



CALL FOR MASTER STUDENTS APPLICATIONS IN SHORT TERM MOBILITY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

I. Background

Events in other parts of the world have clearly played a significant role in directing the development of the research ethics environment, in Africa and the majority of African countries have some kind of system in place for the ethical review of health research. In some countries, the systems are supported by legislation, whereas they are still informal in others. The recent cases of human research abuses in Africa are evidence of the need to strengthen research oversight protections, in order to ensure that vulnerable populations are protected and Research Ethics Committees (RECs) are one important component in the entire system of human research protections. In response to the above call for action, the Project “Enhancing Ethics and Integrity Capacity in Medical Research and Clinical Practice (ETHIMED)” had been created.

ETHIMED is a collaboration between the Centre for Medical Ethics (CME) at the University of Oslo (UiO), Norway, the College of Medicine and Health Sciences at the University of Rwanda (UR), and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (P-RS), at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tanzania. In fact the Rwandan National Health Research Committee (RNEC) lacks contextualized guidelines to guide ethics review processes and even though the Rwanda Food and Drug Authority (RFDA) regulates clinical trials, it still needs adequate capacity. Additionally, there is no undergraduate or postgraduate bioethics program at any higher learning institution in Rwanda. Similarly, Tanzania doesn't have enough clinical ethics committees while healthcare providers face complex ethical issues in care provision with minimal resources to address them. The University of Oslo, Norway, despite the overall advances registered in the area of research ethics, the analysis shown an extant gaps in the mechanisms provided by the legal and regulatory infrastructure. In fact, it is not clear what types of study regional RECs will, or should, consider. Moreover, the medical students at UiO are only taken through a 3-hour course on research ethics that does not adequately prepare them for research activities. In addition, there is no established research ethics training of research ethics committee (REC) members in Norway. Across all institutions, staff are not mandated to undertake research ethics (RE) and research integrity (RI) training. In all the three institutions, there is a need to improve ethics training.

II. Description

University of Rwanda in collaboration with Centre for Medical Ethics (CME) at the University of Oslo (UiO), Norway, and the Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies (P-RS), at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM), Tanzania, are implementing a five year Project ETHIMED.



The main goal of the project is to improve the quality of training, education and research at the partner institutions with a dedicated focus on Research ethics and Research integrity. ETHIMED builds on a range of other capacity development projects funded by the Norwegian Government at the partner institutions, but is more focused on education.

One of the components of ETHIMED project is staff and student exchanges through motilities in both directions i.e. (a) Rwanda to Norway and (b) Norway to Rwanda as well as Tanzania to Norway and Norway to Tanzania. The student mobilities may involve Masters candidate registered and progressing well at the partner institutions, pursuing any research, which strongly rhymes with the healthrelated area.

At this time, we are inviting applicants from University of Rwanda for **postgraduate mobility** to Norwegian University of Oslo for the year 2024. The project will provide funds to successful applicants for a **3-month stay at Oslo, Norway**. It is envisaged that the successful students will leverage the time at Oslo to advance their progress on the Master programme they are enrolled in. Clear outputs, benefits and outcomes from the mobility should be well articulated by the applicants. Potential applicants are encouraged to familiarize with the resources including staff and research focal areas at the collaborating department at Oslo. The main supervision responsibility for the Master project will remain with the supervisors at University of Rwanda, but Oslo scholars will provide some complementary supervision, mentorship or assistance towards a publication. The Master candidate will also get the opportunity to participate in other academic activities at Oslo.

III. Funding

The scholarship will cover:

- One round-trip economic flight ticket, travel insurance and visa costs
- Accomodation
- A monthly subsistence for the mobility period to cater for meals and health insurance etc.
- Direct participation costs where applicable.

IV. Application requirements

- The applicant should be a **registered student** in Master programme at University of Rwanda.
- The applicant should have collected some data for his/her project and is at the stage of writing his/her dissertation or a manuscript. The planned time in Norway should be geared at developing a concrete output ;



- The focus of the research of the applicant should align strongly to Rwanda vision 2050 targeting : High quality & Access to affordable health care.

V. Application file

Interested and eligible Master students should send the following:

- Application letter addressed to the Director of the Centre for Postgraduate Studies at UR, with a copy to the UR ETHIMED Project –Leader
- A one-page application letter
- A motivation statement and showing a clear work plan on the activities that will be undertaken at Oslo and the expected (2 pages maximum)
- Concept note detailing the research and progress registered (5 pages maximum)
- Evidence of admission and Progress on the Master program at University of Rwanda
- A brief CV (2 pages)
- Copy of the undergraduate transcript
- Copy of National Identity Card or passport

VI. Specific eligibility criteria

- Both female and Male candidates are encouraged to apply

VII. Selection methodology

- Shortlisted applicants will be invited to complete educational procedures at Oslo under the exchange arrangement. A scholarship award will be issued once formalities have been successfully completed at Oslo.
- Successful applicants are expected to begin their tenure at Oslo in January 2024, spending a maximum of 3 months.

VIII. How to apply and key dates

Applicants are requested to send the documents as listed above by email to the scholarship officer; ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw at the University of Rwanda, Centre for Postgraduate Studies, Tel: 07929 88304; with a copy to UR ETHIMED PROJECT-LEADER (m.f.mukanyangezi@ur.ac.rw), Tel : 0788672656



- The application deadline is November 24th 2023.

IX. Who to contact for any further information

For any other detailed information regarding this call, kindly contact :

1. Mr. Kalisa Francois, UR-ETHIMED Project Partners Coordinator at kalisafrancois15@gmail.com, Tel: +250787536042
2. UR ETHIMED PROJECT-LEADER at m.f.mukanyangezi@ur.ac.rw, Tel : 0788672656
3. The University of Rwanda, Centre for Postgraduate Studies scholarship officer at ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw at , Tel: 07929 88304

Done at Kigali, 08/11/2023



Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor