



CALL FOR MSc SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS IN BIODIVERSITY AND NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

I. Introduction

The Centre of Excellence in Biodiversity and Natural Resource Management (CoEB) at the University of Rwanda (UR) in collaboration with the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Rwanda Forest Authority (RFA) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE) are implementing the Community-based Biodiversity Conservation (COMBIO) project in Eastern Rwanda. One of the components of the project is to support postgraduate student research whose focus is to support evaluation research impacts of the project in the intervention sites, and the relationships between biodiversity and ecological functions, resilience, and climate change adaptation/mitigation within selected forest ecosystems and restoration sites in Bugesera, Rwamagana, Kayonza, Ngoma, Gatsibo, Nyagatare and Kirehe districts. Specific objectives are the following:

- Assess the impact of biodiversity on ecological function and
- Impact evaluation research on the project interventions.

II. Purpose of the research scholarships

The intention is to engage three MSc students enrolled in UR in the assessment of the impacts of the COMBIO project on biodiversity, ecological functions, or people's livelihoods in the areas of interventions. The research projects will focus on restoration interventions to inform changes in the targeted remnant forests and restored sites.

Research includes:

- Assessment of the Socio-Economic Contributions of Community-Based Biodiversity Conservation in Eastern Rwanda
- Assessment of Growth and Survival Rate of Native Tree Species in COMBIO project intervention sites in Eastern Province Rwanda
- Assessment of the levels of soil properties under degraded landscapes restored using native tree species in Eastern Rwanda
- Phenology and propagation technique of priority native tree species
- Evaluation of the levels of carbon sequestration potentials in the intervention areas

This information will help in the assessment of the outcomes of the restored sites under COMBIO project.

III. Call for applications

The CoEB in collaboration with the IUCN are pleased to announce the availability of three (3) MSc scholarships in the University of Rwanda.



IV. Funding

Selected candidates will be facilitated for data collection, laboratory work, data analysis and publication in Scopus indexed journal

V. Application requirements

- The MSc student must be enrolled in one of the master programs offered by the University of Rwanda and having experience in the domain of this call.
- Having at least one publication in the domain of interest is an additional value.

VI. Eligibility Criteria

- Be a Rwandan citizen
- UR Permanent Staff will be given priority
- Not be older than 35 years to Female and 30 years to Male

VII. Application file

The interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- A cover letter addressed to the Director of the UR CPGS indicating the candidate's interest and motivation and justifying the specific topic he/she is applying for and explaining why he/she is the right person to get the grant
- A detailed research proposal not exceeding 5 pages including introduction, research objectives, literature review, research methodology, timeline, list of references and budget not exceeding 8,415,000 Frw
- If the applicant has identified a potential supervisor, the name and contact information for the supervisor should be mentioned in the proposal
- A curriculum vitae (CV)
- Certified copies of previous degree (s)
- Proof of enrolment in MSc program under UR
- Two recommendation letters from academic staffs who know the applicant's area of research and abilities with regards to research activities.

VIII. Selection methodology

Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality of their proposals: writing quality, quality of the literature review that shows an understanding of the topic and current relevant literature, the relationship of the research questions to the intention of the research funding opportunity, probability that the research outputs will provide information to assess COMBIO project impacts, publication, and the applicants prior experience based on evidence from the CV and letters of recommendation.



IX. How to apply and key dates

A copy of complete application file should be submitted by email to the Scholarship officer on ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw at the university of Rwanda Centre of Postgraduate Studies on the Telephone number: 0792988304 with a copy to coeb@ur.ac.rw .

Note:

- A candidate should submit **only** one application (as a zipped file)
- The research proposal must be in MS word format but all other supporting documents need to be submitted as a single pdf file.
- **Application should be submitted not later than *Friday June 26th, 2026 at 5:00 pm.***

X. Contact for any Further Information

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact the Project Coordinator: Mr. Venant NZIBAZA on the Email: v.nzibaza@ur.ac.rw on the Telephone number: 0785646244 .

Done at Kigali on 03./06./2026


Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor

