



Re- advertised call for applications for a PhD Student Research Assistant position under UR-ARISE grant project.

I. Background

The University of Rwanda (UR) College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS), in collaboration with University of Liege, Belgium, received funding from the Africa Academy of Science / ARISE, to establish a project entitled “**Genomic and environmental factors of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) in Rwandan children**”.

II. Role and description

The project goals to identify the genomic and environmental factors underlying three types of NDDs: Rare Genomics Neurodevelopmental defect (RGNDD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and microcephaly. The study also aims to train African scientists at PhD level and build their capacities on bioinformatics and diagnosis of genetic disorders; provide a rich resource of samples, phenotypic and genotypic data for NDDs in Rwanda; allow rapid diagnosis of frequent genetic syndromes. This research project is aligned with the health goal (SDG-3) of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals: which is to 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Most of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) are considered as rare disease, therefore by fighting for the right to appropriate diagnosis and treatment of patients living with a rare disease.

III. Call for application

Under the project managed by the University of Rwanda -Single Project Implementation Unit. (UR-SPIU) we call for applicants for one fully funded PhD Student Research assistantship. The student will enrol for a PhD in Medical Science (Human Genetics), or already enrolled at the University of Rwanda. The PhD program will be by research following the policy of UR. Interested candidates can apply for a three-year PhD in this program starting from April 2023. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

IV. Funding

The program is funded by the Africa Academy of Science / ARISE Fellowship grant. The training will be offered in sandwich mode at the University of Liege (Belgium) and interested candidates are invited to apply. The successful candidate will be funded for tuition fees, monthly living allowances, field allowances, research visit at the University of Liege and any other research expenses with UR standards.

V. Application requirements

The applicant must:

- Be of Rwandan nationality
- Be eligible to be enrolled in a PhD in Medical Sciences at the University of Rwanda
- Hold a master's degree from any health sciences domain or to be in last year of master's and waiting to graduate with primary qualification degree in Medicine (MD, MBBS, MBChB, or equivalent).



- Be fully registered and licensed by the Rwanda Dental and Medical Council.
- Be a self-starter with experience taking initiative and working both independently and as team.
- Have excellent verbal and written communications skills in English and Kinyarwanda.
- Show a proof of the study leave if a non-UR staff is selected or commitment letter that he/she will be granted the same.

VI. Application file

The interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- An application letter addressed to CPGS Director which addresses how your experience and skills make you an excellent candidate for this position.
- A curriculum vitae (CV) which includes previous publications.
- Notarized copies of previous degrees (BSc and MSc)
- Transcripts of master's degree programme and Bachelor
- Two recommendation letters from academic staffs,
- A research proposal that is not more than 5,000 words on any of the 2 research topics related to the aim of the project described in *section 2*.

VII. Selection methodology

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

VIII. How to apply

Interested applicants are required to submit the following documents:

A copy of complete application file should be submitted by email to the UR-CPGS officer at ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, with a copy sent to the Principal Investigator, Assoc. Professor Annette Uwineza (annetteuwineza@gmail.com) and the Co-Principal Investigator, Dr. Abdullateef Alagbonsi (easylat@gmail.com).

Note: A candidate should submit only one application

Application should be submitted not later than 15 March 2023.

Done at Kigali²⁴ February 2023


Dr. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas, PhD
Acting Vice Chancellor

