mastercard foundation

Scholars Program

In partnership with

UNIVERSITY of RWANDA

Call for Applications for full Undergraduate Scholarships under Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Rwanda (Intake 2)

Academic Year – 2025-2026

1. INTRODUCTION

The University of Rwanda, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation, is implementing a 10-year Scholars Program (2021–2031) designed to expand access to quality higher education for 1,400 talented young Africans with limited access to opportunities. The initiative specifically focuses on females pursuing Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), young people with disabilities, refugees and displaced youth. The Program aims to strengthen the University of Rwanda's institutional capacity and foster inclusive, supportive pathways toward dignified work.

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Rwanda is committed to developing Africa's next generation of transformative leaders and aims to drive and support transformation at three levels: individual (Scholars), institutional (the University), and system (higher education ecosystem and beyond).

The program is recruiting scholars for intake 2 of the 2025 academic year in selected undergraduate programs. This intake provides an opportunity for recent high school graduates to enroll at the University of Rwanda immediately without waiting a full year. It also offers a second chance for international applicants with the equivalence of 2025 who missed the first round of recruitment to apply for the scholarship.

Interested and admitted applicants will undertake their academic training at the University of Rwanda in the following 7 Colleges (College of Science and Technology, College of Medicine and Health Sciences, College of Agriculture, College of Business and Economics, College of Education, College of Arts and Social Sciences, and College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Production) operating on 5 Campuses Nyarugenge, Huye, Rukara, Busogo and Nyagatare.

2. ELIGIBLE PROGRAMS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Rwanda has selected the following priority undergraduate programs for the academic year 2025 as eligible for applications.

List of approved programs of study and Number of scholarships

Campus-College- School	Program		
NYARUGENGE CAMPUS			
College of Science and Technology	Undergraduate programs	Scholarships 46	
School of Engineering	BSc (Hons) in Civil Engineering	STEM	3
	BSc (Hons) in Electrical Power Engineering	STEM	3
	BSc (Hons) in Electronics & Telecommunication Engineering	STEM	3

UG		BSc (Hons) in Transportation Engineering.	STEM	3
	School of Architecture & Built Environment	Bachelor of Architecture with Hons	STEM	3
		BSc (Hons) in Environmental Planning & Management	STEM	3
		BSc (Hons) in Urban and Regional Planning	STEM	2
	School of Science	BSc (Hons) in Biochemistry	STEM	2
		BSc (Hons) in Applied Mathematics	STEM	2
		BSc (Hons) in Applied Physics	STEM	2
		BSc (Hons) in Statistics	STEM	3
	School of ICT	BSc (Hons) in Computer Engineering	STEM	3
		BSc (Hons) in Information Technology	STEM	3
		BSc (Hons) in Information Systems	STEM	3
	School of Mining & Geology	BSc (Hons) in Mining Engineering	STEM	2
	HUYE CAMPUS			
UG	**College of Business and Economics**	**Undergraduate programs**	**Scholarships 10**	
	School of Economics	BSc (Hons) in Economics	N-STEM	2
	School of Business	BBA (Hons) in Transport & Logistics Management	N-STEM	2
		BSc (Hons) in Business Information Technology	STEM	2
		BBA (Hons) in Accounting & Finance	N-STEM	4
	College of Medicine and Health Sciences	**Undergraduate programs**	**Scholarships 113**	
	School of Medicine & Pharmacy	BSc (Hons) in Pharmacy	STEM	10
		BSc (Hons) in Clinical Psychology	N-STEM	3
	School of Health Sciences	BSc (Hons) in Anaesthesia	STEM	20
	School of Dentistry	Bachelor in Dental Therapy	STEM	20
	School of Nursing and Midwifery	BSc (Hons) in Midwifery	STEM	30
		BSc (Hons) in Nursing	STEM	30
	College of Arts and Social Sciences	**Undergraduate programs**	**Scholarships 7**	
	School of Arts, Languages & Communication Studies	BA (Hons) in Creative and Performing Arts	N-STEM	2
		BA (Hons) in English and African Languages	N-STEM	1
	School of Law	Bachelor's Degree (Hons) of Law	N-STEM	2
	School of Social Studies & Governance	BSOC (Hons) in Social Work	N-STEM	2
	BUSOGO CAMPUS			
UG	**College of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Sciences**	**Undergraduate programs**	**Scholarships 9**	
	School of Agriculture and Food Science	BSc (Hons) in Crop Production	STEM	3
		BSc (Hons) in Food Science & Technology	STEM	3
		BSc (Hons) in Horticulture	STEM	3
	NYAGATARE CAMPUS			
UG	**College of Veterinary Medicine and Animal Sciences**	**Undergraduate programs**	**Scholarships 6**	

	School of Animal Sciences and Biotechnology	BSc (Hons) in Aquaculture & Fisheries Management	STEM	2
		BSc (Hons) in Animal Production	STEM	2
	School of Veterinary Medicine and Life Sciences	Bachelor of Veterinary Medicine	STEM	2
UG	**RUKARA CAMPUS**			
	College of Education	**Undergraduate Programs**	**Scholarships**	**11**
	School of Mathematics and Science Education (SMSE)	BEd (Hons) in Computer Science	STEM	4
		BEd (Hons) in Science (Physics-Chemistry)	STEM	3
	School of Educational Sciences	BEd (Hons) in Special Needs Education	N-STEM	2
		BEd (Hons) in Early Childhood Education	N-STEM	2
TOTAL				**199**

3. ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

This scholarship opportunity is open to African students of all races, colors, or descent, with limited access to opportunities. The applicants will have to be admitted into one of the above eligible programs at the University of Rwanda (Section 2 above - eligible programs). Selected applicants with other scholarships of any kind, must be willing to discontinue other scholarships. Anyone with a double scholarship will automatically be ***discontinued once found***. Continuing students are ***not*** eligible.

4. SELECTION CRITERIA

- Be a citizen of Rwanda to benefit from the national scholarship quota.
- Be a citizen of any African country, a refugee, or displaced youth in Africa.
- Academically qualified, with limited access to opportunities.
- Not above 28 years at the time of application, and not above 30 years for those with certified proof of protracted life condition (refugees, single mothers, in child-headed family, etc).
- Meeting admission criteria to eligible programs at the University of Rwanda.
- Must have generated a UR Reference number and has submitted an application for admission to UR in one of the earmarked programs (refer to the list of Eligible Programs in section 2 above).
- Must demonstrate commitment to leadership and proof of community engagement (give back) and/or transformation initiatives.
- Refugees and those with disabilities are expected to provide legal proofs of their status (From UNHCR or NCPD respectively, or any other duly recognized organization).

5. NATURE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

This is a comprehensive scholarship that will be managed by the University of Rwanda. The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Rwanda also offers an opportunity for the scholars to receive holistic training that empowers them and lead them to the academic success, community engagement and transition to employment opportunities which will equip the scholars to be global citizens. The scholarship will cover:

- Comprehensive financial support (full tuition fees, fully paid on-campus accommodation, a laptop, learning materials, annual return ticket allowance, and a full-year monthly stipend.
- Psycho-social Support Services.
- Uniquely sourced internships with industry for professional development.
- Continued academic support through academic mentorship, virtual learning, and tutoring.
- Career Development Services (including Industrial Mentorship, Career Guidance, Professional Development, and Enterprise Development, among others)
- Regular group meetings with other scholars that focus on personal and professional development opportunities and activities tailored to build societal relationships and scholars' capacity.
- Opportunities to participate in leadership congresses, community services and mentoring (Go-back Give- Back),
- The prestige of becoming part of the growing family of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Alumni and networking with the Global Scholars Community.

Considering the level of investment, successful applicants will be required to be high achievers, highly engaging and focused scholars, able to give back and make changes in their respective communities and Africa in general.

6. APPLICATION PROCESS

- A general application form must be filled online using the following link: https://mcfsprecruitment.ur.ac.rw/
- Before completing the online application form, please read through all instructions, and required information.
- It is recommended that you start the application when you have all the supporting documents in place to ensure smooth and effective completion of the exercise.
- The application will be considered only after submission and all steps below are completed:
  - The application form and processes are fully completed.
  - All required documents are attached (Please make sure you name each document attached with ***your names and reference number*** during the initial application to UR, then ensure that the documents are saved in PDF format (with size less than 250 kb).
  - ***Click Submit*** at the end of the online application, only when all the fields and attachments have been fully completed.
  - All applicants are required to upload all supporting documents as required, prior to final submission (*Note that once the application is submitted, all application fields are closed and cannot be repeated*).

7. APPLICATION DEADLINE & SUPPORT TEAM CONTACT DETAILS

- Eligible candidates can start the online application for Mastercard Foundation scholarships while gathering the supporting documents.
- The deadline for the application for the Mastercard Foundation scholarships: 26**/09/2025**

- During the application period, the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UR Scholarship application support team will be available to provide any needed information.
  The following are contact details of the heads of application support team:

Mr. Emmanuel KAMANZI
Tel: +250 788736530
UR admission and Registration Specialist
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8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Telephone numbers and email addresses provided by applicants should be active at all times to receive critical information on their application.
- The application for the scholarship is a staggered ongoing process.
- The pre-selected applicants will be invited for an oral interview by independent panels and at each stage, only successful candidates will be notified.
- There would be unannounced on-site validation visits to the home of selected students
- There are **absolutely No Charges/ Fees/ Facilitation/ Agents or Intermediaries Required** at any stage of the application process.
- Applicants who will be discovered to have falsified information or attempt to influence the process at any stage (application or home visit) in order to gain advantage of the scholarship shall be disqualified.
- The decisions of the Selection Committee **are Final** after the SRC has handled and responded to all applicants' appeals if any.
- Successful applicants will be expected to become champions and transformative leaders, entrepreneurs and change makers at various levels and shall remain in close communication with the University of Rwanda for at least 5 years after completing their studies.
- Any misconduct (breaching university rules, regulations and policies including participation in riotous acts, involvement in subversive activities, illicit financial activities, terrorism, denial of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi or propagation of Genocide ideology) on the part of the successful applicants shall lead to automatic disqualification and loss of the scholarship.
- All scholarships will be on a rolling basis, implying that annual renewal of funding is subject to satisfactory academic performance for all scholars.

9. EVALUATIVE INTERVIEWS AND HOME VISIT

- Among the applicants, scholars will be selected by the Recruitment committee (SRC) based on the established selection criteria in section 4 above.

- On ground/home-based interviews will be conducted using a predefined interview guide aligned with the expectations of the program and the vision of the institution. Home visit will also be conducted in collaboration with local leaders.
- Applicants shall receive equal treatment, especially concerning interview questions asked.

10. DECLARATION OF RESULTS

- The approved list of selected candidates for the scholarship will be published on the UR website.
- Scholarship award letters will be issued to successful candidates.
- Award letters will be issued by the UR Vice Chancellor's office

11. CONFIRMATION OF SCHOLARSHIP ACCEPTANCE BY CANDIDATES

- Successful candidates shall receive a scholarship award letter together with a scholarship acceptance form that must be completed and signed by the candidate to confirm acceptance of the scholarship.
- Successful candidates' parents/guardians shall be required to complete and sign a commitment form to confirm acceptance of support to the scholars.
- Duly completed and signed forms shall be returned via the program email within five workdays after reception of the scholarship award letter.
- In case a candidate declines the offer for any reason, the next in line of performance will be awarded the scholarship.
- A scholarship offer cannot at any time be differed.

Done in Kigali, 10/09/2025

UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA - UR

Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Ag. Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda