPACE |
| A Call for Collaboration |

APPLICATION DUE DATE**: *Friday, January 18, 2019***

PROJECT START DATE: **February 2019**

The Office of Research, Innovation and Development seeks collaborators to develop and manage a UG Makerspace. The Call for Collaborators will help to identify internal partners who will support the development of this space through a multi-disciplinary approach and determine the roles of each partner.

**OVERVIEW**

A trend in academic institutions across the world has identified a movement of combining research and teaching with innovation. This approach is in recognition of the fact that problems of development require different science, technology and innovation disciplines working together. This movement has increased the demand for spaces at various Universities that can foster such collaboration and bridge the gap between theory and practice. The Makerspace aims to create a space for students to experiment, test and cultivate new ideas, explore and master new concepts, work through problems with faculty members and collaborate across disciplines.

Enhancing the capacity of students to think, conceptualize and visualize their ideas will begin to instill in them attributes of exploration and experimentation. This could ultimately increase their drive to venture into entrepreneurship or develop innovations that would interest industry and the private sector.

Technical expertise for the establishment of the Makerspace has been generously provided by the Impact Hub, Accra. <http://accra.impacthub.net/>

**WHAT IS A MAKERSPACE?**

A makerspace is a 21st-century digitally-connected community workshop and lab, open to entrepreneurs and people in general who are interested in learning, designing and working together in a collaborative environment. Typical equipment ranges from low- to high-tech, but spans 3D printers, laser cutters, CNC machines (e.g. routers, mills, lathes), sewing machines, soldering irons and electronics tool kits. Makerspaces help people gain skills through learning-by-doing: using CAD/CAM software to apply 3D modeling, 3D printing, coding, robotics, carpentry, metalwork and other tools for rapid prototyping of physical objects and hardware. Makerspaces complement Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) fields and support entrepreneurship through new product development. See example of a Makerspace at www.icecairo.com/fablab.

**WHO ARE THE BENEFICIARIES?**

**STUDENTS**

This space will be designed to stimulate student innovation and can allow students to reach their full potential by providing the place and means for them to dig deep into their interests. These extracurricular learning spaces can bridge the gap between students’ academic and professional lives and allow them to put theory into practice[[1]](#footnote-1).

Most students can’t afford the broad spectrum of equipment needed for maximum exploration, and most lack the space to spread out and try their ideas. The Makerspace will be stocked with both low- and high-tech equipment, these spaces allow student innovators to create real prototypes, and serve as starting places for students to launch startups, get advice about bringing a product to market, and network with alumni and potential funders. See examples of this at https://venturewell.org/makerspace-masters/

**FACULTY**

It will provide the opportunity for Faculty to mentor students and guide them as they bring inventions to life. It would also serve a space for faculty to translate research outcomes into tangible prototypes.

**INDUSTRY**

Provide the opportunity for industry stalwarts to serve as inventors in residence to share their practical experiences with students of the Makerspace. It would also provide them with access to innovations that they could translate into businesses. Industrialists that visit the makerspace can also open up their industries to students to undertake internships.

**ORID’S ROLE**

* To promote strategic partnerships between the University, other universities locally and abroad, relevant industries and business community to exploit the benefits of the maker space;
* Provide technical expertise in line with registration, protection, patenting and commercialization of intellectual property that would be generated.

**WHAT WE ARE SEEKING FROM OUR COLLABORATORS**

• A willingness for students in your departments to convene and collaborate with stakeholders.

• Subject matter expertise of your discipline.

• An organizational openness to new ways of approaching complex challenges.

• Time and creative resources

**APPLICATION PROCESS**

**Step 1:** Interested applicants attend information/briefing session on ***Monday, December 10 2018*** at 9:30 am at the ORID Conference Room.

**Step 2:** Submission of collaboration forms in the attached format to ORID latest by 5:00pm on ***Friday, January 18, 2019.***

**Step 3:** Successful Collaborators will be announced on ***Friday***, ***26th January 2019***

**DEADLINE:**

Collaboration forms must be submitted to ORID not later than 5.00pm on **Friday 18th January 2019.**

**HOW TO APPLY**

Interested applicants are to download the attached Collaboration Form.

**NOTE:**

Interested applicants should express their interest for the information session by sending an email to [orid-ipatt@ug.edu.gh](mailto:orid-ipatt@ug.edu.gh) or call Mrs. Mammie Hutchful Nortey on **020 081 2456.**

Collaboration forms can be submitted **electronically** to ORID via **orid-ipatt@ug.edu.gh** or **hand-delivered** to the ORID Secretariat on the ground floor of the LECIAD Building.

1. <https://www.accreditedschoolsonline.org/resources/library-makerspace/>. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)