

SHORTLISTING REPORT FOR THE THREE PHD SCHOLARSHIPS IN ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA WITHIN THE RESEARCH CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP IN ECONOMICS RESEARCH SUB-PROGRAMME.

I. Background

On October 20, 2021, the School of Economics of CBE, University of Rwanda (UR) in partnership with the School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg (UGOT) in Sweden through the Research Training Programme-Rwanda and Sweden (2019-2024), called for applications **for 3 PhD scholarships** to potential PhD candidates to be admitted to the full-time PhD in Economics by course work programme. Only Rwandans who are permanent staff at the University of Rwanda, were targeted. In addition, a Bachelor and Masters' degrees in Economics/Agriculture Economics/Econometrics with outstanding grades were required (for more details on specific eligibility criteria, see the attached call). After closing the call, a preselection committee was appointed by the Principal of CBE. The appointees together with the Swedish partners held a virtual meeting for evaluating the submitted applications and producing the shortlisting report.

II. Members of the shortlisting committee (see the attached nomination letter)

The table below lists the shortlisting committee members: (attached are the signed declaration of conflict of interest for each committee member who was present)

SN	Name	Position	Attendance status
1	Dr. Joseph Nkurunziza	Ag. Dean, School of Economics, (Meeting chair)	Present
2	Prof. François Niragire	Director of Research and Innovation, CBE	Present
3	Dr. Yvonne Umulisa	Lecturer &TL, Economics Sub-Program	Present
4	Dr. Edouard Musabanganji	Senior Lecturer & Deputy TL Economics Sub-Program	Present
5	Dr. Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah	Team Leader, UGOT	Present
6	Dr. Yonas Alem	Potential Supervisor, UGOT	Present
7	Dr. Charles Ruhara	Senior Lecturer and Postgraduate Coordinator	Absent with apology
8	Dr. Etienne Ndemezo	Lecturer	Absent with apology
9	Dr. Richard Kabanda	Lecturer	Absent with apology

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III. Meeting agenda

A virtual shortlisting meeting held on the 26th of November with two main points on the agenda:

1. Screening/analyzing the applicants' files
2. Shortlisting the best candidates for the interviews

IV. Summary on applications received

Three (two males and one female) applications were received for the three available PhD scholarships. Only two (one male and one female) out of three applicants meet the general criteria of being Rwandans and the UR permanent staff. Thus, the remaining one application was not considered. The applicant is not a UR permanent staff.

V. Screening of candidates meeting general eligibility criteria

The screening of the candidates has mainly based on both general and specific criteria already defined in the call. In addition, other previous academic experience relevant to this programme (also defined in the call), such as teaching, and research experiences were considered. Moreover, a specific criterion of the outstanding grade for both bachelor and master's education, was emphasized on. Important to note is that the shortlisting committee decided 70% as the minimum required for the outstanding grade. For more details on the shortlisting process, see **the attached excel table of evaluation**:

VI. Outcome of the shortlisting

After the screening and debate on each of the TWO eligible applicants, the committee decided to shortlist only one applicant; the only female and academic staff who applied for this scholarship. Even though she does not meet the education requirement (both bachelor and master's in economics, she does hold a Master of Arts in Development Studies: Economics specialization (with many courses associated with economics and econometric models) with an outstanding grade.

Moreover, she has a very good experience in both teaching and research in the area of economics. Based on all these, the committee finds her a reasonable candidate to call for interview. The other candidate who meets the education level, do not seem qualified, because, not only, he does not have an outstanding grade, but also, he does not have any teaching and research experience in the field of economics. Hence, the committee decided to do not call him for interview.



VII. Meeting recommendations

It would be a wastage of time and other resources if the interview must be conducted on one shortlisted candidate, in addition, the principle of competition would be missing. Accordingly, before the conduct of the interviews, the meeting suggested to readvertise the call and make it open to external candidates, such as employed at a collaborating government institution, UR staff on temporary contracts, external MSc holders who might meet the programme's requirements. This is also motivated by a delay in the implementation of activities planned for the Economics sub-program, especially those related to this PhD programme, which, cannot start without providing the scholarships.

The suggestion is, once the second round of call for applications will be closed, the interviews will be conducted to all shortlisted candidates.

Note taker



Dr. Yvonne Umulisa

Meeting chair



Dr. Joseph Nkururiza



**REVISED CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR PHD SCHOLARSHIP IN
ECONOMICS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA WITHIN THE RESEARCH
CAPACITY BUILDING PARTNERSHIP IN ECONOMICS RESEARCH SUB-
PROGRAMME**

1. Background

The Department of Economics, the School of Economics of CBE, University of Rwanda (UR) in partnership with the Department of Economics, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg (UoG) in Sweden through the Research Training Programme-Rwanda and Sweden (2019-2024), calls for applications for **3 PhD scholarships** to potential PhD candidates to be admitted to the full-time PhD in Economics by course work programme.

2. PhD programme

The programme is run jointly with the UoG, one of the most prestigious Economics Departments in Europe and one of the top universities around the World. However, UR will award the PhD degree. This PhD by course work involves two years of core and specialization courses. The first-year core economics courses will be taught at UR's Gikondo Campus jointly by Professors from UoG, UR and other best-ranked universities in the region. The second-year elective/specialization courses will be taught both at the UR's and UoG's campuses. There will be joint supervision of PhD dissertations by Professors from UoG and UR, with the expected duration of 3 years for the completion of the PhD degree with the possibility of an extension of one year.

3. Funding

Funded by the Swedish International Development Agency for Cooperation (SIDA), the scholarship will cover stipends while in Sweden, fieldwork research grants, and trips to participate in international research conferences and regular visits at the UoG, where students are expected to spend 2-3 months per year in Sweden. Scholarship recipients are expected to be associated with UR and serve the School of Economics for a minimum of 4 years after their graduation from the programme.

4. Role of the PhD student

Potential candidates are invited to undertake research in sectors of relevance for Rwanda such as the Agriculture, Manufacturing and Service sector, and within proposed sub-themes. These sub-themes include, but is not limited to, prioritized areas of Environmental and Development Economics, Labour economics, public economics with various specializations.



5. General eligibility criteria

- i. Applicant must be a permanent staff of the University of Rwanda,
- ii. Applicant should be Rwandan by nationality
- iii. Applicant must be ready to spend a minimum of 2-3 months in Sweden once per year during the last three years
- iv. Applicant must be ready to continue working at the University of Rwanda after completion of the doctoral studies.

6. Specific eligibility criteria

Essential criteria:

- i. Applicant must have a Bachelor and Masters' degrees in Economics/Agriculture Economics/Econometrics with outstanding grades
- ii. The candidate must be English proficient.

Desired criteria:

- i. Women 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.
- ii. Male applicants below the age of 40 years and female applicants below 45 years of age will be given priority for PhD Scholarships.

7. How to apply

Interested applicants are required to submit the following documents:

- i. An application letter for the position, addressed to the Director-UR Centre for Postgraduate Studies
- ii. A two-page cover letter motivating why the applicant should be considered
- iii. Recommendation letters from at least two academic or professional referees; one of the recommendation letters should preferably be issued by the master's degree supervisor.
- iv. Applicants from a college at UR need to inform the Principal about applying for the position and attach a confirmatory letter from him/her.
- v. Certified copy of Bachelor and master's degrees and their transcripts
- vi. Copies of valid identification card or passport



- vii. Updated CV (maximum of 3 pages) including full specification of the Masters' degree specialization, and any other previous academic experience relevant to the programme (e.g., research assistantship, publications in indexed journals and teaching experience)
- viii. A maximum 5 pages research proposal in an economics area. The research proposal must be checked for plagiarism, and proposals with more than 20% similarities will be rejected.

Please send the above mentioned (scanned and saved in one document) to the following email: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, with a copy to franklin.amuakwa-mensah@efd.gu.se and yumulisa2001@gmail.com, musabanganji@gmail.com, team leaders, Economics research subprogramme. Remember to name the application folder with your name and the document name.

8. Submission deadline

The deadline for application is **November 09, 2021**, at the latest. Application received beyond this deadline will not be considered.

9. Recruitment process

The shortlisted applicants will be notified and called for an interview. The interviews will be conducted at the UR-Gikondo Campus from the 2nd to the 3rd of December 2021. The recruitment team includes staff from the School of Economics, College of Business and Economics, UR, and from the University of Gothenburg. Successful candidates will be notified by December 24, 2021, and the accepted candidates will begin in January.

10. Contact details for more information

For more information about this call contact Yvonne Umulisa or Edouard Musabanganji, Team leaders, Economics research subprogramme, at the following e-mail addresses: yumulisa2001@gmail.com or musabanganji@gmail.com.

Done at Kigali, October 22, 2021

Prof. Nosa O. Egiebor
Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research
University of Rwanda





OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL

Kigali, 23rd November 2021
Ref. No. 359/UR-CBE/2021

Prof. Francois Niragire, Director for Research and Innovation-CBE
Dr. Joseph Nkurunziza, Lecturer and Dean of School of Economics
Dr. Charles Ruhara, Senior Lecturer and Post-graduate Coordinator
Dr. Edouard Musabanganji, Senior Lecturer and DTL, Economics sub-programme
Dr. Etienne Ndemezo, Lecturer
Dr. Richard Kabanda, Lecturer
Dr. Yvonne Umulisa, Lecturer and Team Leader, Economics Sub-programme

Dear All,

RE: YOUR NOMINATION AS THE PRESELECTION AND INTERVIEWS COMMITTEE MEMBER FOR CANDIDATES OF UR-SWEDEN PHD SCHOLARSHIPS IN ECONOMICS.

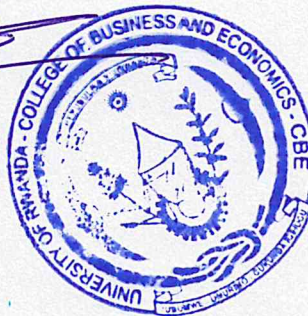
With reference to the call for applications for PhD Scholarship in Economics at the University of Rwanda within the Research Capacity Building Partnership in Economics Research Sub-programme sponsored by SIDA, applicants from the UR community submitted their applications.

Considering that only three PhD scholarships will be provided, you are hereby nominated as the preselection committee members, and you are tasked to go through the applicants' files and pre-select the best three candidates for interviews. In addition to the preselection activity, as potential co-supervisors of the applicants, you will also conduct their interviews. The team leader of the Economics sub-programme, being the member of the committee, will avail all applicants' files for the committee's assessment.

I thank you for your kind collaboration and I look forward to receiving the reports in due time.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Pierre Claver Rutayisire
Ag. Principal
College of Business and Economics



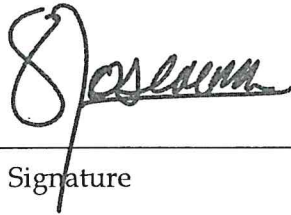
Annex 6: Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Definition

A conflict of interest is a set of circumstances that creates a risk that professional judgement will be unduly influenced by another interest. Examples of conflict of interest include a family member, someone with whom there is a close relationship, a candidate being supported financially, or a candidate with whom there is a civil dispute, academic complaint pending or other situations that may interfere with the judgment.

Declaration

I hereby declare that there are no grounds for my disqualification to participate as a member of the pre selection panel or interview panel:



Signature

Dr. Joseph Nkurunziza

1197480026624054

Name, ID

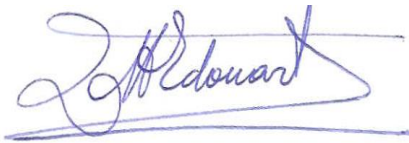
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Declaration

I hereby declare that there are no grounds for my disqualification to participate as a member of the pre selection panel or interview panel:



Signature

Name: Edouard Musabanganji, ID: 1197980129784008


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Declaration

I hereby declare that there are no grounds for my disqualification to participate as a member of the pre selection panel or interview panel:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yonas Alem', is written over a horizontal line.

Signature

Name: Yonas Alem (PhD)
University of Gothenburg

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Declaration

I hereby declare that there are no grounds for my disqualification to participate as a member of the pre selection panel or interview panel:



Name: Franklin Amuakwa-Mensah

Signature

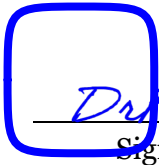
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Declaration

I hereby declare that there are no grounds for my disqualification to participate as a member of the preselection panel panel:

 Digitally Signed
Dr. Niragire
Signature

François Niragire
Name, ID

Annex 6: Declaration of Conflict of Interest

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Declaration

I hereby declare that there are no grounds for my disqualification to participate as a member of the preselection panel or interview panel:



Signature

Yvonne Umulisa

Name, ID

TABLE OF EVALUATION APPLICANTS FOR THE PHD SCHOLARSHIPS WITHIN THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA-SWEDEN RESEARCH TRAINING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAMME: SUSTAINABLE ECONOMICS RESEARCH SUBPROGRAM

Candidate	Family name	First name	e-mail	Meets the general eligibility criteria (yes/no) ¹	Application complete (yes/no) ¹	Specific essential criteria ²			Specific desirable criteria ²				Ranking	Assessment (short comments)
						Education (level and topic):	Language skills: E.g. Very good knowledge of the English language, both in speech and in writing	Other essential qualifications: Any that are absolutely needed for the specific PhD position (not related to the general eligibility)	Degree, or by complementary education, has a specialization	Publications (other than master thesis etc): E.g. peer-review scientific papers, technical reports, conference proceedings, ...	Relevant work experience: E.g. experience from experimental research, or similar technical, work with small-scale biomass combustion applications	Specific skills (technical, methods, programs, tools, etc): E.g. Experience of working with analytical methods such as SEM-EDS and XRD		
1	Nzabirinda	Etienne	etienne.nzabirinda@gmail.com	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not shortlisted: he is not a UR permanent staff.
2	Mushimiyimana	Herediton	mherediton@yahoo.fr	YES	No (two recommendation letters are dated (June and August) before the call was out (October)	He has both Bachelor and master's degrees in Economics				No publications	No teaching and research experience	not clear in both the proposal proposal and CV.		Eventhough he has both bachelor's and master's degrees in Economics, <u>he is not shortlisted for the interviews due to:</u> (1) He does not have an outstanding grade (70% as the minimum) required in the call (2) He has no teaching and research experience, and no publications relevant to the programme

3	Mutabazi	Aline	alinemutaba@gmail.com	YES	No (bachelor's degree and its transcript are not certified)	Bachelor's in management and Master of Arts in development studies with specialization: Economics of Development			Yes: Economics of Development	Co-author of (3) journal articles and 1 book chapter	11 years of experience in teaching in the field of economics plus 10 years of experience in research projects/grants	Statistical packages such as STATA and SPSS		Eventhough she does not have a bachelor's degree in Economics, <u>she is shortlisted for the interviews due to:</u> (1) She is an academic staff in the SoE, (2) She has a master of arts in development studies with a Economics of Development as specialization (3) She has a very strong experience in both teaching and research which criteria are very relevant for this specific PhD programme
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Note: this table is adapted from the one in the final supplementary guidelines for UR-SWEDEN Programme

¹ Defined in the call for application, and in line with the UR Policy document

² As by the text in the call for applications

	Meets the criterion very well
	Meets the criterion partly, uncertain
	Does not meet the criterion at all

Prepared by:



Note taker
Dr. Yvonne Umulisa

Approved by:



Meeting chair
Dr. Joseph Nkurunziza