



Call for applications for a scholarship to undertake a Ph.D. by Research training

I. Background

The University of Rwanda is implementing a project known as **RIGHT/Rwanda912: Use of an innovative electronic communications platform to improve pre-hospital transport of injured people in Rwanda**. This is a research grant jointly awarded to the University of Birmingham (Lead Institution) and the University of Rwanda (Co-Lead Institution) by the Research and Innovation for Global Health Transformation (RIGHT) program of the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), UK. The RIGHT program funds interdisciplinary applied health research in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) on areas of unmet needs where a strategic and targeted investment can result in a transformative impact. The Rwanda912 project will develop and test a new electronic system that could speed hospital transfers and help reduce the likelihood of people dying unnecessarily from injuries caused by road traffic crashes or violence. The project aims to maximize opportunities for transferring the electronic tool to other LMICs with developed or developing ambulance systems. In collaboration with a software company based in Rwanda, the Rwanda Build Program, Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), the University of Birmingham, the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), the University of York, the University of Aberdeen, and the University of Utah, we will develop further and finalize the 912Rwanda, a novel electronic tool which regularly collects information from hospitals on availability of staff and equipment, and from the ambulance crew on patient status in order to match the patient with the nearest hospital that can efficiently manage their condition, and we will explore its real-time capabilities. This cutting-edge study will test the effectiveness, cost, and delivery of this communication platform in two different settings: Kigali, which is predominantly urban, and Musanze District which is predominately rural.

II. Roles and Responsibilities

- 1) The Ph.D. candidate will learn about collecting, linking, and using health systems data; methods for implementing and testing a healthcare technology solution – drawing on implementation science methodologies; and about the development and sustaining of healthcare technology solutions.
- 2) The Ph.D. candidate will gain experience working in a strong and supportive multidisciplinary, multi-country team, and working on a highly relevant project of global health transformation importance.
- 3) The Ph.D. candidate will have an opportunity to learn from multiple methodologies that the project will use and will gain a firm and broad base in applying these methods to comprehensively understand a complex health system issue.



- 4) The successful candidate will be supported to create substantial knowledge, author several manuscripts, deliver conference presentations, publish in high-impact journals, and contribute to public engagement activities of significant benefit to the University of Rwanda and its community.
- 5) The successful candidate is expected to plan and conduct research using novel methodologies and techniques, supervise the research assistants and assist them in data collection where appropriate, to ensure accurate data collection and entry, analyze quantitative and qualitative data using appropriate statistical and qualitative techniques, ensure compliance with good practices in relation to the conduct of research, ethical guidelines, and other relevant UR and funder's policies and publish in high-impact peer-reviewed journals.
- 6) The successful candidate is also expected to learn and contribute to the grant management activities, and will therefore actively contribute to the preparation and delivery of project progress and other reports (e.g. any risk; due diligence; and equity, diversity, and inclusion reports), work alongside the UR's SPIU to ensure timely delivery of funder's finance reports, coordinate and manage the project resources.
- 7) The successful candidate will be enrolled in a three-year full-time Ph.D. program by research at any school within the College of Medicine and Health Sciences. The program will include mandatory methodological training, seminars, conferences, regular meetings with the supervisory team, and a minimum of three publications in peer-reviewed journals.
- 8) The program will take three years maximum during which the candidate is expected to write and submit a doctoral thesis for examination. The candidate will be jointly supervised by an experienced team of academic faculty from both the University of Rwanda and the University of Birmingham.

III. Call for applications

The University of Rwanda wishes to recruit one (1) highly motivated candidates for Ph.D. by research scholarship under the project known as RIGHT/Rwanda912: Use of an innovative electronic communications platform to improve pre-hospital transport of injured people in Rwanda.). The Ph.D. project to be undertaken by the candidate is expected to fully align with the project awarding the scholarship, RIGHT/Rwanda912: Use of an innovative electronic communications platform to improve pre-hospital transport of injured people in Rwanda, while focusing on one aspect of the project such as **health economics, implementation and testing of innovative solutions or community health with a focus on expanding the reach of pre-hospital services to the community.**



Candidates with an interest in health economics, implementation and testing of innovative solutions, or community health with a focus on expanding the reach of pre-hospital services to the community are invited to apply for this three-year Ph.D. training.

IV. Funding

This project is funded by the National Institute of Health Research (NIHR), UK, through the University of Birmingham. The scholarship funding will come from the **RIGHT/Rwanda912: Use of an innovative electronic communications platform to improve pre-hospital transport of injured people in Rwanda** Project and will cover the tuition fees, a living stipend, fieldwork, conference attendance, and other study-related expenses stipulated within the project.

V. Application requirements

The suitable candidate must:

- Be a Rwandan citizen.
- Be an academic staff member at UR
- Be aged below 45 years.
- Be fluent in written and spoken English.
- Be a holder of a bachelor's degree in a field related to the project.
- Be a holder of a master's degree in medicine, public health, or any other health-related discipline.
- Have a demonstrable experience of not less than two years.
- Demonstrate proficiency in quantitative research methods. Having experience in qualitative methods will be an added value.
- Be ready to start immediately after the award of the scholarship.
- Be available to concentrate on Ph.D. training full-time (100%-time commitment to Ph.D. training).
- Commit to present a proof of the study leave if a non-UR staff is selected.

VI. Application file

Interested candidates shall submit the following documents:

1. An application letter addressed to the Director of the UR's Centre for Postgraduate Studies.
2. A personal statement of purpose and objectives (maximum 2 pages)
3. Two recommendation letters from academic referees.



4. A current curriculum vitae of three pages maximum including the details of the Bachelor and Master's training and other previous relevant experiences to the program such as research assistantship, teaching experience, scientific publications, and other relevant experiences.
5. Certified copies of the Bachelor's and Master's degrees.
6. Transcripts for the bachelor's and master's degrees.
7. A valid license to practice a health profession in Rwanda.
8. A copy of a valid ID card or passport.
9. A research proposal of 5 pages maximum on a topic related to health economics, implementation and testing of innovative solutions or community health with a focus on expanding the reach of pre-hospital services to the community, and describing the envisioned project, its aims, objectives, research questions, theories, methods, relevant literature review and ethical considerations.

VII. Selection Methodology

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to the interview on dates that will be communicated through emails.

VIII. How to apply

If you are interested please send the above documents (scanned and saved as one document or as a zipped folder) to the following addresses: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw with a copy to dean.somp@ur.ac.rw no later than 26th May 2023 at 23h59.

Note: A candidate should submit only one application

Done at Kigali, on May, 15th 2023

Dr. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Ag. Vice Chancellor

