



Call for application for PhD Student positions under the Collaboration between the Duke University and the University of Rwanda

I. Background

The University of Rwanda (UR) and Duke University are offering four PhD positions funded by the National Institute of Health, USA, to conduct research in the domain of *Neuropsychology and Neuroscience* in Rwanda.

II. Role and description

The National Institute of Health, through the Fogarty International Center and National Institute of Mental Health Center, have awarded Duke University a D43 Training grant to prepare PhD students in the area of *Neuropsychology and Neuroscience* in Rwanda. Professor Deborah Koltai leads the initiative as PI, with Prof. Vincent Sezibera (University of Rwanda-College of Medicine and Health Sciences-Centre for Mental Health) and Prof. Suzanne Penna and Prof Anthony Stringer (Emory University, USA) as directors of the program. Four PhD trainees will constitute the first of two cohorts. The PhD will be awarded from the University of Rwanda in Psychology, with a concentration in Neuropsychology.

The aim of the D43 training program is to train students to be neuroscientists with advanced expertise in the measurement of neurocognition and neurobehavior across the lifespan, to conduct research on disorders impacting brain health, and development, and to adapt and validate linguistically and culturally relevant neuropsychological tools for brain health research.

In order to build long term research infrastructure, students and supervisors will be recruited with specific interest and expertise in topics that address critical brain health needs in Rwanda. These research areas will be broad in order to allow students to have a choice of topics for their research concentration. Areas of research concentration will include pediatric neurodevelopmental disorders, neurodegenerative disorders (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis), acquired brain injury (i.e., traumatic brain injury and stroke), infectious disease (e.g. cerebral malaria), seizure disorders, development of psychometric instrumentation for adults and children, and environmental determinants of health (e.g. nutrition, exposure to the elements, toxic exposure). Projects will be student-led with supervisor approvals.

The project will primarily be realized at the University of Rwanda, but will involve some travel to the USA for international exposure, specifically to attend neuropsychology conferences for learning and networking, and to participate in collaborative meetings focusing on neurocognitive instrument developmental frameworks.

The successful applicant will be responsible for their defined program of research, inclusive of data collection and analysis, and publication and dissemination of the results.



Each trainee will receive:

- 1) Formal instruction in neuropsychology. Students will take courses in Adult and Child Neuropsychological Assessment, Behavioral Research Methods, Functional Neuroanatomy and Applied Statistics)
- 2) Dual Research Mentors. Each student will have two mentors who are expert neuropsychologists, one from the USA and one from Africa. Together, these mentors will guide and supervise the development and execution of research.

III. Call for applications

Under the research funds management of the University of Rwanda's Single Project Implementation Unit (UR-SPIU) we call for applicants for four PhD positions, each being 3 years in duration. The students will enroll for a PhD in Psychology at the University of Rwanda, and teaching and research will be in *Neuropsychology and Neuroscience*.

IV. Funding

The PhD candidate will be offered a monthly salary, and travel to the USA for conferences. Also, the registration and tuition fees at the University of Rwanda are covered (refer to UR fees structure). Each student will be allocated funding support for research activities. The candidate will have regular opportunities to collaborate with other D43 trainees, mentors, and directors.

V. Application requirements

The research project is looking for highly motivated candidates with strong interest in neuropsychology and neurosciences, and commitment to developing as a career neuroscientist. The minimum requirements include:

Mandatory:

- Be a Rwandan citizen
- Be a UR permanent staff
- A master's degree in clinical psychology and related fields
- Perfectly speaking Kinyarwanda
- Good English writing and communication skills.

Preferred:

- Prior research experience (e.g., involvement in data collection).
- Evidence of excellent research, communication, and cooperative skills
- Good data analysis skills (R, SPSS, MATLAB, Python).



VI. Application file

Interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- A cover letter addressed to the University of Rwanda Center for Post-Graduate Studies (UR-CPGS) indicating the candidate's interest and motivation, with specific attention to interests aligned with the areas of research specialization outlined in section II above.
- A current CV which includes a description of current research interests, past research experience, and publications
- Copy of National Identity and/or passport
- A certified copy of transcripts of Bachelor and Master courses and grades
- Copies of educational certificates
- Letters of recommendation from 3 academic referees
- Contact information of the same referees.

VII. Selection methodology

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on dates that will be communicated through emails.

VIII. How to apply

To apply, submit a **single pdf** (see list of documents above in section VI) to the UR-CPGS officer at ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, Prof Vincent Sezibera (v.sezibera@ur.ac.rw) with a copy sent to the Principal Investigator, Deborah Koltai, PhD (koltai@duke.edu).

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact:

The University of Rwanda Postgraduate officer, Ms. Mukangoga Christine, e-mail: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw; Tel: +250 788 642 427 , Prof Vincent Sezibera Tel: +250 788 77 12 89, e-mail: (v.sezibera@ur.ac.rw).

Notes:

- **Closing date for receipt of applications: July 10, 2024**
- A candidate should submit only a single application.

Done at Kigali...../....., 2024

Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor





CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DOCTORAL STUDENTSHIP IN THE AREA OF AIR POLLUTION

I. Background

The University of Rwanda is partnering with USA University, Carnegie Mellon University, in a new three-year Research Training Program (2024-2027) funded by the Carnegie Mellon- Africa (CMU Africa) in support of African Engineering and Technology Network (AFRETEC). This partnership is offering the opportunity to complete one doctoral degree (PhD) in the Air Pollution area.

II. Program description

The PhD student will be enrolled in a **PhD by research Program at University of Rwanda**. The research aims at conducting Air Pollutant Emission Inventory for the East Africa Region.

III. General Eligibility Criteria

The call is open under the following general eligibility criteria, that the applicant must:

1. Be a citizen of Rwanda
2. Be a UR permanent staff
3. Holding a MSc degree in a relevant field

IV. Essential criteria

In addition to the general eligibility criteria, the following essential eligibility criteria needs to be considered.

The candidate must;

1. Hold a MSc degree in Environmental Engineering, atmospheric physics or equivalent.
2. Be English proficient.

Female candidates are encouraged to apply

V. How to apply

Interested applicants should submit the following:

1. An application letter addressed to the University of Rwanda Center for Post-Graduate Studies (UR-CPGS) which the subject should be the Air Pollution
2. A personal motivation statement for the programme of study. This statement should demonstrate commitment, motivation and reasons for
3. interest in the programme (max 2 pages).
4. Two recommendation letters: one of the recommendation letters should be issued by a previous academic supervisor, preferably the Master's degree supervisor.



5. Certified Copy of the Master's degree certificate (or equivalent)
6. Copies of valid identification card or passport
7. Copy of the Master thesis
8. Current CV (maximum of 3 pages) with full name, e-mail, date of birth, sex, formal education at previous university, including
9. full specification of the Masters' degree specialization, previous experience relevant to the present study, scientific publications and/or any other academic experience that may be relevant.
10. Concept note, outlining a problem statement, research questions, and research design and suggest/discuss some appropriate methodologies for the selected topic as well as a few key references (maximum 4 pages).
11. A copy of published scientific papers, proceedings or similar (optional).

VI. Mode of submission

An electronic version of the application should be sent to ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, Tel : 0784 569 345 and copy to kaberacriss@gmail.com, Tel: 0788 306 256
Please name the application folder with your name and the document name.

VII. Submission deadline

The deadline for application is July 12, 2024

VIII. Recruitment process

1. Applications must be submitted by e-mail as specified above
2. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on dates that will be communicated through emails.
3. The interviews are expected to take place at University of Rwanda, College of Science and Technology in Kigali.

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact:
The UR Postgraduate officer, Ms. Mukangoga Christine, e-mail: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw;
Tel: +250 788 642 427 , and e-mail to the Principal Investigators: UR Team Leader Prof. Kabera
Telephore at the e-mail address: kaberacriss@gmail.com/t.kabera@ur.ac.rw and Tel: 0788 306 256

Done at Kigali...../....., 2024

Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor

