



Call for applications for Postdoctoral Research Fellowship under the EAR-VU Project

I. Background about the EAR-VU Project

The *Eastern Africa Hub for Behavioral and Social Science Research and Capacity Strengthening for Vaccine Uptake (EAR-VU)* aims to strengthen research capacity to understand social and behavioral factors affecting vaccine uptake in the region. The Hub seeks to generate high-quality evidence to inform policy and practice, while building a sustainable network of early-career researchers in behavioral and social sciences for health in the Eastern Africa region. The project is a collaboration between the University of Rwanda (lead), Makerere University in Uganda, University of Nairobi in Kenya, Addis Ababa University in Ethiopia, and the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

II. Role and description

The EAR-VU Postdoctoral Fellowship provides an opportunity for recent PhD graduates to:

1. Develop research capacity in behavioural and social sciences, with mentorship and networking opportunities.
2. Support early-career researchers to conduct innovative, policy-relevant research aligned with EAR-VU thematic areas.
3. Engage with policy-makers, civil society, and health sector actors to promote research uptake for the enhancement of vaccination uptake in the region

III. Call for applications

Under the research funds management of the University of Rwanda's Single Project Implementation Unit (UR-SPIU), we call for applications for five (5) Postdoc positions, each being 2 years in duration, counted from the date of signing the fellowship contract. Applicants should focus on one or more of the following priority areas:

1. Social and behavioral determinants of vaccine uptake.
2. Strategies for improving vaccine acceptance and reducing hesitancy.
3. Health communication and community engagement interventions.
4. Policy analysis research to inform vaccine program design and implementation.

Fellowship Structure

- *Principal Investigator (PI):* The postdoctoral fellow
- *Team Composition:* May include co-investigators
- *Partnerships:* Fellows are encouraged to collaborate with civil society or health sector institutions for community-based research and dissemination.



- *Mentorship:* The applicant may propose a mentor or be provided one

IV. Funding

The fellow will be offered a monthly stipend, research funding support, travel, and training allowances.

V. Application requirements

Applicants must:

- Hold a PhD, awarded within the last 5 years for male applicants and 7 years for female applicants in behavioural and social sciences, public health, or a related field.
- Be a national and residing in either of the following countries: Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Uganda, and do research in their country.
- Demonstrate interest in behavioural and social sciences research related to vaccine uptake.
- Demonstrate potential for academic citizenry in pursuing excellence, ethics, and contributing to addressing societal health challenges.
- Commit to participate in the EAR-VU planned capacity building activities

Note: Females are encouraged to apply.

VI. Application file

Applications should include:

1. A cover letter addressed to the Director of the University of Rwanda Center for Postgraduate Studies (UR CPGS).
2. Expression of interest letter of not more than 500 words describing why your application should be considered. Describe your academic background and how it defines your potential in producing the required outputs, including community engagement.
3. Research Proposal: Maximum five pages, including Abstract (150 words); Brief background (400 words); Research gap (300 words); Aim and objectives (150 words); Research question(s) (150); Conceptual framework (300); Methodology/Research Design (500); Ethical Considerations (150); Scope (150); Limitations (150); References; Timetable/Schedule; Budget (include research activities and assistants if needed, not exceeding 15 Million Rwandan Francs); Appendices (Include supplementary materials such as a glossary of acronyms/abbreviations, brief explanation of technical terms, essential tables, maps).



4. Curriculum Vitae (CV): Including a list of publications (with full citation) and previous research experience, including experience in research grants.
5. Mentorship Plan: A brief description of how mentorship will happen during the fellowship.
6. Letter of Support:
 - Reference letter from an academic or professional supervisor;
 - A reference letter from a potential mentor/supervisor
7. Copy of National Identity Card and/or passport
8. A copy of the Master's and PhD certificates
9. Other Documents: A brief description of the ethical approval plan, or evidence of prior ethical approval.

Note: *Incomplete application files will not be assessed.*

VII. Selection methodology

Applications will be evaluated based on:

- Relevance and originality of proposed research.
- Feasibility (timeline, budget, ethical considerations).
- Strength of the capacity development plan (training, mentorship, publishing).
- Gender, thematic areas, and geographic balance.
- Commitment to research dissemination and policy engagement.

The review process will include:

- Checking (i) whether the application file is complete; (ii) Plagiarism; (iii) the use of AI
- Blind scoring of proposals.
- Interviews/presentations for shortlisted applicants.
- Final selection by the Grant Review Committee (GRC).



VIII. Expected Outputs

Each Postdoctoral fellow is expected to produce high-quality research outputs, including at least two journal articles published in peer-reviewed and indexed scientific journals, one policy brief published in an indexed publication outlet, and one regional conference presentation.

IX. How to apply

To apply, submit a single pdf (see list of documents above in section VI) to the UR-CPGS officer at ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, Tel: 07929 88304, with a copy sent to the EAR-VU Hub email at earvuhub@gmail.com and the Principal Investigator at a.muleefu@ur.ac.rw.

For further information about the project or the positions, please contact Assoc. Prof. Uwizeye Dieudonne at d.uwizeye@ur.ac.rw or call +250 788 457 397.

Notes:

- The closing date for receipt of applications: February 15, 2026 (23:59 Kigali time, GMT+2)
- A candidate should submit only a single application.

Done at Kigali on 8/1/2026

Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor

