Re-Advertisement: Call for application for a PhD scholarship within the *Digital Public Health Assessment Framework for Yielding Advancements (DigiAFYA)*

I. Background and call for application

The rapid digitalisation of health services holds great potential for improving healthcare delivery in low-resourced settings (LRSs), including public health (PH) services. However, effective assessment remains a significant challenge, as it is not yet routinely conducted at the intersection of PH and digital health (DH). Current assessment frameworks may not fully capture the intricacies of digital public health interventions (DPHIs) and health systems in Low Resources Settings (LRSs). In order for digital public health interventions to be successfully developed, implemented and scaled up, it is crucial to take interdisciplinarity and broader organisational and social contexts into account. Therefore, the Digital Public Health Framework (DigiPHrame)[1] was developed as a comprehensive framework that addresses the challenges of developing and implementing technology, considering technical, social, legal, economic, and organisational aspects.

Neu-Ulm University of Applied Sciences (HNU), Germany, in collaboration with Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) in Tanzania, University of the Western Cape in South Africa, and University of Rwanda in Rwanda, will be implementing the *Digital Public Health Assessment Framework for Yielding Advancements (DigiAFYA)* project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The project seeks to adapt, assess, and validate the Digital Public Health Framework (DigiPHrame) in LRSs, particularly in South Africa, Rwanda, and Tanzania. The 36-month DigiAFYA project aims to contribute to the development and validation of Digital Public Health Assessment Frameworks for low-resourced settings (LRSs), strengthening evidence-based digital health transformation and public health decision-making across Africa.

The University of Rwanda, Regional Centre of Excellence in Biomedical Engineering and e-Health (UR-CEBE) is pleased to announce a call for applications for a 36 months PhD research scholarship for eligible doctoral students registered with the University of Rwanda. The research scholarship aims to strengthen research capacity while integrating the use of technology and innovative digital tools in mental health promotion and access to services in Rwanda. Successful scholarship applicants will join the *DigiAFYA* project research team to learn and contribute to relevant research activities, knowledge production, data collection, analysis, publications, and other project-related outputs.

II. Funds and available Grant

A 36-month limited research Grant will be available to the eligible candidate. Only one position is available.

[1] https://link.springer.com/chapter/10.1007/978-3-031-90154-6_3

The scholarship will cover:

- Monthly stipend and academic support
- Research and travel expenses

III. Eligibility

1. Be a Rwandan (mandatory) from institution partners to UR
2. UR permanent staff (not mandatory, encouraged)
3. Hold a master's degree in digital health, Data Science, Public Health, Health Systems, or a related field
4. Be registered in one the University of Rwanda Public Health doctoral programmes, with evidence of recent admission or registration (admitted September 2026 cohort)
5. Demonstrate strong research potential and commitment to completing high quality research outputs
6. Have a clearly defined doctoral research topic aligning with the digital public health
7. Demonstrate strong interest in digital public health research, e-mental health and interdisciplinary collaboration
8. Be willing to actively participate in DigiAFYA project research activities
9. Clearly demonstrate previous experience or interest in the areas of data sciences, digital health, e-health and e-mental health
10. Have sound records of previous publications in the domain of public health, mental health, digital health, health informatics, and related subjects
11. Be available for full-time PhD study and field research activities
12. Not be older than 45 years for the Female and 40 years for Male applicants

IV. Application requirements

1. Application letter addressed to the Director of the UR Center for Postgraduate Studies expressing interest in the scholarship
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV)
3. Proof of recent admission or registration in the relevant PhD programme
4. Research concept note and concise proposal outlining:
    - The proposed research topic
    - Research objectives and methodology
    - Expected outputs
    - Relevance of the digital mental and its alignment with the DigiAFYA objectives
5. Possess proven research and scientific writing skills
6. Have excellent communication skills in English
7. A statement of motivation explaining how participation in the scholarship and research grant will contribute to the applicant's academic and professional development
8. Two letters of recommendation from senior academic personnel or appropriate referee

V. Submission of Applications

All applications files must be submitted in soft copy (zipped folder) and should be sent to Mrs. Gloriose Umulisa Gashayija, Scholarships officer at the UR Center for Postgraduate Studies through e-mail: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, tel: 07929 88304 and with copy to c.twizere@ur.ac.rw and dcgs@ur.ac.rw, with the subject line: **Application for DigiAFYA PhD research Scholarship**.

The application Deadline: 20/11/2026

VI. Further information

For further information regarding the scholarships and the DigiAFYA project, please contact the Principal Investigator (PI) of the DigiAFYA Project, Assoc Prof. Celestin Twizere, at c.twizere@ur.ac.rw

Done at Kigali, on 05/11/2026

Assoc. Prof. Kayihura Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor