



Scholarship Call for Master's and PhD Candidates within POINT Project

I. Background and Call for Application

The University of Rwanda, through its School of Architecture and the Built Environment (SABE) and the Centre for Advanced Studies in Transport, Logistics and Smart Cities (CASTLS), through the POINT Project on Popular Transport, is pleased to announce a call for applications for one-year Master's and PhD research scholarships for eligible research interns and emerging researchers. The scholarships aim to strengthen research capacity while incorporating selected scholars into the ongoing research activities of the POINT Project. It focuses on advancing knowledge, research, and evidence on popular transport systems, including their role in mobility, accessibility, livelihoods, urban development, social inclusion, and sustainable transport systems. Successful scholarship applicants will join the POINT research team and will contribute to relevant research activities, knowledge production, data collection, analysis, publications, and other project-related outputs.

II. Funding and Available Grants

A. Master's (MSc) Tuition fees

A limited number of Master scholarships will be available to eligible applicants.

The scholarship will:

- Cover tuition fees at the University of Rwanda (UR);
- Provide an opportunity for the recipient to participate in POINT Project activities as a research intern;
- Support participation in relevant POINT research activities, seminars, workshops, and knowledge-sharing events;
- Provide opportunities for mentorship and research capacity development within the POINT research network.

Applicants whose master's research is directly related to transport, mobility, popular transport, urban planning, accessibility, or related fields will be given strong consideration. Applicants undertaking research in other fields may also apply, provided they clearly demonstrate how the proposed master's research and associated research capacity building will contribute to or strengthen the objectives, activities, and long-term research capacity of the POINT Project.

B. PhD Research Grant

A limited research Grant (not exceeding 4,500,000.00 Frw) for a PhD candidate will be available to eligible applicants.

The grant will support:

- Research data collection relevant to the applicant's doctoral research and/or the POINT Project;
- Participation in a writing retreat to support academic writing, analysis, publication development, and completion of key research outputs;



- Integration of the selected scholar into the POINT Project research activities and research network;
- Opportunities for mentorship, collaboration, publication, and research capacity strengthening.

The PhD scholarship does not constitute a full PhD funding package and will not cover tuition fees or general living expenses. Preference will be given to PhD candidates undertaking research directly related to popular transport, mobility, urban transport systems, accessibility, sustainable mobility, transport governance, or related themes. Applicants whose PhD research is not directly focused on transport must clearly explain how their research expertise, proposed capacity building, methodologies, skills, or research outputs will contribute to strengthening the POINT Project.

III. Eligibility

Applicants must:

A. For Master's Scholarships:

- Be a Rwandan, UR staff;
- Be admitted to or enrolled in a relevant master's programme at the University of Rwanda;
- Demonstrate strong academic and research potential;
- Be willing to participate actively as a research intern within the POINT Project for the duration of the scholarship;
- Demonstrate a clear connection between their proposed research or research capacity development and the objectives of the POINT Project;
- Not be older than 35 years for female applicants and 30 years for Male applicants.

B. For PhD Scholarships:

- Be a Rwandan, UR staff;
- Be registered in one of the UR PhD programmes or demonstrate evidence of recent admission;
- Have a clearly defined doctoral research topic and research plan;
- Demonstrate strong research potential and commitment to completing high-quality research outputs;
- Be willing to actively participate in POINT Project research activities;
- Clearly demonstrate the relevance of their research to popular transport or, where the research is outside the transport field, explain how their research capacity building will support and strengthen the POINT Project;
- Having published at least on research paper (or being under review process) in high journal impact is an added advantage;
- Not be older than 45 years for the Female and 40 years for Male applicants.

IV. Expectations of Scholarship Recipients

Successful applicants will be expected to:

- Participate actively as **research interns** within the POINT Project;
- Contribute to relevant project research activities and outputs;



- Participate in project meetings, seminars, workshops, and research capacity-building activities;
- Work collaboratively with other researchers, interns, supervisors, and project partners;
- Produce agreed research outputs, which may include reports, policy briefs, conference papers, academic publications, datasets, or other knowledge products;
- Acknowledge the support of the POINT Project in relevant research outputs, subject to agreed authorship and acknowledgement arrangements;
- Provide periodic updates on their research and project-related activities.

V. Application Requirements

Interested applicants should submit the following documents:

1. Cover letter addressed to the Director of the UR Center for Postgraduate Studies expressing interest in the scholarship;
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV);
3. Academic transcripts and relevant academic certificates;
4. Proof of admission or registration in the relevant Master's or PhD programme, where applicable;
5. **Research concept note or brief and concise proposal (5 pages maximum, references included) outlining:**
 - The proposed research topic;
 - Research objectives and methodology;
 - Expected outputs;
 - Relevance to popular transport and the POINT Project;
 - Research progress report (**8 pages maximum**) approved by the supervisor, with relevant research outputs (evidence is required), will be sufficient for PhD candidates who are at the advanced stage of their studies.
6. A statement of motivation explaining how participation in the scholarship and research grant will contribute to the applicant's academic and professional development;
7. For applicants whose research is not directly related to transport, a specific statement demonstrating:
 - How their research expertise and capacity building will contribute to the POINT Project;
 - The specific skills, methodologies, knowledge, or research capacities they intend to develop;
 - How these capacities can support the future research agenda and activities of POINT;
8. For PhD applicants, a brief budget and justification for proposed data collection and analysis activities, where applicable;
9. One recommendation letter from the main academic supervisor or appropriate referee for the MSc students.

VI. Selection Criteria

Applications will be assessed based on:

- Academic qualifications and research potential;
- Quality and feasibility of the proposed research;
- Relevance of the research to popular transport and the objectives of the POINT Project;



- Potential contribution to the research outputs and capacity of the POINT Project;
- Applicant's motivation and commitment to active participation in the project;
- For applicants outside the transport field, the clarity and strength of the proposed contribution of their research capacity building to the POINT Project.

The POINT Project is committed to promoting interdisciplinary research and therefore welcomes applications from relevant fields that can contribute new perspectives, methods, skills, and knowledge to the study of popular transport.

VII. Duration

For any recipients, the grant amount will be paid in two installments over two years, based on satisfactory progress in their studies or research and fulfilment of agreed research and project activities within the POINT Project.

VIII. Submission of Applications

All application files must be submitted in soft copy (zipped folder) and should be sent to Mrs. Gloriose Umulisa Gashayija, Scholarships officer at UR-CPGS through email: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, Tel: 0792988304, and dean.sabe@ur.ac.rw, with copies to e.uwayezu@ur.ac.rw and a.nkurunziza2@ur.ac.rw; with the subject line: Application for POINT Master's Research Scholarship or Application for POINT PhD Research Grant, depending on the category of funding being applied for.

The application Deadline: 05th October 2026

IX. Further Information

For further information regarding the scholarships and the POINT Project, please contact the PI of the POINT Project, Dr. Josephine Malonza, at dean.sabe@ur.ac.rw or jmalonza@ur.ac.rw

Done at Kigali, on 18.09/...../2026

Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor

