



2nd Call for Application for PhD Candidates in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management at the University of Rwanda

I. Background

The University of Rwanda – The College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM) - in collaboration with the Academie de Recherche et d'Enseignement Supérieur (ARES) has won a grant from the ARES-CCD Belgium, to implement the Institutional Support program in various research and training partnership areas including Aquaculture and aquatic resource management, Medicine, Biotechnology science, and trans-disciplines directly linked to Aquaculture (Socio-economy, Environmental impact, Nutrition, ...) for the period 2022-2027. The PhD in Agricultural Sciences/ Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (PhD AS/AARM) program is planned to start in April 2025 with the major objective of promoting the quality, multidisciplinary, and impactful research in Aquaculture at UR-CAVM, as well as further development of supervision capacity, the enhanced culture of publication, scientific exchange, collaboration with farmers, and promoting a vibrant and internationally competitive research environment.

II. The PhD AS/AARM programme

For this start, the UR-CAVM calls for interested candidates to apply for 1 PhD position for training in the PhD AS program specialization in Aquaculture and Aquatic resources management supported in all needs of the research work by the UR-ARES/AI program at UR.

The PhD candidate will register at the University of Liege (ULg) and the University of Rwanda, and the University of Liege will mainly offer the training and PhD thesis supervision with co-supervision from the University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM). Furthermore, UR-CAVM researchers and PhD students will partner with rural communities so that the latter can become knowledgeable protagonists in agriculture transformation while CAVM researchers build their capacity to generate knowledge on how to accelerate the process of transformation of agriculture in Rwanda.

The University of Rwanda invites committed potential candidates to apply for the PhD position in Agricultural Sciences specialization in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AS-AARM), starting April 2025.

The PhD student will be registered at the University of Rwanda, KK737th Gikondo Campus, after receiving a letter of admission issued by the Office of the UR Postgraduate Studies. The field research work of 300 credits will take place in Rwanda while the course works in any partner regional or northern University if necessary.



The UR-ARES/AI project shall take charge of all travel requirements, and the student will be jointly supervised by a professor from the partner university ULg with co-supervision at the University of Rwanda (UR).

Research theme

The PhD research for the position shall investigate Fish Nutrition- Fish production through low-cost fish feeding assessing the potential of various low-value organisms (Worms, BSFL, brewery yeast, more affordable for farmers) in the production performance of Nile tilapia/African catfish.

III. Funding

The present fellowship provides funding for only tuition, research work, and the workstations' facilitation. However, in case there is a need to complete one or another work in the partner university, the fellowship shall support the students' travel and living allowance while in Belgium.

IV. General eligibility criteria

The PhD applicants must qualify and meet the admission criteria and conditions as per the UR guidelines. The following are key eligibility criteria:

- i. Be a Rwandan citizen,
- ii. Be a permanent staff of any public institution of Rwanda partner to UR, and present a supported engagement to serve the UR even partially,
- iii. Hold a Master's Degree in agriculture and allied biological sciences including, Aquaculture, Animal productions, Veterinary sciences, etc, delivered by an accredited university.
- iv. Present a clear PhD research proposal about one of the proposed thematic of interest,
- v. Be fluent in English, both orally and in writing (Proof of English proficiency (i.e., TOEFL or equivalent));
- vi. Readiness to adhere to UR capacity-building policies and regulations;
- vii. Ready to continue working at the University of Rwanda after completion of the PhD studies
- viii. In line with UR's gender policy and UR's commitment to bridge the gender gap in research and teaching at UR, female candidates will be given priority; all things being equal, female candidates shall be preferred.
- ix. Successful candidates should be prepared to study full time on her/his project and offer a maximum of 20% of the teaching load. Other side activities, assignments, consultancies or employment are strongly discouraged.

V. Submission deadline

The deadline for application is **28 January 2025** at 23h59'



VI. How to apply

Interested applicants will have to submit the following documents to support their application:

- Application letter addressed to the Ag. Director of the Centre of Postgraduate Studies of the University of Rwanda [Max: 1 page];
- Certified copy of your Masters' degree relevant to this PhD program, or an equivalence certification of the degree in case the degree was delivered by a foreign University
- A cover or motivation letter stating your interest in this program and the gap to bridge after your PhD research and education [Max: 2 pages];
- Curriculum Vitae demonstrating your previous experience relevant to this PhD program plus the publication or academic experience [Max: 3 pages]
- An 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 two 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 2 pages].
- Three recommendation letters: one from your current employer, and one from your academic path.
- Applicants from a College at UR need to inform the Principal about applying for this position; and attach a confirmatory letter from the Principal.
- Copy of the valid identification card or passport.

VII. Detail of the Recruitment process

- The hard copy application files shall be submitted to the office of the Director of UR-PGS at the UR Headquarters Gikondo Campus;
- A soft copy of the application shall be sent to Mrs. Gloriose Umulisa Gashayija, Scholarships Officer at UR-PGS, email: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, Tel: 07929 88304 with Cc to the UR-ARES/AI Coordinator (Dr Rukera Tabaro Simon; email: s.rukeratabaro@ur.ac.rw; simon.rt@gmail.com, Tel:0788450 031
- The recruitment team includes senior academic staff from UR, ULg, and -UNamur.
- All applicants will be notified of the first selection outcome, and Eligible applicants will be invited for an interview for the final selection of the candidate. Successful candidates will be notified on 15 February 2025 and are expected to start soon after their registration.
- The interview process will, apart from the interview, include an assessment of the candidate's writing skills to test the overall candidate's English proficiency if required by the recruitment team.



VIII. Contact details for more information

For more information, please contact Dr. RUKERA TABARO Simon, the Coordinator of UR-ARES/AI UR side, at s.rukeratabaro@ur.ac.rw with a copy to simon.rt@gmail.com; or +250 (0) 78 845 0031.

Done at Kigali, 07/01/2025



Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor