A re-Advertisement call for applications for PhD studies for doctoral degree at the University of Borås within the Research Training Partnership Programme on 1924_49 Library

1. Background

The University of Rwanda Library Services, within the Sida Research Training Partnership Programme (2019-2024), aims to enhance the research capacity and support in cooperation with the Swedish School of Library and information Science (SSLIS) at the University of Borås. The selected candidate is also expected to be engaged in research and teaching in library and information science at the University of Rwanda. The cooperation is funded by the Swedish International Development Agency

2. Programme description

This call is for 1 position to be enrolled for a PhD degree in Sweden at the University of Borås, Swedish School of Library and Information Science (SSLIS) in a sandwich mode with 7 months in Sweden, 5 months in Rwanda per year. SSLIS is a European leader in library and information science as has a doctoral programme whidh recruits both nationally and internationally.

All traditional forms of libraries (school, public, university) are in transformation as response to the evolution of information and communication technologies in recent decades. The current PhD student position is strategically aimed at researching the modern University library. Three aspects appear fundamental in this context. First, collections are increasingly curated as digital online resources. Second, librarians must support the development of advanced information literacy skills among students and researchers to support their studies and research as well as to prepare them for lifelong learning. Third, today's University library is also concerned with archiving (i.e. online publication) of in-house research as well as strategies of increasing visibility, citations and research utilization. The student needs to have skills and interests relevant for the exploration of the modern University library. Proficiencies related to digital curation of collections as well as theoretical insights into information literacy, social media, information management and information retrieval constitute advantages for this particular position.

Applicants should master academic written and spoken English. The PhD thesis itself will be written in English.

Overall, writing skills are seen as very important and any thesis or article in English should be added to the application.

The research concept note may be developed from one of themes listed in the section: Role of the PhD below.

The University of Borås PhD programme consists of both compulsory and optional courses. 60 ECTS courses. The main part of the programme, 180 ECTS, is the completion of a PhD thesis, which is supported by two supervisors in Sweden as well as one supervisor in Rwanda.

Candidates are invited to submit their applications according to the process described below. Studies are expected to start in May 2022 and last four (4) years. Please read through the whole text.

3. Funding

Students will be fully funded and they will be supported by Sida trough UR Sweden Program for Research, High Education and Institutional Advancement

4. Role of the PhD

We invite candidates for conducting a PhD on:
1. Information use/information behaviour
2. Digitisation and digital libraries (eg. Digitising cultural heritage of Rwanda)
3. Libraries, cultural policy and information policy
4. Online collections acquisition and management
5. Bibliometrics
6. Open access and Open research data

5. General Eligibility criteria *(these are stipulated by the UR policy. Be aware that the eligibility criteria change for re-advertised calls, see explanation in footnote)*

The applicant must be:

i. Permanent staff of the University of Rwanda and/or (since this is a re-advertised call) external candidates, such as employed at a collaborating government institution, UR staff on temporary contracts, external MSc holders);[1]

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[1] According to UR Scholarships policy 2.1.1.2: Candidates from outside UR are eligible to apply in areas where UR has failed to attract internal applicants in the first call, provided that immediate employment can be justified by the beneficiary College and negotiated with the University management. If justified and negotiated, a candidate from outside UR shall provide a proof that leaving her/his current employment will be possible (demonstrated by a recommendation from the current employer). Applicants should have 75% in the previous year's evaluation report.

ii. Citizen of Rwanda

iii. Holding a relevant MSc degree;

iv. Ready to spend a minimum of 6 months in Sweden in multiple visits *(normally 7 months in Sweden and 5 in Rwanda per year);*

v. Ready to continue working at the University of Rwanda after completion of the PhD studies;

In case of a scholarship abroad, candidates must be prepared to return immediately after receiving a letter confirming satisfactory completion of the degree to serve in Rwanda. For PhD scholarships, the candidate should be prepared to work full time on the project and not in possession of another fellowship for PhD studies.

5.1. Specific eligibility criteria (specify based on type of position)

Essential criteria:

i.   The candidate should hold a MSc degree degree in library and information science and neighbouring relevant disciplines: sociology, mass media and communication studies, literature studies, computer linguistics, computer science, inormatics, education, digital humanities and philosophy;

ii.   The candidate must be English proficient *and will need to show the level of proficiency prior to studies at the University of Borås (https://www.hb.se/en/research/doctoral-education/application-and-admission/)*

5.2. Desired criteria

Note that the candidate is expected to contribute to teaching at the University of Rwanda. However, during the study period, the teaching load is maximum 20%. Other side activities, assignments, consultancies or employment are strongly discouraged. [Applicants of underrepresented sex] are encouraged to apply and there is a gender equality component in the programme that will provide some support for parents who travel with children.

6. How to apply

Interested applicants should submit the following:

i.   An application letter for the position, the subject should be **PhD 1924_49_Library** and it must specify which of the positions the applicant is applying for.

ii.   A personal motivation statement for the programme of study. This statement should demonstrate commitment, motivation and reasons for interest in the programme (max 2 pages).

iii.   Recommendation letters from two academic or professional referees;
In the case of a PhD, two recommendation letters from people who can comment on the candidate's intellectual curiosity and academic ability to pursue research, leading to a PhD in the specified thematic area: one of the recommendation letters should be issued by a previous academic supervisor, preferably the Master's degree supervisor.

iv.   Applicants from a College at UR need to inform the Principal about applying for this position; and attach a confirmatory letter from the Principal, who received this information.

v.   Applicants from collaborating government institutions much attach letter from employer ensuring the candidate gets study leave for the entire period if chosen for the scholarship;

vi.   Certified copy of the relevant highest prior degree (e.g. Master's degree for PhD applicants; PhD degree for postdoc applicants).

vii.   Copies of valid identification card or passport

viii.   Copy of the Master dissertation/ PhD dissertation;

ix.   Current CV (maximum of 3 pages) with full name, e-mail, date of birth, sex, formal education at xx university, including full specification of the Masters' degree specialization, teaching experience, previous experience relevant to the programme, present position, scientific publications and/or any other academic experience that may be relevant.

x.   Additional written assignment: Research plan/Proposed research project. See instructions below.

Please send the above mentioned (scanned and saved in one document) to the following email: UR CPGS email, ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw with a copy to the sub-programme team leaders Marguerite Umubyeyi,umubyeyimargo@gmail.com and Veronica Trépagny, Swedish School of Library and Information Science, University of Borås: veronica.trepagny@hb.se. Please name the application folder with your name and document name "PhD application 1924_49_Library".

7.   **Submission deadline**

The deadline for application: 31 December 2021.

8.   **Contact details for more information: Veronica Trépagny, Swedish School of Library and Information Science, University of Borås: <u>veronica.trepagny@hb.se</u>**

9. **Instructions: Applicants are asked to submit a research plan, including:**

A brief sketch of the proposed research project including an introduction and background to the research problem, the formulation of a relevant research question with implications both for library and information science and the University of Rwanda. As well as a brief note on proposed methods, suggestions for appropriate theoretical perspectives and a discussion of expected results. Finally, the plan should include a time plan and a list of references.

10. Recruitment process

Applications must be submitted online.
The candidates will be notified if they are called for an interview.
The interview process will, apart from the interview, include an exercise. The candidate will be asked to present the research/project plan.

The recruitment team includes senior staff from both UR and Swedish universities. Successful candidates will be notified a couple of weeks after the interview and expected to start on their new position in **May 2022**, after an admission process at the University of Borås.

Done at Kigali, December 08, 2021

Prof. Nosa O. EGIEBOR
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research