



Call for application for 2 PhD positions under UR-ARISE grant project

I. Background

The University of Rwanda (UR) College of Medicine and Health Sciences (CMHS), in collaboration with University of Liege, Belgium, received funding from the Africa Academy of Science / ARISE, to establish a project entitled **“Genomic and environmental factors of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) in Rwandan children”**.

II. Role and description

The project goals to identify the genomic and environmental factors underlying three types of NDDs: Rare Genomics Neurodevelopmental defect (RGNDD), autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and microcephaly. The study also aims to train 2 African scientists at postgraduate level at PhD level and build their capacities and build capacity on bioinformatics and diagnosis of genetic disorders; provide a rich resource of samples, phenotypic and genotypic data for NDDs in Rwanda; allow rapid diagnosis of frequent genetic syndromes. This research project is aligned with the health goal (SDG 3) of 2030 Sustainable Development Goals: which is to 'Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages'. Most of neurodevelopmental disorders (NDDs) are considered as rare disease, therefore by fighting for the right to appropriate diagnosis and treatment of patients living with a rare disease.

III. Call for application

Under the project management by the University of Rwanda -Single Project Implementation Unit. (UR-SPIU) we call for applicants for two. Fully funded PhD scholarship. The 2 PhD positions under this call are: one in Medical Science (Medical Genetics) and another one in Genomics and Bioinformatics. The PhD programs will be by research following the policy of UR. Interested candidates can apply for a three-to-four-year PhD in this program starting January 2023. Female candidates are encouraged to apply.

IV. Funding

The program is funded by the Africa Academy of Science / ARISE Fellowship grant. The training will be offered in sandwich mode at the University of Liege (Belgium) and interested candidates are invited to apply.



The successful candidate will be funded for tuition fees, monthly living allowances, field allowances, research visit at the University of Liege and any other research expenses with UR standards.

V. Application requirements

The applicant must:

- Be of Rwandan nationality
- Not have another scholarship for PhD studies at the same time of application or enrolment into this program
- **PhD in Medical Science (Medical Genetics)**
 - Be a holder of a specialty degree/certificate such as the Master of Medicine (MMED) or equivalent with in Pediatrics or Neurology.
 - or
 - Hold a master's degree from any health sciences domain with primary qualification degree in Medicine (MD, MBBS, MBChB, or equivalent).
 - Be fully registered and licenced by the Rwanda Dental and Medical Council.
- **PhD in Genomic and Bioinformatics**
 - Hold a master's degree in bioinformatics, or biotechnology or biomedical sciences in the fields of molecular biology, genetics. Knowledge of genetic analytical skills and bioinformatics analysis is an added value.

VI. Application file

The interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- A motivation letter indicating/justifying the specific PhD fellowship in the two areas applying for.
- A curriculum vitae (CV)
- Notified copies of previous degrees
- Two recommendation letters from academic senior staffs, one preferably from the master's thesis.
- Transcripts of master's degree programme
- A research proposal that is not more than 5,000 words on any of the 2 research topics related to the aim of the project described in *section 2*.



VII. Selection methodology

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

VIII. Important Dates to note:

Application deadline: Applicants are requested to submit the required documents not later than **17 November 2022.**

IX. How to apply

Interested applicants are required to submit the following documents:

A copy of complete application file should be submitted by email to the UR-CPGS officer at ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, with a copy sent to the Principal Investigator, Ass. Professor Annette Uwineza (annetteuwineza@gmail.com) and the Co-Principal Investigator, Dr. Abdullateef Alagbonsi (easylat@gmail.com).

Note: A candidate should submit only one application

Done at Kigali 17 October 2022

Prof. Nosa O. EGIEBOR

Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research

