



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR FIVE POST-DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS UNDER THE SIDA PROJECT AND THE SUB-PROGRAM “UNDERNUTRITION”

Background

The Research Training Sub-programme will address the complexity of undernutrition in children and their mothers with an extensive interdisciplinary undertaking by University of Rwanda in collaboration with complementary specialists from five universities in Sweden, involving a number of scientific disciplines working in close collaboration. It is planned as four interlinked research projects combining Health issues, Agricultural practices and Environmental matters, with Geospatial Information Technology, Innovation opportunities and Gender theory and analysis as cross-cutting themes. This sub-programme will engage 5 Post-Docs in sandwich mode with support from Rwanda/UR and five Swedish Universities. Each post doc person will be working with experts in at least two of the fields of science represented in this sub-programme.

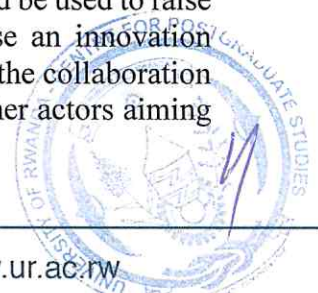
The Research Programme will contribute to the implementation and management of Rwanda's cross-sectoral Nutrition and Food Security policy, Poverty Reduction strategy and connected initiatives. Four main projects (A-D) are included in this sub-programme, which also holds a crosscutting innovation component. Five post docs will be recruited of which one is to the crosscutting project *Innovations and innovation systems for food security and nutrition*. Project A: *The use of GIS to guide data collection and Development of ICT tools* will enroll two post docs. One post doc will then be recruited to each of the following three projects: Project C: *Implementation and evaluation of an electronic pilot Rwandan Medical Birth Register (MBR)* and Project B+D: *Community intervention in the form of a participatory research approach*.

Call for application

In the perspective described above, the Undernutrition project intends to enroll 5 candidates in Post-doc programmes run in a sandwich mode. It is in this context that UR in its undernutrition sub-program invites interested applicants to apply for any of the Post-doc positions described below.

1. Research Project: *Innovations and innovation systems for food security and nutrition (crosscutting project)*

There is a consensus today that combatting undernutrition requires multisectoral collaboration, including agriculture, health, environment and local development. This research project will investigate how science-driven or user-driven innovations have been and could be used to raise the general nutritional status of Rwanda's population. The project will use an innovation system approach to address the required multi-sectoriality, and thus facilitate the collaboration between other researchers in the program as well as the cooperation with other actors aiming to improve food security and nutrition in Rwanda.





Requirements: One post doc position is available. A PhD degree is required, Public Health or Health Economics, in Economics, Social Sciences, Agricultural engineering. Basic skills in qualitative methods, SPSS (or R) and ICT tools are preferred. The post doc will coordinate the process, collaborate with a GIS post doc and with the Inter-ministerial Coordination Committee and the “Social Cluster Food and Nutrition Steering Committee” (SCF & NSC).

The selected candidate under this project will be based at Södertörn University, Senior researcher Tomas Kjellqvist and at the College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine of the University of Rwanda.

2. Research project: *Developing Web GIS and mobile GIS solutions for efficient field data collection and further analysis (Project A)*

Two postdoc positions are available for developing tools for field data collection. The data are quantitative as well as qualitative (e.g. interviews with households about malnutrition) that will be stored as attribute data linked to the positions of the households/health care centers, stored as geometrical data. Postdocs will participate in field data collection and interviews and well as further spatial analysis.

Requirements: The applicants have to have very good knowledge of GIS or computer science. Being skillful in programming, specially web programming, and/or creating/using databases are considered as advantages. The applicant should be interested in field work and collecting data in field through interviewing with households and/or collecting spatial features e.g. rivers, land boundaries, etc. The selected two candidates under this project will be based at Geographical Information System (GIS) Centre at Lund University, Sweden, under supervision of Prof Petter Pilesjö and Assoc Prof. Ali Mansourian, and at the College of Science and Technology (CST) of the University of Rwanda (CMHS, UR).

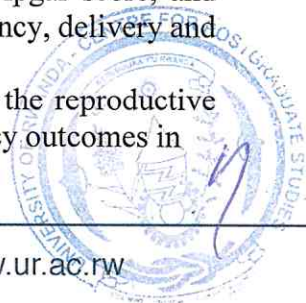
3. Research Project: *Developing, implementing and evaluating a Medical Birth Register (MBR) (Project C)*

Medical birth registers have proven invaluable in providing trustworthy information to health sectors, governments and researchers on outcomes of pregnancy and delivery.

A national medical birth register collects information on outcomes during pregnancy and delivery on for example maternal height and weight, intercurrent diseases, reproductive history (parity, previous pregnancy outcomes etc), complications during pregnancy and delivery, and maternal and fetal health outcomes.

A key component is the unique individual civic number of the mother. Information is also collected on the newborn child, such as for example weight and length, Apgar score, and fetal/child diagnoses (including diagnosis on malformation) related to pregnancy, delivery and the early neonatal period.

A longitudinal national, medical birth register enables a country to follow the reproductive development in its population. It also enables evaluation of adverse pregnancy outcomes in





individuals and their risk factors. When data are collected during years, the medical birth register provides the possibility to evaluate pregnancy outcomes even between generations. In the future, when Rwanda also will provide every newborn with a unique civic number, then there is a possibility to create a Rwandan Child Health Register with the unique possibility of surveying the young generation until adulthood. The health status among young people may be evaluated timely for the purposes of intervention, such as for example public health measures.

The project aims to develop a Rwandan version of an electronic Medical Birth Register in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, including monitoring the process of implementation and evaluating adverse pregnancy outcomes. The MBR will later be available for use in the entire country. Main scientific areas are Public Health Science/Obstetrics & Gynecology.

Requirements: One post doc position is available. MD and PhD degrees are required. Obstetric/medical experience, and experience from health sector management are merits. Basic skills in epidemiology, biostatistics, qualitative methods, SPSS and ICT tools are preferred.

The post doc will coordinate the process, collaborate with a GIS post doc and with the Ministry of Health.

The selected candidate under this project will be based at Department of Clinical Sciences/Obstetrics & Gynecology at Umeå University, Sweden, Professor Ingrid Mogren, and at the College of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Rwanda (CMHS, UR).

4. Research Project: *Community intervention in the form of a participatory research approach to explore local priorities to reducing undernutrition in children (Project B+D)*

An intervention study will be undertaken, using Open Space Meetings in two different communities, with village leaders and trusted participants and with staff from the nearby health center to bring together as diverse experience in the field as possible. Issues to be discussed are: *As a community, how can you contribute to reduce undernutrition in children? What do you expect of stakeholders to eliminate this problem?* The potential roles of various stakeholders are explored as is the local capacity to manage the intervention models based on findings from this research training program.

This project will combine health issues with agricultural practices, and environmental matters, innovation opportunities and gender theory and analysis.

Requirements: One post doc position is available. A PhD degree is required within public health, dietetics/nutrition or in pediatrics. Experience in community intervention techniques, in field work and in interview techniques are merits. Good skills and experience in research methods, including both quantitative and qualitative methods, epidemiology, biostatistics are required. The post doc will be the main responsible person in the field and lead discussions in the community, with support from the team of researchers.





The selected candidate under this project will be based at University of Gothenburg, The Sahlgrenska Academy, Prof. Gunilla Krantz and Assoc. Prof. Hanna Augustin and at College of Medicine and Health sciences at UR.

General information for all positions

Time period: 2 years on a sandwich mode, with a maximum of 3 months stay per year in Sweden. Starting date depends on which post doc position that is applied for.

Funding: The PhD training will be funded by the UR-Sweden Program grant and by UR.

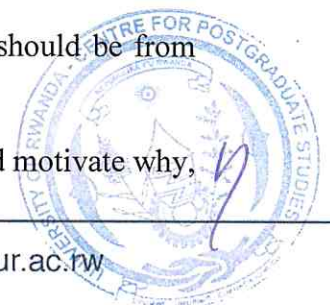
Requirements, the applicant should be:

- a Rwandan Citizen;
- a PhD's degree holder in the mentioned field/s stated under each Post doc project above
- Candidates from collaborating Rwandan Government institutions such as University Teaching Hospitals, RBC, MoH, RAB, etc. are eligible and invited to apply. When successful, such candidates shall have to produce commitment letters from their respective institutions to release them to undertake the Post doc period in a sandwich model.
- Furthermore, UR shall have agree with these institutions how the acquired expertise shall benefit both the institution of origin of the candidate and UR.
- Ready to adhere to UR capacity building policies and regulations;
- Having interest and passion in undernutrition (teaching, research, inter-institution collaboration for undernutrition related matters);
- Ready and able to conduct his/her Post-doc research activities in a collaborative way.
- All things being equal, priority will be given to UR staff.
- In line with UR's gender policy and UR's commitment to bridge the gender gap in academic teaching and research; all things being identical, equal number of men and women are preferred.

Application file

Applicants must submit the following documents (well numbered):

1. Application letter addressed to the Director of the University of Rwanda Centre for Postgraduate Studies (UR CPGS); the letter should demonstrate commitment,
2. motivation and reasons for interest in this Post-doc program. A special section should be devoted to demonstrating how the applicant meets the above requirements;
3. Curriculum Vitae **with publication list**;
4. Copy of the degrees (PhD degree in the mentioned area under each of the five projects)
5. Administrative recommendation letter from the direct supervisor;
6. Recommendation letters from at least two individuals of which one should be from academia;
6. Interested candidates should demonstrate in writing:
 - 1) Your interest in one of the Post-doc projects described above and motivate why,





- 2) Explain why you are a good candidate for the particular position you are applying for,
- 4) State your academic merits such as exams in the field, any related publications, any field experience relevant to the post-doc project applied for or any other earlier experiences you believe are important for this position.

How to apply ?

The complete hard copy application files should be submitted to the office of the Director of the UR-CPGS at UR Head-Quarters (Gikondo Campus) with a copy to the Dean of the School of Public Health at UR-Remera Campus.

- A soft copy of the application should be sent to Mrs. Glorioso UMULISA GASHAYIJA, the Scholarships Officer at UR CPGS (email: gashayijagloriose@gmail.com) with Cc. to the sub-program team-leader, Assoc. Prof. Aline UMUBYEYI (email: aline.umubyeyim@gmail.com).

Eligible applicants will be invited for an interview for the final selection of the Candidate.

Deadline for application

Not later than **29th October 2019 at 5:00 p.m.**

For more information

Applicants can contact the Project PI, Assoc.Prof Aline UMUBYEYI (email: aline.umubyeyim@gmail.com)

Done in Kigali on 15th October 2019.



Dr Celestin NTIVUGURUZA

Acting Director, University of Rwanda Centre for Postgraduate Studies (UR CPGS)