



Call for application for one scholarship in PhD in Agricultural Sciences at the University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture Animal Sciences and Veterinary Medicine (UR-CAVM)

I. Background

Since 2017, the University of Rwanda in partnership with the University of Gothenburg have long-term research exploring the sensitivity of tropical trees to warming, known to us as Rwanda TREE (Tropical Elevation Experiment) project.

In 2022, that research team has obtained a funding to conduct research that aims to study the effect of heat and temperature stress on tropical trees and impact on forest planation success, carbon storage and biodiversity. The project aims at responding to the following questions: (i) Will heat tolerance be exceed in tropical trees in wormer climate? (ii) To what extent can tree acclimate to a warmer climate by increasing their heat tolerance? (iii) Which trees suffer most from warming and why? To respond to these questions, the project has established experimental sites (forest plantations) at Ibanda Makera (Kirehe District), Rubona (Huye District) and Sigira (Nyamagabe District), on which selected 20 trees species were planted in 2017.

II. Role and description

The PhD project aims and objectives:

The PhD project will explore the sensitivity of tropical tree seedlings to heat and drought. The project builds on previous research within Rwanda TREE as well as the extensive research infrastructure developed at its three research field stations (irrigation systems, rainout shelters, field houses and staff, weather stations, etc). In addition, it will make use of other existing plantation trials available through collaborators in Rwanda, and possible also new plantations to be designed within the project. The objectives of the new PhD project will be the following:

- Investigating tree seedling growth and survival during the initial two-year establishment stage and how this is affected by temperature and drought severity.
- Determining tree traits involved in heat tolerance and water economy and relate those to growth and survival responses.
- Contributing knowledge and advice regarding species selection and plantation design to tree plantation efforts with native tree species in Rwanda.

The PhD student recruited will also have the opportunity to formulate and develop new research questions and objectives during the project.

III. Call for application

Under project management by Single Project Implementation Unit of the University of Rwanda (SPIU-UR), we call for applicants for **one fully funded PhD scholarship** (4 years). After successful recruitment of the best candidate, the selected applicant will register for PhD in Agricultural Sciences at UR-CAVM (PhD by Research in Agroforestry and Soil management), the University of Rwanda.



The PhD candidate will also have an opportunity to register for double degree, and thus be PhD candidate at University of Rwanda (PhD in Agricultural Sciences) and at the University of Gothenburg (PhD in Environmental Sciences).

IV. Funding

The successful candidate will be funded for tuition fee, registration fee, monthly living allowances, field allowances (mission fee), and any other research expenses with UR standards. When the selected PhD candidate will register for double degree at the University of Gothenburg, funding for travel expenses in Sweden will be offered depending on the availability of additional budget in the partnership.

V. Eligibility criteria

1. Be Rwandan citizens
2. Be a UR staff
3. BSc degree with at least Second-Class Upper Division qualification, in the areas of forestry, agroforestry, biology and plant related science.
4. MSc in forestry, Agroforestry, plant related science, Environmental related sciences.
5. Age limit is 40 years for men and 45 for women at the submission date.
6. When man and woman will have equal qualifications, women will be given priority.
7. Having an experience in conducting field data collection in biological or forest sciences is an added value: this will be evidenced by training certificates, or work certificate.
8. Having published a research paper is another added value.

VI. Application file

1. Application letter addressed to the Director for Centre for Postgraduate Studies at UR, with a copy to the Dean SFBC-CAVM, and to the UR scholarship officer,
2. Motivation letter addressing commitment, statement of goals, and reasons for undertaking PhD program.
3. Curriculum vitae
4. Copies of BSc and MSc degrees and transcripts.
5. Copy of National identification card.
6. One recommendation letter from a relevant academic staff at UR.
7. Copies of professional training certificate.
8. Any publication records.

VII. Selection Process

The selection will be conducted into three steps:

- (i) Call and submission of applications;
- (ii) Preselection;
- (iii) Interview of the best candidates.



VIII. How to apply and key dates?

- (1) Applicants are requested to send the documents as listed above by email to the scholarship officer; ur-cpgscholrship@ur.ac.rw at University of Rwanda, Centre for Postgraduate studies (UR-CPGS), to Dean of School of Forestry Biodiversity and Conservation (SFBC-CAVM) (nsabimanadnt@gmail.com), no later than 4th September 2023.
- (2) Deadline for application: 4th September 2023 at 23:59.

For more information, contact:

1. The dean of School of Forestry, Biodiversity and Conservation (SFBC), Prof. Nsabimana Donat at nsabimanadnt@gmail.com; Tel +250 788 741 619
2. Sholarship officer, Gashayija Gloriose; e-mail: ur-cpgscholrship@ur.ac.rw; Tel: 0792988304

Done at Kigali, August 21st 2023



Dr. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Ag. Vice Chancellor