



UNIVERSITY of
RWANDA



The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Rwanda
'360° Knowledge Accelerator towards dignifying work for young Africans'

**Call for Application for full Postgraduate scholarships under the
Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of
Rwanda**

for

Academic year 2022 – 2023

December, 2022

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The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Rwanda

Announcement

Call for Application for full Postgraduate scholarship under the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Rwanda (MCF-SP@UR) — Academic Year-2022 – 2023

1. BACKGROUND

The University of Rwanda in partnership with Mastercard Foundation is implementing a 10-year Scholars Program (MCF-SP@UR) aimed at enabling higher education access to young Africans qualified, yet economically disadvantaged and/ or coming from conflict and post-conflict affected areas of Africa — with a focus on women pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), young people with disabilities, and refugee and displaced youth—and strengthen the UR capability and mobilization for inclusive and supportive tertiary education pathways to dignified work.

The MCF-SP@UR is committed to developing Africa's next generation of ethical and transformative leaders who would influence positive forward-looking changes in their respective home countries specifically, and on the African Continent. We aim to drive and support transformation at three levels: individual (Scholars), institutional (the University), and system (higher education ecosystem and beyond).

2. AVAILABLE SCHOLARSHIPS

- For the academic year 2022-2023, the MCF-SP@UR is recruiting 30 scholars in UR Postgraduate programs (See 9 below).
- The program provides comprehensive scholarships for access to quality postgraduate university education at the University of Rwanda to qualified and academically talented, yet economically disadvantaged young Rwandans with leadership potentials, as well as other disadvantaged Africans, especially those in conflict and post-conflict areas.
- Priority shall be accorded to: **Females, Certified Refugees, and Persons with Disability.**

3. ELIGIBILITY

- Scholars will be sponsored in approved UR academic programs run in four (4) African Centers of Excellence, Two (2) regional centers of Excellence, Center for Gender Studies, School of Economics, School of Business and the International Center for Theoretical Physics in UR (See 9 below).
- A list of approved eligible programs at the University of Rwanda for MCF-SP scholarship is presented in the annex.
- Priority shall be accorded to Qualified Females (70%), Certified Refugees (25%), and Persons with Disabilities (10%), who are academically talented, yet economically disadvantaged and with leadership potential.
- Continuing students are **NOT** eligible.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- a. To apply for the scholarship, one must have successfully completed his/her bachelor Degree in fields of study related to the UR Masters program s/he is applying for.
- b. Be Rwandan or African citizen (Refugees must be certified by UNHCR, MINEMA, or another legal agency).
- c. Not above **40 years** of age for male, and not above **45 for female** at the time of application.
- d. The applicant must demonstrate their critical social and/or economic needs and/or disability.





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- e. The applicant must have proven records of leadership and community engagement(s).
- f. The applicant must have a strong commitment to community engagement and transformation and be prepared to **Go-Back and/or Give-Back** to his/her community.
- g. **70% of all scholarships** shall be accorded to Female and **80% of all scholarships** shall be given to students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs.
- h. The applicant must **NOT** be enrolled in any other tertiary institution.

5. APPLICATION PROCESS

- a. A general application form must be filled online using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/KWhgAwabqJyBVauJ7>
- b. Before completing the online application form, please read through all instructions, and required information. The link to accessing the empty form will be seen after opening the application link above.
- c. Applicant can fill the online application form in more than one session. However, it is recommended that you start the application when you have all the supporting documents in place with you. but the application will be considered only after formal submission steps below:
- d. Through the application process, there are different documents to be attached. Please make sure you name each document you will attach with your names and ensure they are saved in PDF format (with size less than 250 kb)
- e. **Click Submit** at the end of the online application, only when all the fields and attachments have been fully completed
- f. **Refugees** and/or displaced youth living in Rwanda are requested to fill the additional declaration form available on the links that are provided on the online application form. Download that form, fill and sign it and then scan it with the file size mentioned above.
- g. **Youth with disabilities** are requested to fill the additional declaration form available on the links that are provided on the online application form. Download that form, fill and sign it and then scan it with the file size mentioned above.
- h. All applicants are required to upload other supporting documents as required.

6. APPLICATION DEADLINE & SUPPORT TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

- Eligible candidates can start the online application to MCF-SP@UR' scholarships while gathering the supporting documents.
- The deadline for the application for the mcf-sp@ur scholarships: On or before Sunday 8th **January 2023** at 11.59P.M (CENTRAL AFRICA TIME).
- During the application period, the MCF-SP@UR Scholarship application support team will be available to provide any needed information. The following are contact details of the heads of MCF-SP@UR scholarship application support team:

Dr. Odette Uwizeye:
Registrar of University of Rwanda | Tel: +250 788
304 391 | Email: admissionsur2022@gmail.com

Prof. Evariste Karangwa
Lead -Recruit – MCF-SP@UR | Tel: +250
739 140 377 | Email: mcfsp.ur@gmail.com

- After the application period is closed, applicants shall not contact the MCF-SP@UR application support team under any circumstances on the status of their application. The MCF-SP@UR would inform and contact applicants when necessary.





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7. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Telephone numbers and email addresses provided by applicants should be active at all times to receive critical information on their application.
- The application for the scholarship is a staggered ongoing process.
- There will be a pre-selection step and those successful will be invited for an oral interview by independent panels and at each stage, unsuccessful candidates would be notified.
- There would be unannounced on-site validation visits to the home of selected students
- There are **absolutely No Charges/ Fees/ Facilitation/ Agents or Intermediaries Required** at any stage of this process.
- Applicants who will be discovered to have falsified information or attempt to influence the process at any stage (application or home visit) in order to gain advantage of the scholarship shall be disqualified.
- The decisions of the Selection Committee **are Final**.
- Successful applicants will be expected to become champions and transformative leaders, entrepreneurs and change makers at various levels and shall remain in close communication with the University of Rwanda for at least 5 years after completing their studies.
- Any misconduct (breaching university rules, regulations and policies including participation in riotous acts, involvement in subversive activities, illicit financial activities, terrorism, or denial of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi) on the part of the successful applicants (scholars) shall lead to automatic disqualification and loss of the scholarship.
- All scholarships will be on a rolling basis, implying that annual renewal of funding is subject to satisfactory academic performance.

8. DESCRIPTION OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE

- This is a comprehensive scholarship that will be managed by the University of Rwanda. The MCF SP @ UR also offers an opportunity for the scholars to receive holistic training that empowers them and lead them to the academic success, community engagement and transition to employment opportunities which will equip the scholars to be global citizens.
- The scholarship will cover:
 - Comprehensive financial support (full tuition fees, fully paid on-campus accommodation, a laptop, learning materials, annual return ticket allowance, and a full-year monthly stipend.
 - Psycho-social Support Services.
 - Uniquely sourced internships with industry for professional development.
 - Continued academic support through academic mentorship, virtual learning, and tutoring.
 - Career Development Services (including Industrial Mentorship, Career Guidance, Professional Development, and Enterprise Development, among others)
 - Regular group meetings with other scholars that focus on personal and professional development opportunities and activities tailored to build societal relationships and scholars' capacity.
 - Opportunities to participate in leadership congresses, community services and mentoring (Go-back Give- Back),
 - The prestige of becoming part of the growing family of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Alumni and networking with the Global Scholars Community.

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- Considering the level of investment, successful applicants will be required to become high achievers, highly engaging and focused scholars, able to give back and make changes in their respective communities and Africa in general.

9. List of UR Postgraduate programs approved for MCF-SP@UR scholars program applicants

Campus & Level	College	School	Program	Comment
Nyarugenge Campus				
PG	CST	CST	Postgraduate programs	
		ACE-Energy	Masters in Energy	STEM
		ACE-IOT	Master of IOT	STEM
		ICTP FAIR	MSc Physics	STEM
Gikondo Campus				
PG	CBE	CBE	Postgraduate programs	
		ACE-Data Science	Masters in Data Science (All Options)	STEM
		School of Economics	MSc in Economics	Non-STEM
	School of Business	Master of Business Administration	Non-STEM	
	CASS	Center for Gender Studies	Masters in Gender Studies	Non-STEM
Remera/Kigali	CMHS	CMHS	Postgraduate programs	
PG	CMHS	Centre for Vaccine	Masters in Health Supply Chain	Non-STEM
		CEBE	Masters in Biomedical Engineering	STEM
Rukara Campus				
PG	CE	ACE-ITLMS	ACE-ITLMS (All options)	STEM

10. Evaluative Interviews

- Among the applicants, 30 scholars will be selected by the Recruitment committee (SRC) based on the established selection criteria.
- Interviews will be conducted using a predefined interview guide aligned with the expectations of the program and the vision of the institution.
- Applicants shall receive equal treatment especially concerning the questions being asked. Thus, the member of SRC shall discuss and discuss the questions to be asked and their distribution among panel members ahead of interviews
- An interview report shall be written by the MCF-SP@PIT Office summarizing the interview process and the interview results per academic programs
- The interview report shall be shared electronically with panel members for their inputs and signature in agreement
- The Chair of SRC shall submit the interview report to VC for the UR Executive Organs' approval with results of home visits.

11. Declaration of results

- The approved list of selected candidates for the scholarship will be published on the UR website.
- MCF-SP@UR Scholarship award letters will be issued to successful candidates.
- Award letters will be issued by the VC office via e-mail.



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12. Confirmation of the scholarship award by candidates

- Successful candidates shall receive a scholarship award letter together with a scholarship acceptance form that must be completed and signed by the candidate to confirm acceptance of the scholarship.
- Successful candidates' parents/guardians shall be required to complete and sign a commitment form to confirm acceptance of support to the scholars.
- Duly completed and signed form shall be returned via MCF-SP@UR email within five workdays after reception of the scholarship award letter.
- In case a candidate declines the offer for any reason, the next in line will be awarded the scholarship.
- A scholarship offer cannot at any time be differed.

Done in Kigali,¹⁶..... December, 2022


Dr KAYIHURA Muganga Didas

Ag. Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda

