



CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR ONE PHD SCHOLARSHIP UNDER THE SIDA PROJECT, SUB-PROGRAM OF “UNDERNUTRITION”.

Background

The overall research-training sub-programme will address the complexity of undernutrition in children and their mothers with an extensive interdisciplinary undertaking by University of Rwanda in collaboration with complementary specialists from five universities in Sweden, involving a number of scientific disciplines working in close collaboration. It is planned as four interlinked research projects combining Health issues, Agricultural practices and Environmental matters, with Geospatial Information Technology, Innovation opportunities and Gender theory and analysis as crosscutting themes. This sub-programme will engage in total seven PhDs in sandwich mode with supervision from Rwanda/UR and Swedish Universities. Each PhD will be supervised by experts in at least two of the fields of science represented in this sub-programme.

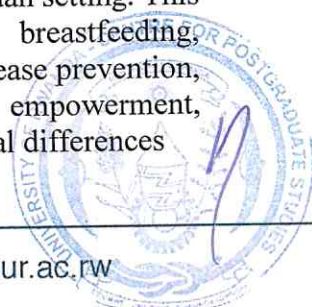
The research programme will contribute to the implementation and management of Rwanda's cross-sectoral Nutrition and Food Security policy, Poverty Reduction strategy and connected initiatives. Main contributions are strategic interventions and inclusive innovations targeting families, mothers and children at risk of undernutrition and stunting, based on an analysis of needs, demands and opportunities. Substantial contributions will also be innovations for the development of an electronic Rwandan Medical Birth Register and ICT-based tools for data collection, analyses, and dissemination, as well as monitoring of interventions addressing child undernutrition.

Call for application

In the perspective described above, the Undernutrition project intends to enrol seven candidates in a PhD program in sandwich mode. It is in this context that UR in its undernutrition sub-programme invites interested applicants to apply for a PhD position in the project

Seasonal and spatial patterns of childhood undernutrition and identification of amendable risk factors at individual, household and community levels

The exact mechanisms behind childhood stunting remain unclear in the Rwandan setting. This PhD-project will study the relationship between nutrition specific (e.g. breastfeeding, complementary feeding, dietary supplementation of mothers and children, disease prevention, etc.) and nutrition sensitive (e.g. food security, social safety nets, women's empowerment, WASH, etc.) factors on child health and nutrition taking seasonality and spatial differences





into consideration. Identification of which risk factors are amendable to intervention and at what level (individual, household, community) will be a priority. Main scientific areas are paediatric nutrition and epidemiology. The project will collaborate with expertise in Public Health, Nutrition, Agriculture and GIS.

The selected candidate under this project will be based at the Department of Clinical Sciences/Paediatrics, Umeå University, Sweden, Associate professor Torbjörn Lind, and at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Rwanda (CMHS, UR).

The selected candidate should be a physician with a master's degree in *Pediatrics* or *Public Health Sciences*. Previous research experience in field surveys or other field activities and basic skills in paediatric medicine, population health, biostatistics, data analysis and ICT tools are preferred.

Funding

The PhD training will be funded by the UR-Sweden Program grant.

Requirements

The applicant should be:

- a Rwandan Citizen;
- a Master's degree holder in the mentioned field/s stated under each PhD project above
- Candidates from collaborating Rwandan Government institutions such as University Teaching Hospitals, RBC, MoH, RAB, etc. are eligible and invited to apply. When successful, such candidates shall have to produce commitment letters from their respective institutions to release them to undertake the PhD on sandwich model. Furthermore, UR shall have agree with these institutions how the acquired expertise shall benefit both the institution of origin of the candidate and UR.
- Ready to adhere to UR capacity building policies and regulations;
- Having interest and passion in undernutrition (teaching, research, inter-institution collaboration for undernutrition related matters);
- Ready and able to conduct his/her PhD research activities in a collaborative way.
- All things being equal, priority will be given to UR staff.
- In line with UR's gender policy and UR's commitment to bridge gender gap in academic (teaching and research) jobs; all things being equal, female candidate shall be preferred.





Application file

Applicants must submit the following documents (well numbered):

1. Application letter addressed to the Ag. Director of Centre for Postgraduate Studies, University of Rwanda; the letter should demonstrate commitment, motivation and reasons for interest in this PhD program. A special section should be devoted to demonstrating how the applicant meets the above requirements;
2. Curriculum Vitae;
3. Copy of the degrees (Masters degree in the mentioned area under each of the seven projects)
4. Administrative recommendation letter from the direct supervisor;
5. Recommendation letters from at least two individuals of which one should be from academia;
6. Interested candidates should demonstrate in writing:
 - 1) brief reflection on the direct causes of undernutrition in children in Rwanda and also think through which are some of the most important indirect causes. Max 5-7 lines;
 - 2) their interest in one of the PhD projects described above and motivate why,
 - 3) earlier experience in the field chosen;
 - 4) academic merits such as exams in the field, any related publications, any field experience relevant to the PhD project applied for.

How to apply?

- The complete hard copy application files should be submitted to the office of the Ag. Director of the UR-CPGS at UR Head-Quarters (Gikondo) with a copy to the Dean of the School of Public Health at UR-Remera Campus.
- A soft copy of the application should be sent to the Scholarships Officer (email: gashayijagloriose@gmail.com) with Cc. to the sub-program team-leader, Assoc. Prof. Aline UMUBYEYI (email: aline.umubyeyim@gmail.com).

Eligible applicants will be invited for an interview for the final selection of the Candidate.





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Deadline for application

Not later than **29 October 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

For more information

Applicants can contact the Project PI, Assoc. Prof Aline UMUBYEYI (email: aline.umubyeyim@gmail.com)

Done in Kigali on 15th October 2019.

A blue ink signature of Dr. Celestin Ntivuguruzwa is written over a circular blue stamp. The stamp contains the text 'UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA' and 'CENTRE FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES' around the perimeter, with a central emblem.

Dr Celestin NTIVUGURUZWA

Acting Director, University of Rwanda Centre for Postgraduate Studies (UR CPGS)