



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR DOCTORAL STUDIES IN THE AREAS OF BIOENERGY, WASTE MANAGEMENT AND AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

### 1. Background

The University of Rwanda (UR) with its partnering Swedish universities offer the opportunity to complete 2 doctoral degrees (PhDs) in the bioenergy area. The University of Rwanda is partnering with Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, in a new five-year Research Training Program (2021-2026) funded by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA) aiming to establish a long-term partnership between the involved partners, which in turn will enable Rwanda to develop its biomass resources in a sustainable way with low environmental impact. Five PhD students are being recruited to the programme; 3 have been appointed and 2 are open in this call.

### 2. The PhD programme

Two PhD students will be enrolled in a **PhD sandwich program at our partnering Swedish universities**. Students will take courses in Sweden and be supervised jointly by Swedish and UR senior academic staff. The program aims at developing household-, agricultural-, and industrial waste-to-energy systems based on valorisation of different local bio-based solid waste materials and residues to promote sustainable development in Rwanda. Candidates are invited to submit their applications according to the sub-theme and process as described below. Studies are expected to start in January 2022 and last 5 years with 80% PhD studies and 20% teaching (at UR).

### 3. Funding

Students will be fully funded, and they will be supported by Sida through UR Sweden program for research, higher education and institutional advancement.

### 4. Role of the PhD student

We invite candidates who are interested in one of the following two sub-themes:

*a) Improved cooking and farming systems in rural households – sustainability, technology and biochar*

Gasifier cookstoves provide opportunities to reduce fuel demand for cooking and reduce indoor air pollution, while producing biochar as a by-product. Research issues for this PhD student concern fuel consumption in cooking systems that use biomass resources to produce energy and biochar for soil amendment. A case study with biochar-producing cookstoves in households will be performed. Climate impact and carbon sequestration in biochar will be assessed. User perceptions of cook-stoves will also be investigated through household surveys and observation. The project links to others in the programme regarding emissions and biomass growth.



*b) Agroforestry landscapes for bioenergy*

Agroforestry in the landscape produce a lot of biomass for bioenergy on e.g. household and charcoal trade scale. However, the biomass production, bioenergy conversions as well as the bioenergy distribution/trade could be much more efficient. Agroforestry could contribute to wider bioenergy supply and use, e.g. supplying electricity, charcoal and biochar for soil amendments and/or water purification. Intensification and widening of agroforestry for bioenergy will affect other sectors and these interactions

will need to be analyzed and understood. Analyses of synergies and/or trade-offs with, food production, biodiversity, household economy and livelihoods both at local/farm and landscape scales as well as bioenergy value chain development are to be included in this PhD research project. This research will dig into details as e.g. species selection for different niches in the landscape, efficient technologies of bioenergy conversion and utilization, soil fertility and agricultural productivity and value chains as well as modelling the above on landscape scale and relating results/findings to international climate change and carbon sequestration discourses.

The PhD students working on the proposed themes will be enrolled at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences.

**5. General eligibility criteria**

The applicant must be:

- i. Permanent staff of the University of Rwanda,
- ii. A citizen of Rwanda,
- iii. Holding a MSc degree in a relevant field,
- iv. Ready to spend a half of her/his study period abroad (the candidate should spend 5 to 7 months per year in Sweden),
- v. Ready to continue working at the University of Rwanda after completion of the PhD studies.

As per the policy, male applicants below the age of 40 years of age and female applicants below 45 years of age are given priority for PhD Scholarships. Candidates must be prepared to return back immediately after receiving a letter confirming satisfactory completion of the degree to serve in Rwanda. For PhD scholarships, the candidate should be prepared to work full time on the project and not in possession of another fellowship for PhD studies.

**6. Specific eligibility criteria**

*Essential criteria:*

- i. The candidate should hold a MSc degree in a relevant field;

*For position a:*

MSc degree in Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Agricultural Engineering, Natural Resource Management or equivalent.





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*For position b:*

MSc degree in Agronomy, Environmental Sciences, Soil and Agroforestry, Agricultural Engineering, Environmental Engineering or equivalent.

- ii. The candidate must be English proficient.

*Desired criteria:*

For position *a*, it is desirable, but not required, that the candidate has knowledge and experience in

- i. bioenergy
- ii. greenhouse gases
- iii. systems analysis
- iv. fieldwork in rural or household settings.

For position *b*, the candidate should have

- i. a strong background in Rwandan agro-ecology and production
- ii. Thorough understanding of small-scale farming household and agricultural/forest/bioenergy value chains.

Note that the candidate is expected to contribute to teaching at University of Rwanda. However, during the study period, the teaching load is maximum 20%. Other side activities, assignments, consultancies or employment are strongly discouraged.

Female candidates are encouraged to apply and there is a gender equality component in the programme that will provide some support for parents who travel with children.

**7. How to apply**

Interested applicants should submit the following:

- i. An application letter for the position the subject should be **Bioenergy, Waste Management and Air Pollution** and it must specify which of the positions the applicant is applying for.
- ii. A personal motivation statement for the programme of study. This statement should demonstrate commitment, motivation and reasons for interest in the programme (max 2 pages).
- iii. Two Recommendation letters: one of the recommendation letters should be issued by a previous academic supervisor, preferably the Master's degree supervisor.
- iv. Applicants from a College at UR need to inform the Principal about applying for this position; and attach a confirmatory letter from the Principal, who received this information.
- v. Certified Copy of the Master's degree certificate (or equivalent)
- vi. Copies of valid identification card or passport
- vii. Copy of the Master thesis



- viii. Current CV (maximum of 3 pages) with full name, e-mail, date of birth, sex, formal education at previous university, including full specification of the Masters' degree specialization, teaching experience, previous experience relevant to the programme, present position, scientific publications and/or any other academic experience that may be relevant.
- ix. Concept note, outlining a problem statement, research questions, and research design and suggest/discuss some appropriate methodologies for the selected topic as well as a few key references (maximum 4 pages).
- x. A copy of published scientific papers, proceedings or similar (optional).
- xi. An electronic version of the application should be sent to: [ur-cpgscholaship@ur.ac.rw](mailto:ur-cpgscholaship@ur.ac.rw) and copy to [kaberacriss@gmail.com](mailto:kaberacriss@gmail.com), [christoffer.boman@umu.se](mailto:christoffer.boman@umu.se) and [cecilia.sundberg@slu.se](mailto:cecilia.sundberg@slu.se). Please name the application folder with your name and the document name (e.g: Kabera\_ Bioenergy).

#### 8. Submission deadline

The deadline for application is 15<sup>th</sup> September 2021.

#### 9. Recruitment process

Applications must be submitted by e-mail as specified above. The candidates will be notified if they are called for an interview.

The interviews are expected to take place at UR campus in Kigali on 14th October 2021. The recruitment team includes senior staff from both UR and Swedish universities. Successful candidates will be notified by 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021 after the interview, and are expected to start on their new position at University of Rwanda at earliest in January and latest in April 2022.

#### 10. Contact details for more information

Send an e-mail to the Principal Investigators: UR Team Leader Dr Kabera Telesphore at the e-mail address: [kaberacriss@gmail.com](mailto:kaberacriss@gmail.com) or Swedish Team Leader Dr Christoffer Boman at the e-mail address: [christoffer.boman@umu.se](mailto:christoffer.boman@umu.se)

Done at Kigali, August 30, 2021

Prof. Nosa O. Egiebor

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research







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**Call for applications for PhD studies at the University of Rwanda/Center for Conflict Management (UR/CCM) within the Research Training Partnership Programme on Peace, Conflict and Security Research**

**1. Background**

The University of Rwanda (UR) is a Public Institution of Higher Learning committed to support the development of the country through the generation and advancement of knowledge and innovation among other core activities. Under the UR-Sweden Program for Research, Higher Education and Institutional Advancement, the UR Center for Conflict Management (CCM), College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS), has, in collaboration with the School of Global Studies of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden (SGS), for more than fifteen years received grants from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) for capacity building. Starting from January 2022 a significant share of the grants will be used to establish and run a PhD program in Peace, Conflict and Security Research at CCM aimed at making CCM a strong and internationally competitive research environment in the area.

**2. The PhD programme**

Within the described framework, the University of Rwanda announces 8 PhD fellowship positions to be enrolled for a PhD degree in Peace, Conflict and Security Research at CCM in Kigali, Rwanda. The Fellowship is a full-time four-year program (January 2022-December 2025) consisting of one year of coursework followed by three years of research and thesis writing. Each PhD student will be assigned two supervisors, one from UR and the other from SGS. The admitted student is expected to present her/his research output at two international conferences and make at least two visits of two to three months to the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

**3. Funding**

There is no stipend provided for the PhD candidates. However, the fellowship will cover the tuition fees, workstation and support the students' travel to Sweden and living allowance while in Sweden.

**4. General eligibility criteria**

The candidate must be:

- i) Permanent staff of the University of Rwanda
- ii) Citizen of Rwanda



- iii) Holding a Master's degree or equivalent delivered by an accredited university with specialization in Peace Studies, Conflict Studies, Security Studies, Genocide Studies, Reconciliation, Development Studies, Environmental Social Sciences, Political Ecology, Governance, Human Rights, Gender studies, or any other relevant topic;
- iv) Present a clear PhD research proposal (maximum 2000 words)
- v) Fluent in English, both orally and in writing
- vi) Ready to make at least two visits of two to three months to the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg in Sweden
- vii) Ready to continue working at the University of Rwanda after completion of the PhD studies

Successful candidates should be prepared to work full time on the project and not be in possession of another fellowship for PhD studies. For those in teaching positions, the *teaching load will be reduced to a maximum of 20%*. Other side activities, assignments, consultancies or employment are strongly discouraged.

As per the policy, male applicants below the age of 40 years of age and female applicants below 45 years of age are given priority for PhD.

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.

## 5. How to apply

Interested applicants should submit the following:

- i) An application letter for the fellowship position: The subject should be "PhD fellowship position in Peace, Conflict and Security Research".
- ii) A personal motivation statement for the programme of study. This statement should demonstrate commitment, motivation and reasons for interest in the programme (max 2 pages).
- iii) Recommendation letters from two academic or professional referees who can comment on the candidate's intellectual curiosity and academic ability to pursue research, leading to a PhD in the specified thematic area: one of the recommendation letters should be issued by a previous academic supervisor, preferably the Master's degree supervisor.
- iv) Applicants from a College at UR need to inform the Principal about applying for this position; and attach a confirmatory letter from the Principal.
- v) Certified copy of the Master's degree or its equivalence.





- vi) Copy of the valid identification card or passport
- vii) Copy of the Master dissertation and any scientific paper the candidate published after her/his master's degree
- viii) Current CV (maximum of 3 pages) with full names, e-mail, date of birth, sex, formal education, including full specification of the Masters' degree specialization, teaching experience, previous experience relevant to the programme, present position, scientific publications and/or any other academic experience that may be relevant.
- ix) Additional documents to be submitted:
  - (i) A PhD research proposal (*including research problem and question, contribution to previous research, discussion of theoretical and methodological approach, and ethical considerations*)
  - (ii) Transcripts of Master's and Undergraduate courses.
  - (iii) Documentation of English proficiency
  - (iv) A copy of scientific publications (if the applicant has a publication record)
  - (v) Any other relevant documents to support the application

Please send the above mentioned (scanned and saved in one (zipped) document) to the following emails: UR CPGS email: [ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw](mailto:ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw) with a copy to the subprogramme team leaders Dr Peter John Mugume on [j.mugume@ur.ac.rw](mailto:j.mugume@ur.ac.rw)/[petermgume@gmail.com](mailto:petermgume@gmail.com) and [gunilla.blomqvist@globalstudies.gu.se](mailto:gunilla.blomqvist@globalstudies.gu.se).

Submissions for application for this call are open for. Please name the application folder with your name and "[document name]".

## 6. Submission deadline

The deadline for application: 4<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 23:59 hours.

## 7. Contact details for more information

For more information, please contact the Ag. Director of the Center for Conflict Management (CCM) at [amshyaka@gmail.com](mailto:amshyaka@gmail.com)

## 8. Recruitment process

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified and called for an interview.



The interview process will, apart from the interview, include an exercise in writing to test the candidate's English proficiency.

The recruitment team includes senior staff from both UR and Swedish universities. Successful candidates will be notified a couple of weeks after the interviews and are expected to start in January 2022.

## 9. Selection criteria

The assessment will primarily consider:

- i) Administrative requirements
- ii) The PhD research proposal
- iii) The master thesis
- iv) Proficiency in English
- v) The CV
- vi) In line with UR's gender policy and UR's commitment to bridge the gender gap in research and teaching at UR; all things being equal, female candidate shall be preferred

## 10. Key dates

- i. Application closes by 4<sup>th</sup> October.
- ii. Publication of the list of shortlisted candidates and invitation to the interview: By 20<sup>th</sup> October
- iii. Selection interviews to be organized by 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November
- iv. Successful candidates are announced by 6<sup>th</sup> December
- v. Start by January 2022

Done at Kigali, August 30, 2021

**Prof. Nosa O. EGIEBOR**

**Deputy vice Chancellor Academic Affair and Research**







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**Call for applications for Postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Rwanda/ Center for Conflict management (UR/CCM) within the Research Training Partnership Programme on Peace, Conflict and Security Research**

**1. Background**

The University of Rwanda (UR) is a Public Institution of Higher Learning committed to support the development of the country through the generation and advancement of knowledge and innovation among other core activities. Under the UR-Sweden Program for Research, Higher Education and Institutional Advancement, the UR Center for Conflict Management (CCM), College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS), has, in collaboration with the School of Global Studies of the University of Gothenburg, Sweden (SGS), for more than fifteen years received grants from the Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) for capacity building. Starting from January 2022 a significant share of the grants will be used for post-doc fellowships aimed at making CCM a vibrant and internationally competitive research environment.

Within the described framework, the University of Rwanda invites applications for **two Postdoctoral fellowships** in a sandwich mode. The postdoctoral fellows will conduct research in the areas of Peace, Conflict and Security Research at CCM in Kigali, Rwanda, with visits to SGS, Sweden. The Fellowship is a full-time two-year program expected to start in January 2022 and complete in December 2023.

**2. Specific research topic**

***Fellowship 1:***

The fellowship is open to research in the wider area of the sub-program's research focus. Applicants are expected to carry out research in any of the areas of Peace Studies, Conflict Studies, Security Studies, Genocide Studies, Reconciliation and Post-conflict reconstruction, Transitional justice and Peacebuilding, Development Studies, Global Studies, Environmental Social Sciences, Political Ecology, Governance studies, Human rights and humanitarian law and Gender studies.

***Fellowship 2:***

This fellowship is linked to an ongoing research project at SGS, which analyses possible links between national ownership and local participation in aid recipient countries by investigating manifestations of external influence and local engagement respectively, in the areas of decentralization, community forestry and NGO legislation.



The postdoc fellow is expected to carry out research related to relationship principles in international development cooperation, as manifested in concepts such as ownership and participation, and with empirical focus on one or several of the areas of decentralization, community forestry and NGO legislation. Depending on the postdoc project, the fellowship is foreseen to imply close collaboration with, and integrated mentorship by the SGS-researchers in the project, including joint data collection and analyses, resulting in joint publications.

### **3. Funding**

There is no stipend provided for the Postdoctoral fellows. However, the fellowship will cover the tuition fees, workstation and support the students' travel to Sweden and living allowance while in Sweden.

### **4. Role of the PhD student**

The aim of the scholarship is to facilitate the academic career development of the successful candidate. The grantee is furthermore expected to play a proactive role in contributing to a thriving research environment at CCM by:

- i) Independently conducting research
- ii) Publishing the results of the project in internationally recognized journals (the grantee is expected to publish two articles in recognized international peer-reviewed journals)
- iii) Organizing the regular CCM research seminar (one per semester)
- iv) Organizing one major academic workshop within the duration of the postdoc

The fellowship includes two visits of three months to the School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg. Both CCM and SGS assign a mentor to the successful candidate. The grants are awarded on a competitive basis and the selection will be done jointly by the UR and SGS.

### **5. General Eligibility criteria**

The candidate must be:

- i) Permanent staff of the University of Rwanda
- ii) Citizen of Rwanda
- iii) Holding a relevant PhD degree delivered by an accredited university with specialization in Peace Studies, Conflict Studies, Security Studies, Genocide Studies, Reconciliation, Development Studies, Environmental Social Sciences, or Political Ecology, Governance, Human Rights, Gender studies, or any other relevant topic;
- iv) Ready to spend a minimum of 6 months in Sweden in multiple visits;
- v) Have had 75% in the previous year's evaluation report
- vi) Ready to continue working at the University of Rwanda after completion of the PhD studies;





#### 6. Specific eligibility criteria

- vi. The candidate should have an academic background within the core areas of CCM and the sub-program's research focus (peace, conflict and security, development, poverty reduction and environmental degradation)
- vii. Be fluent in English, both orally and in writing

As per the policy, male applicants below the age of 40 years of age and female applicants below 45 years of age are given priority for PhD and Postdoctoral Scholarships. Post-doctoral fellowships applicants should have completed their PhD studies within the preceding 5 years.

Successful candidates should be prepared to work full time on the project. Other side activities, assignments, consultancies or employment are strongly discouraged.

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

#### 7. How to apply

Interested applicants should submit the following:

- i) An application letter for the fellowship position: The subject should be "*Postdoc fellowship position in Peace, Conflict and Security Research*" and it must specify which of the positions the applicant is applying for (Fellowship 1 and/or 2).
- ii) A personal motivation statement for the programme of study. This statement should demonstrate commitment, motivation and reasons for interest in the programme (max 2 pages).
- iii) Recommendation letters from two academic or professional referees.
- iv) Applicants from a College at UR need to inform the Principal about applying for this position; and attach a confirmatory letter from the Principal, who received this information.
- v) Applicants from collaborating government institutions must attach a letter from employer ensuring the candidate gets study leave for the entire period if chosen for the scholarship;
- vi) Certified copy of the PhD degree.
- vii) Copies of valid identification card or passport
- viii) Copy of the PhD Thesis and scientific paper(s) the candidate published after her/his graduation for PhD degree.
- ix) Current CV (maximum of 3 pages) with full name, e-mail, date of birth, sex, formal education at xx university, including full specification of the Masters' degree specialization, teaching experience, previous experience relevant to the programme,



present position, scientific publications and/or any other academic experience that may be relevant.

x) Research proposal:

- *For fellowship 1:* A 3-page research proposal on a topic related to peace, conflict and security, development, poverty reduction, environmental social sciences, or any of the other areas stated above. The research proposal should describe the envisioned research project, including aim and research questions, theory, methods, earlier literature and ethical considerations.
- *For fellowship 2:* A 3-page research proposal related to national ownership and local participation in international development cooperation, with an empirical focus on one or several of the areas of decentralization, community forestry and NGO legislation. *The proposal should include aim, research questions, theory, methods, earlier literature, and ethical considerations.*

Please send the above mentioned (scanned and saved in one document) to the following emails: UR CPGS email: [ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw](mailto:ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw) with a copy to the subprogramme team leaders Dr Peter John Mugume on [j.mugume@ur.ac.rw](mailto:j.mugume@ur.ac.rw) / [petermgume@gmail.com](mailto:petermgume@gmail.com) and [gunilla.blomqvist@globalstudies.gu.se](mailto:gunilla.blomqvist@globalstudies.gu.se) , please name the application folder with your name and “[document name]”.

## 8. Submission deadline

The deadline for application is 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.

## 9. Contact details for more information

For further information, please contact Dr Aggee Shyaka Mugabe the Ag. Director of the Center for Conflict Management (CCM) at [amshyaka@gmail.com](mailto:amshyaka@gmail.com)

## 10. Recruitment process

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified and called for an interview.

The recruitment team includes senior staff from both UR and Swedish universities. Successful candidates will be notified a couple of weeks after the interview and are expected to start in January 2022.





### 11. Selection criteria

The assessment looks primarily at

- i) research proposal
- ii) the CV
- iii) previous publications and/or PhD dissertation
- iv) English proficiency
- v) in line with UR's gender policy and UR's commitment to bridge the gender gap in research and teaching at UR; all things being equal, female candidate shall be preferred.

### 12. Key dates

- i. Application closes by 4<sup>th</sup> October.
- ii. Publication of the list of shortlisted candidates and invitation to the interview: By 20<sup>th</sup> October
- iii. Selection interviews to be organized by 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> November
- iv. Successful candidates are announced by 6<sup>th</sup> December
- v. Start by January 2022

Done at Kigali, August 30, 2021

**Prof. Nosa O. EGIEBOR**

**Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs and Research**

