



Call for Application for PhD Candidates in the College of Agriculture, Animal Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM)

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 Superieur (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 time span 2022-2027. The PhD in Agricultural Sciences/ Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources management (PhD AS/AARM) programme is planned to start from September 2024 with major objective of promoting the quality, multidisciplinary and impactful research in Aquaculture at UR-CAVM, as well as further development of supervision capacity, 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 to 2 PhD positions for training in the PhD AS programme specialisation in Aquaculture and Aquatic resources management and supported for research work by the UR-ARES/AI programme at UR.

The 2 local PhD candidates will register at the University of Rwanda, and their training and PhD thesis supervision will be jointly delivered by the University of Rwanda (UR) in collaboration with any University of the Wallonie-Brussels Federation in Belgium the University of Liege (ULiège) and the University of Namur (UNamur) both from Belgium. Therefore, the candidate will have to be registered in both universities and will be awarded a double degree. Furthermore, UR-CAVM researchers and PhD students will partner with rural communities so as the latter can become knowledgeable protagonists in agriculture transformation while CAVM researchers build their capacity to generate knowledge on how to accelerate the process for transformation of agriculture in Rwanda.

The University of Rwanda is inviting committed potential candidates to apply for the 2 PhD positions in Agricultural Sciences specialization in Aquaculture and Aquatic Resources Management (AS-AARM), starting in September 2024.

The PhD student will be registered at University of Rwanda, Gikondo Campus, after receiving a letter of admission issued by the Office of the University of Rwanda Center for Post-Graduate Studies (UR-CPGS).

After she/he will be admitted at UR, he/she will proceed with registration in a second university of the Wallonie-Bruxelles federation in Belgium. field research work of 300 credits will take place in Rwanda, or in any partner University in the south if necessary. However, the candidates will fulfil 60 credits coursework as per agreement by the team of supervisors.



The UR-ARES/AI project shall take in charge all travels' requirements and the students will be jointly supervised by professors and senior lecturers/researchers from the universities partnering in his/her training.

Research themes:

Two major thematic areas have been defined:

1. Genetic selection of Nile tilapia to obtain a strain better adapted to the ecological conditions of Rwanda.
2. Fish nutrition: Fish production through low cost fish feeding assessing the potential of various low value organisms more affordable for farmers in production performance of Nile tilapia or African catfish.

III. Funding

Despite the research funding, the present fellowship provides funding for all other needs of the candidates during her/his stay in Belgium only. Similar needs for the candidate while in Rwanda are covered by her/his institution of origin.

IV. General eligibility criteria

- The PhD applicants must qualify and meet the admission criteria and conditions as per the UR guideline. The following are key eligibility criteria:
- Be a permanent staff of the University of Rwanda
- Be a Rwandan citizen
- Hold a Master's Degree in agriculture and allied biological sciences including, Aquaculture, Animal productions, Veterinary sciences, etc., delivered by an accredited university
- Present a clear PhD research proposal about one of the proposed thematic of interest,
- Be fluent in English, both orally and in writing (Proof of English proficiency (i.e., TOEFL or equivalent);
- Readiness to adhere to UR capacity building policies and regulations;
- Ready to continue working at the University of Rwanda after completion of the PhD studies
- 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 a priority; all things being equal, female candidate shall be preferred.
- Successful candidates should be prepared to study full time on her/his project and offer a maximum of 20% of teaching load. Other side activities, assignments, consultancies or employment are strongly discouraged.

V. 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 programme, 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 programme and the gap to bridge after your PhD research and education [Max: 2 pages];
- Curriculum Vitae demonstrating your previous experience relevant to this PhD programme 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 the current employer, 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.

VI. 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: 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:0788450031).
- The recruitment team includes senior academic staff from both 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.
- The interview process will, apart from the interview, include an exercise in writing to test the candidate's English proficiency if required by the recruitment team.

VII. Submission deadline

The deadline for application: **21st June 2024 at 23h59'**



VIII. Contact details

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, 7/6/2024



Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor