EDUCATE YOUR MIND.

CHANGE YOUR WORLD!
Many universities today are mere ivory towers – uncritically emphasizing traditions, rituals, and paradigms of learning that do not encourage the wonder, the passion, the experience, the continuity, the vulnerability and the sacred community that education could mean. The results are subtle: we have learned men who cannot solve problems, convocation ceremonies that confer degrees on efforts of memory, and classrooms that reward recall better than creativity or courageous doubt. The implications, on the other hand, are horrifying: a continent beleaguered by death and want are isolated from change agents, who busy themselves with forwarding traditions with no direct impact on the lives of a seeking mass of suffering people. What we need is a deluge, a revolution, a critical look-again at our paradigms, a multitude of questions, a harnessing of communities. We await the day when students and faculty alike will find their highest call, their highest honour and their most compelling vocation in solving problems – and learning (in the first instance) to keep asking questions and developing critical thinking skills that will 'secure' them in that space where it is always possible to solve problems.
Education is often conceived and operated in ways that imply the passive reception of knowledge, rote-learning and removal from everyday events and realities. Little wonder many conceive education as a burden, not worthwhile or relevant to the ‘outside’ world. We believe otherwise! We believe that the student person is not a passive recipient of information, and that education can be active, participatory, exciting, adventurous, creative, socially relevant and meaningful! We believe that the student can be a change agent indeed!

Now the platform to make our beliefs impactful is here! The CU I-Fund is a response to the walls that divide education and social change and human development.
It's urgent! Do you know that Africa is still the poorest continent in the world – plagued by disease, ignorance, high illiteracy rates, technological deficiency and a lack of creative government?

Africa is also often regarded and spoken of as the ‘dark continent’ – though in hushed tones. Millions of children suffer hunger, ineffective education – if any – and are exposed to harsh realities every day. The governments express difficulty in understanding, talk less of solving, the multifaceted problems that have come to define this great paradox and riddle called Africa.

What’s this to do with you? Everything! As a student / alumnus of Covenant University, you probably have asked what it means to be a leader. And you probably have great ideas that can change lives. You may have conceived of a social program to help empower people to educate themselves, you may have thought out a brilliant device that helps save electricity – or a machine that purifies water faster and at cheaper rates. You may want to grow a business that contributes to the livelihood of your immediate community. Now the opportunity is here. Education has more to do with the questions we ask – than the answers we give. So what can you do?
Do you have ideas that can change the world? Do you think the world needs changing? Do you think that solution could make lives better? Do you think it can work? Can you breathe? Well, if your answer is ‘yes’ to these questions, then you’re the one we are looking for. Dare to think that plan out today. We’ll fund it. And you’ll be a hero! Much more importantly, someone somewhere will live another day.

YES. IT'S UP. TO YOU.
DO WE NEED CHANGE?

YES.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
It’s real simple! If you are a student or alumnus of Covenant University – and you still have your head on – then you qualify for our funding. There’s hardly any mind-numbing, idea-dissolving protocol involved!

There are no application forms, no long lines, no extensive meetings, no bureaucratic measures to screen out your ideas!

In order to really get you involved, we’ve decentralized the scheme! Traditionally, you’d have to fill out a 40-page document, submit feasibility studies and proposals – then hold your breath and wait while a small team of individuals decide whether or not to award the funds. THIS TIME, it’s way different! No long lines, no busy-as-a-bumble-bee offices!

If you have an idea, get talking! Get creative! Sing it, preach it, win votes! The I-FUND Team will announce an exciting Voting Day periodically – in which you’d compete with other people who have ideas. If you are a regular ‘Obama’, and you’ve won support, you’ll have to convince the electorate (the students) that your idea should win. What this means is that it’s the community that gets to review and decide who wins! On Voting Day, the acknowledged candidates will get a chance to change the world!
Think about it! Right from your desk, you’ll be empowered to do things with creative folk like you, and people who are willing to change lives with you – all for free! What does the I-FUND offer?

A. An opportunity to take advantage of the rich resource base of the David Oyedepo Foundation! The I-FUND is the Foundation’s ongoing commitment to inspire new paradigms in education; specifically, the FUND helps students get practical about solving problems and stimulating social change! This is a ‘first’ in Nigeria!

B. The I-FUND is not merely concerned about doling out wads of cash. We understand that education is about inspiring people to ask questions and think critically – not about scoring high grades and memorizing encyclopaedias. So, we have designed creative forums, debates and training sessions you can attend conveniently alongside your regular classes. Great facilitators will help you develop these skills, which will keep you asking questions, and thus keep you creative and making impact!
Others First! We seek to ground our activities, and inspire others to find their foundation, in the movement of love that is in the world. The FUND is given to bless!

Change is possible! It really is! All we probably need is an orientation towards new directions.

Alternatives Exist! We strongly value creativity, which, for some of us may refer to the ability to solve problems in novel ways. Africa is dire need of a creative human resource base with a focus on solving real problems and helping others.

Real education is about inspiring others to think – not imposing on others what to think!

No more walls! Education must stop isolating the student from practical realities. We’re helping realize a dream to make a large hole through walls of division – through your ideas of course!
In case you’re still wondering what this is all about, and how you can get in, read the following carefully...

1) We at the I-FUND feel that the greatest need today are people who think differently – and who are willing to connect with others to construct creative solutions to the technological, social and economic needs of our nation and continent.

2) We know you have ideas that can really shake things...

3) ...So we thought: in what ways can we help make your ideas a reality – and how can we do this without going ‘traditional’?

4) We decided to decentralize the process – thus making the I-Fund a real community phenomenon. This means that as a student of Covenant University, YOU decide how we spend our cash! If that’s not empowerment, then Gandhi was the first president of the United States!

5) So, there are no forms and lines. No boring liturgies and bureaucracies! No committees! The I-FUND Team will merely facilitate discourse and provide the platforms to make this happen! It means we are trusting you to make the right decisions.

6) So when a season is announced, don’t wait! That’s the Green Light – it doesn’t get any greener than that! Simply drop off your name with the team – so we know you are campaigning – and develop your ideas. You don’t need to submit anything. Get on the road, convince others, put up posters that advertise your ideas and what it could mean for your world (if you want), DO IT YOUR WAY!

Voting day will be the ‘November 4’ of the I-FUND! If you have campaigned, you’re likely to garner support for your idea. But popularity should not be your aim! Students, knowing that the funds are limited and must be disbursed to the idea with the greatest potential, will have an eye for quality and presentation.

Even if you have not campaigned or told us you want to put your idea in the ‘market’ to win the students, you still have a say! Your vote will be needed to enhance the chances of your favourite idea from other persons like you!

The I-FUND is YOUR scheme! Let’s get those ideas out!
What is the I-FUND?
The I-FUND is a scheme designed to empower students to change their world – in real tangible ways. It is an opportunity to give your education a meaning that’ll last long after you’ve forgotten your course of study!

How much does the I-FUND have?
Em...we won’t tell. What if we say we have just the right amount to help you build a prototype of a collapsible hydro-powered car – if that’s your idea, and if people will be better off for it?

Is this a Covenant University requirement? Is it compulsory?
No. Students or alumni are not compelled to compete for the I-FUND. And, the scheme is directly responsible to the David Oyedepo Foundation – not Covenant University (which is the operational arena of the program). The opportunity is open to all registered students and alumni.

Where do I apply?
In your room! In your classrooms. In the cafeteria! In your library (silently), and anywhere else students can be found. You see, the people who make the decisions about what idea to fund are the students – you! All we do is provide the opportunity! It’s a do-it-yourself thingy!

Will I get the money?
Well, if the community considers your idea the most likely to make impact, and vote for you, you’ll get a cheque – which will mandate you to produce the prototype of your idea, or develop a social scheme. Not to worry, we’ll be with you every step of the way, and help you translate your idea into reality.

Will this interrupt my studies? Will it interfere with anything?
Yes. It will interrupt your being ‘schooled’, and really bring about your being ‘educated’! Actually, since it is a run-it-your-own-way thing, you determine what happens. Of course, we have planned out empowerment programs for our contestants – as well as everyone else.

Is the school in support of this?
The I-FUND is an approved scheme and operation of the David Oyedepo Foundation! Of course the university is in support!

What types of ideas are sought?
For students, you can start working on ideas that are either under the ‘I-FUND RED’ or ‘I-FUND GREEN’ categories [see brochure]. It’s not based on colleges or programs of study.

What if my idea fails? Will I have to refund the money?
That’s a risk we are willing to take, and that’s why we want everybody involved. No, you won’t have to pay back anything – it’s not a loan. It’s an award to do great things alongside the team.

[If you still have questions, pay a visit to the NEST – the I-Fund Office, and say hello to our friendly team. If we are not smiling, don’t come in!]
You can contact the I-Fund Office (we call it the ‘Nest’ because that’s where ideas – like eggs – are born, nurtured, and hatched!) at the Covenant University Chapel (Office 301). You’ll find us on the last floor – next to the Alumni Office.

Tel: 017901081, 7900724 (2160)

You can also check us up on the Covenant University website.

How about getting in touch with one of the Team members?

Mosun (P.R.O.): 080 555 99 408
Chinwe (Secretary): 080 380 55 848
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Changing the world is about getting connected with the 'other'; it is about engaging in discourse, dialogue and conversation; it is about asking questions and evolving in critical thinking skills; it is about losing yourself in sharing with others in community and love! We think YOU can change your world – and that’s why we think you can get involved with the most exciting community of students this side of the planet!

Help us lay platforms for ideas, think up programs, learn to work in teams, design outreaches, nurture others to creativity – while you grow yourself, think like a genius, spread the discourse of ‘real education’, and have loads of fun and learning while at it! Join Club I-Fund Today! [See ‘Contact Us’ page or simply listen for noise!]

CLUB I-FUND
SO WHAT'S THE IDEA?