



2nd Re-advertisement

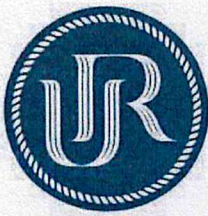
Call for Applications for PhD Candidates in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM) under the UR-Sweden Research Training Partnership Programme 2019-2024

Gender and Rural Entrepreneurship

1. Background

The University of Rwanda – the Department of Rural Development and Agriculture Economics of CAVM- UR- in collaboration with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and partners, Sweden through the Research Training Partnership Programme, Rwanda (2019/24) has received funding from the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), Sweden, to implement a research and training programme entitled: **Engendering Rural Transformation for Sustainable Development (ENTRUST)**. The main focus of ENTRUST programme is to increase the understanding of rural transformation and its drivers using an inter-disciplinary approach. In addition, the programme integrates a gendered approach to examine the influence of policies on local economic development, agricultural entrepreneurship and value chains as well as in depth exploration of farming, food consumption patterns and health outcomes using micro and meso level data in Rwanda. This PhD training aims specifically to:

- position the theme of rural transformation both in the context of the UR teaching curriculum and research programme and with regard to sustainable development; as well as meet the goals in higher education to make UR a prime research institution in the region and the continent, influencing policy and practice;
- contextualise livelihoods, diversification of rural economies, and strengthen the role of the University of Rwanda in addressing socio-economic issues in relation to rural development, rural transformation, rurality, and gender; and
- apply holistic approaches to understanding rural transformation as they relate to very specific SDGs (no 1-5, 8-11 and 16-17), Rwanda's Vision 2050, the NST, Sector Strategic Plans in Rwanda, District Development Strategies, and national retreat and dialogue resolutions.



In view of the above, the University of Rwanda is pleased to invite well-motivated and committed potential candidates to apply for **two funded PhD positions focussing on Gender and Rural Entrepreneurship**. Each student will have co-supervision comprising of a mixed Rwanda (2) and Swedish (2) team and publish at least one international peer-reviewed paper. The doctoral candidates will be registered at UR-CAVM and UR-CAVM will award the doctoral degree. However, it is planned also that some courses and supervision will be taken as well in Sweden on a short-term visit basis.

Research themes/ areas

The proposed research training under the ENTRUST program will focus on the following thematic area:

Thematic research area: Gender and Rural Entrepreneurship: This research programme will move beyond the study of women and entrepreneurship by emphasizing performance and growth, and instead understand entrepreneurship as a gendered process by which institutional change and increased empowerment can take place (Ahl, 2006), drawing on theories from organizational research. We recognize that there is a need to consider context-specific factors such as socio-cultural, legal-institutional, economic and political (Ahl et al. 2016). By framing entrepreneurship as a gendered process with potential to increase the empowerment of rural women, men and youth, we enable the identification of women, men and youth entrepreneurs' different interests, needs and preferences. Moreover, in contrast to earlier research on women and entrepreneurship, we recognize the importance to include both women and men in the gender analysis, as well as accounting for generational issues. Pettersson with colleagues have previously developed and applied the analytical framing of entrepreneurship as empowerment for women in both a Nordic and Tanzanian context, which they call FemInc.ism (Ahl et al 2016). In this research theme, we want to apply this concept specifically to the rural sector in Rwanda, as well as to expand it to also consider the empowerment of marginalized men and youth. Research questions will include: (i) What are the factors that can explain the limited engagement and reluctance of women and youth in the agri-food sector? (ii) What types of entrepreneurs exist and how do they affect local economic development? (iii) What are the contexts of successful rural entrepreneurs? (iv) What is the role for gender norms and responsibilities? (v) How do gender norms and practices impact women's, men's and youth's opportunities and constraints in rural entrepreneurship/entrepreneurial processes? (vi) What institutions facilitate or constrain the engendering of rural entrepreneurship?



Available PhD Positions: 2 positions

2. Funding

The successful candidates for the two PhD positions will be supported by Sida through UR Sweden Program for Research, Higher education, and Institutional Advancement. The support comprises of the following:

- The tuition fees for UR staff will be waived.
- Research work, courses and workstation/bench fees and facilities in Rwanda and in Sweden for the visits to Sweden.
- The students' travel to Sweden and stipend allowance for a three-months stay in Sweden

3. Admission

Potential PhD Candidates are expected to express their motivation and interest to undertake the PhD programme in the area of Gender and Rural Entrepreneurship for a maximum period of four years from the date of registration. Applicants must qualify and meet the admission criteria and conditions both at UR and SLU. The following are key eligibility criteria:

3.1. Eligibility Criteria

- **Hold a Master's degree in the field of gender and rural transformation towards sustainable development**
- Be a Rwanda Citizen
- Qualify for UR general eligibility criteria
- Be a UR staff or a staff of State/Public Institution with a commitment letter/ proof from the head of the institution that the salary by the employer will continue to be paid to the applicant during the period of PhD study and that the applicant will be given a study leave for the period of Study.
- Staff from collaborating institutions from Rwanda are also eligible upon satisfaction of other conditions such as provision collaborating agreement or memorandum of understanding under this project or the University of Rwanda; commitment letter and proof of support from the employer institution, ready to serve the University when deemed necessary or his or her current employer institution for a period to be agreed on during the study leave agreement, among others.
- Both men and women are encouraged to apply. However, if it happens that two candidates or more have similar conditions, priority will be given to women candidates in order to promote gender parity in research and teaching at UR.



3.2. Key documents to support the application

The following documents are required to support your application:

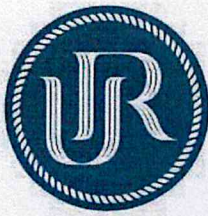
- Application letter addressed to the UR- centre for postgraduate studies
- Certified copy of your Masters' degree relevant to this PhD program
- Copy of Master's Thesis in digital form if possible
- A cover or motivation letter stating your interest in this programme and the gap to bridge after your PhD research and education [Max: 2 pages];
- A snapshot of your detailed Curriculum Vitae, demonstrating your previous experience relevant to this PhD program plus the publication or academic experience [Max: 3 pages]
- Indicative PhD Project proposal. This should comprise (1) the background, (2) the problem statement demonstrating the research gap and the current art of science in the area of research of interest among the three thematic areas; (3) the methodology and anticipated sources of data to be used, (4) how you intend to make this project successful and what you see as future challenges in undertaking this research, (5) five to ten key references well documented likely to inform this study, (6) other relevant additional statements. [Max 5 pages].
- Three recommendation letters: one from the current employer, one from your previous supervisor, and the other from any other reference person (former employer or professor).
- Commitment letter from the Head of the employing institution certifying that the applicant would be granted a study leave and that the salary will continue to be paid.

4. Selection criteria

In addition to the above admission and eligibility conditions, the candidate will have to satisfy the conditions to be set by the Research and Post-graduate committee. These will include: fulfilment of the requirements, quality and relevance of the PhD project proposal, satisfactory responses to the questions and comments of the interview or recruitment committee, and gender consideration.

5. Submission Deadline

Application deadline: **08th November 2022**



6. How to apply

Application and support documents should be done and sent electronically in one file to **Mrs. Gloriose Gashayija Umulisa**, the Scholarships Officer at UR-CPGS (email: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw) with Cc. to the Sub-program Team-leader, **Prof. Alfred R. Bizoza** (email: alfredbiz23@gmail.com) and the Deputy Team Leader **Dr. Alphonsine Mukamuhirwa** (email: amukamuhirwa@gmail.com).

More information and further clarifications about the sub-program can be addressed to the Deputy Team Leader of the sub- Programme (e-mail: amukamuhirwa@gmail.com or phone: +250783768517

Done at Kigali, October 18, 2022



Prof. Nosa O. Egiebar
Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs and Research