

# CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

## Central Theme: Localised social care systems in post-genocide/conflict African countries [LOSAG Project]

Early Career Researchers (ECRs) can now apply to join an ecosystem of African Scholars dedicated to developing localised practice models for social services related to social work in Rwanda and Burundi, drawing on lessons from post-genocide/conflict recovery



### Background

Recovering from genocide and protracted conflicts, as seen in Rwanda and Burundi, typically depends on strong social service systems that foster healing, social cohesion, social justice, and human rights. Paradoxically, professions like social work, which are meant to provide these services, have remained underdeveloped. Supported by the British Academy, experienced scholars from the University of Dundee, University of Rwanda, University of Burundi, University College Dublin, University of Suffolk, and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine will create and mentor a network of motivated early-career researchers (ECRs) in Rwanda and Burundi.

This network aims to harness research to develop insights and produce high-quality scientific publications on unique social care models that can thrive in Rwanda and Burundi. Applications are now open for the selection of 15 motivated ECRs for this 21-month mentorship programme (June 2026 – February 2028).

### Selection Criteria

Applicants must:

1. Be a national or resident of Rwanda or Burundi affiliated with a university, research institution, or social service organisation, and be under the age of 50 years as of 2026.
2. Be an early-career researcher in the social services field who has recently completed a Master's degree, is enrolled in a PhD programme, or has finished a PhD programme within the last two years but has fewer than three publications in Scopus-rated journals.
3. Have an ongoing research project or manuscript related to the theme ("localised social care systems in post-genocide/conflict African countries"), preferably with data collection already completed.
4. Show commitment to academic writing, publication, and research impact, and plan to continue in the programme from 2026 to 2028. This includes taking leave for in-person workshops in October 2026 (8 days) and February 2028 (3 days).
5. Show ability to maintain the progress achieved through the mentorship programme at their institutions even after the project ends.

## Training content, benefits, and support

Selected ECRs will benefit from a structured research mentorship and capacity-building programme, covering: (a) skillset in the value chain of research, (b) writing for academic and non-academic publications, (c) using assistive technologies in research, (d) research funding, and (e) translating research into impact on policies and practice. Participating ECRs will be supported with:

1. Modest stipend to facilitate internet connectivity to virtual sessions.
2. Travel grants to cover the full cost of two in-person writing workshop sessions in Kigali, Rwanda, in 2026 and 2028.
3. Opportunities for critical friendship, co-authorship, networking, and long-term collaboration with experienced scholars and peers within the ecosystem.
4. Certificate of participation.

## To apply

Applicants are required to submit the following documents:

1. Personal Statement (maximum 1 page), outlining how you meet the selection criteria.
2. Three-page Curriculum Vitae (CV) highlighting qualifications, publications (if any), research experience, and one referee
3. Evidence of ongoing publication (e.g., draft manuscript or concept note) that aligns with the theme of the call.
4. Letter of support or recommendation from a supervisor or institutional representative (optional but recommended).

Submit your application by email in one PDF to Dr Prince Agwu (University of Dundee) - [pagwu003@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:pagwu003@dundee.ac.uk), Cc: Dr Pierre Celestin Bimenyimana (University of Rwanda) - [pcbimenyimana@ur.ac.rw](mailto:pcbimenyimana@ur.ac.rw) and Prof Nicolas Hajayandi (University of Burundi) - [nicolashajayandi@gmail.com](mailto:nicolashajayandi@gmail.com) or [nicolas.hajayandi@ub.edu.bi](mailto:nicolas.hajayandi@ub.edu.bi)

Your document should be named LOSAG\_Applicant Name\_Nationality. Submitted applications will be assessed based on whether they meet the selection criteria, the candidate's academic merit, and the candidate's demonstrated commitment to the mentorship scheme.

**Female Early Career Researchers are encouraged to apply**

**Applications submitted in French are accepted only for Burundian participants.**

**Application Deadline: June 12, 2026  
Notification of Selected Participants: June 26, 2026**

On behalf of: **Prof Prospera Tedam** (University College Dublin); **Assoc Prof Jolly Rubagiza** (University of Rwanda); **Prof Jo Finch** (University of Suffolk); **Assoc Prof Eleanor Hutchinson** (London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine), and **Dr. Charles Kalinganire** (University of Rwanda)

