



Diarienummer: DS2019/2153

2019/08/29

Call for Three PhD positions in social work at University of Gothenburg, Sweden under the Research Training Partnership Programme – University of Rwanda & University of Gothenburg (Sweden)

Background

The program overall aim is to address and fill the gaps of insufficiency in qualified number of social work faculty at UR but also increase interaction between researchers, policy makers and the community members to share and discuss with them the research outputs as end users but also for policy implications. The project outputs are 3 PhD graduates, 12 conference attended, 4 academic research seminars to boost research culture amongst staff and students, 5 policy interaction meetings and 5 community outreach activities (campaigns) will be carried out (at least one each year) and 12 published papers at the end of the project. Gender and environment considerations are the crosscutting pillars of the subprogram.

UR trained staff to a PhD level will be engaged in high quality teaching, research in the areas of social work to graduate good social work professionals; able to engage all stakeholders in addressing social issues in a sustainable way. Community work and outreach activities to facilitate people's efforts towards sustainable development will also be key area to emphasize on during the implementation of the project. This will also benefit the Department of Social Work at UG in its capacity building among staff and research collaboration as a mutual learning platform. The two institutions have an already existing partnership since 2015 and a desire to keep the collaboration through this current SIDA framework for sustainable development and long term benefits. This proposal aligns with the global agenda of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) more especially goal 16. This goal is about promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and built effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

This program responds to the expressed need of UR to strengthen the capacity of its staff to fit the national aim to transform Rwanda into a middle income country by 2020 but also other development initiatives such as Agenda 2030, Sustainable Development Goals and Agenda 2050. Though in Sen's view (1999), development is seen as freedom, sometimes the development process creates also problems leading to marginalization which need to be dealt with by social workers which explains the need for trained social work educators and professionals to feed the mission of the Ministry of Education (MINEDUC) to transform the Rwandan citizen into skilled human capital for the socio-economic development





(MINEDUC 2013) and to deliver Economic Development and Poverty Reduction Strategy “EDPRS 2” according to Ministry of Public Service and Labor (MIFOTRA, 2013).

Within this collaboration between University of Rwanda and University of Gothenburg called “Research Training Partnership Programme” funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), three PhD positions in Social Work is hereby announced.

Due to the collaborative programme, applicants need to be employed or associated at the University of Rwanda in order to be eligible to apply. The PhD students will be enrolled 100% at the Department of Social Work in Gothenburg, Sweden and the PhD positions are fully funded by scholarships. The PhD positions are within the focus area of “Socio Economic Transformation and Sustainable Development” and “Inclusive Governance, Peace and Security”.

The University of Gothenburg tackles society’s challenges with diverse knowledge. 38 000 students and 6 000 employees make the university a large and inspiring place to work and study. Strong research and attractive study programmes attract scientists and students from around the world. With new knowledge and new perspectives, the University contributes to a better future.

The Department of Social Work is at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Gothenburg. The department have over 120 employees and offer Social Work Programme as well as Master’s Programmes, Family Therapy Education, further training programmes and third-cycle studies. Social work is the main subject studied at first, second and third-cycle levels. In this expansive and dynamic environment, characterized by a high level of social commitment and extensive international contacts and collaborations through various networks and universities around the world, research in social work is conducted within the framework of several profiles. Our research includes studies of social problems, their causes and consequences for the individual, group and society. Social work as a research discipline also involves the living conditions of vulnerable individuals and groups, social interventions, social policy measures and social processes.

Third-cycle studies

The third-cycle study programme equates to 240 credits in total (four years of full-time studies) and a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree. The education covers 65 course credits within the framework of the research programme and 175 dissertation credits. The doctoral student is also, within the framework of his/her studies, expected to participate in seminars and contribute to the joint activities of the Department. Studies are to be conducted full-time unless special circumstances exist in which case the study rate shall not be reduced by more than 50%.

The doctoral studentship incorporates departmental duties of 20% of a full-time position distributed over the entire study period. The PhD students in this Sida project will do





these 20% duties at UR instead of GU. Following implementation of departmental duties, the duration of the research appointment shall be extended accordingly.

Job assignments

The primary objective of this third-cycle degree programme is for the doctoral student to develop the knowledge and skills required for an independent research into social work and to contribute to the development of knowledge in the relevant subject area through the preparation and production of a scientific dissertation.

A further objective is for the doctoral student to develop an ability to utilise the scientific skills and knowledge gained in continued research work or in other qualified professional work.

Eligibility

According to Chapter 7, Section 39 of the Higher Education Ordinance, Sweden, basic eligibility for doctoral studies requires that the applicant has:

- Graduated at advanced level, completed a university degree course of at least 240 credits of which 60 credits at advanced level or otherwise acquired equivalent knowledge.

Specific entry requirements:

In order to be admitted to this third-cycle programme in Social Work, the following specific entry requirements must be fulfilled:

- A Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work Education equivalent to 210 credits or equivalent knowledge acquired in other ways and in fulfillment of the requirements specified above.

Other requirements

The applicant should be:

- A Rwandan citizen
- Ready to be able to conduct his/her PhD research activities in a collaborative way
- Be academic staff of the University of Rwanda or staff of another institution as long as it is willing to give a study leave to the applicant. All things being equal, priority will be given to UR staff.
- Female candidates are encouraged to apply. All things being equal, priority will be given to female applicants





Assessment

Provisions for the employment of a doctoral student are set forth in the Swedish Code of Statutes (SFS) 1998:80. Only applicants fulfilling the necessary requirements for admission to third-cycle studies will be considered.

Selection among applicants is made with regard to their ability to successfully complete the research programme as well as the prerequisites of the Department to provide guidance based on the applicant's preliminary research focus.

Applicant assessments are based primarily on the ability to formulate, delimit and analyse research data and present research findings and results. Experience of professional social work is deemed a merit. Interviews form part of assessment and selection process.

When assessing the relevance of a project in the field of social work and the applicant's ability to assimilate and draw benefit from the research programme, consideration is given to the project proposal accompanying the application as well as to previous essays and academic qualifications.

This third-cycle course and study programme in Social Work is also open to externally employed and funded applicants, otherwise known as 'externally positioned doctoral students'. The bases on which admission is granted to externally positioned doctoral students are the same as for other applicants. A special agreement is drawn up between the employer and the department.

Employment

Type of employment: Fixed-term employment, four years full-time studies. Extent: 100 %. Location: Department of Social Work, University of Gothenburg. First day of employment: 1 January 2020.

Miscellaneous

Most third-cycle courses run by the Department of Social Work are conducted in Swedish as are most of our seminar activities. However, PhD students in this call will participate in courses given in English at the Faculty of Social Sciences and elsewhere. A good knowledge of English is important in order to fully draw benefit from the research programme in its entirety.

Click on the link below to read more about this third-cycle course in the general syllabus for third-cycle programmes.

https://socwork.gu.se/english/international/PhD_Studies/?languageId=100001&disableRedirect=true&returnUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fsocwork.gu.se%2Futbildning%2Fforskarutbildning%2F





For further information regarding the position, please contact:

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Department of Social Work Website:

[https://socwork.gu.se/english/international/PhD_Studies/?
languageId=100001&disableRedirect=true&returnUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fsocwork.gu.se%2F
utbildning%2Fforskarutbildning%2F
Unions](https://socwork.gu.se/english/international/PhD_Studies/?languageId=100001&disableRedirect=true&returnUrl=http%3A%2F%2Fsocwork.gu.se%2Futbildning%2Fforskarutbildning%2FUnions)

Union representatives at the University of Gothenburg:

[http://www.gu.se/english/about_the_university/job-
opportunities/union-
representatives](http://www.gu.se/english/about_the_university/job-opportunities/union-representatives)

How to apply

The selection of candidates is made on the basis of the qualifications registered in the application. Send (e-mail) your application including all attachments to: applicationphd@socwork.gu.se with a copy to Mrs. Gloriose UMULISA GASHAYIJA, the Scholarships Officer at UR-CPGS (email: gashayijagloriose@gmail.com) and in the School of Governance; Dr. Hahirwa G. Joseph at jhahirwa@gmail.com.

Any documents that are not available in electronic format should be sent by ordinary postal service to: University of Gothenburg Department of Social Work P.O. Box 720, SE 405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden.

The reference number of the position “PhD Rwanda DS2019/2153” should be clearly stated on the envelope.

Closing date (dead line for submission): 29th September 2019

In order to complete your admissions application, you must provide the following:

1. An introductory letter of max. 500 words (about 1 page) addressed to the Acting Director of the Center for Postgraduate Studies, University of Rwanda. The introductory letter shall consist of: (a) a short presentation of yourself, (b) a short presentation of your merits, (c) a short presentation of your proposed research project.





2. Your CV, professional certifications and list of publications, if any.
3. Photocopy of ID card
4. Essays, dissertations and other relevant academic papers.
5. A research proposal of maximum three pages in which you present your proposed area of research, justify the relevance of such research and present potentially relevant theories, methods and materials.
6. Certified copies of diplomas and evidence of special qualifications.
7. Description and proof of other relevant merits such as participation in research, evaluation or other similar development work.
8. A proof that the applicant is employed/associated with University of Rwanda
9. At least 3 recommendation letters (2 from senior academicians and 1 from the administrative supervisor at current employment)

In connection to this recruitment, we have already decided which recruitment channels we will use, therefore we decline further contact with vendors, recruitment and staffing companies.

Done at Kigali on 28th August 2019



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

