



RE-ADVERTISEMENT

Call for application for one PhD scholarship at the University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture Forestry and Food Science, School of Forestry Ecotourism and Landscape Management

September 2026 Intake

I. Background and description

The University of Rwanda, in collaboration with the University of Gothenburg, Norwegian University of Life Science and University of Copenhagen have obtained a research funding to conduct a research project entitled *Optimization of tree species selection for improved biodiversity and ecosystem services* (OpTIBES). The overall aim of the project is to provide climate-adapted, purpose-driven recommendations for selecting native tree species for forest restoration and agroforestry in the Albertine Rift region. Within this project, Work Package 1 focus on understanding local livelihoods and cultural preferences related to the use of native multi-purpose tree (NMT) in Rwanda, Burundi and eastern DRC. This work intends to guide informed recommendations for tree species selection. We will explore the role of NMT species in enhancing community resilience by addressing environmental, economic, and cultural priorities (e.g., fruits, fuelwood, fodder, shelter, medicine). We will also use market surveys to understand commercialization potential of NMT. Traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) from village elders will also be gathered to highlight perceived historical and current landscape changes, informing tree species selection to support ecological and socio-economic goals. Barriers to transformative change in farming practices will also be investigated.

II. Funding

The proposed fully funded PhD scholarship will be offered to a successful candidate who will be registered for studying any relevant PhD program at the University of Rwanda. The candidate should have a background in the following fields: Forestry, Agroforestry, and Conservation biology (related to plant science). The funding comprises tuition and registration fees, living allowances (stipend), and field research expenses/allowances and any relevant consumables for a period of 48 months.

III. Application requirements

1. The applicant must hold bachelor's and master's degrees in any of the following areas: Forestry, Agroforestry, and Conservation biology (related to plant science).
2. In addition, the following experiences and skills are desirable and will be used as selection criteria: publications, good communication skills, field data collection, statistical analysis, strong written and spoken English skills.

IV. Eligibility criteria

1. Be a Rwandan citizen
2. Be from Institutions in partnership with UR



3. Be a research affiliate with UR research centers; and
4. Be below 40 years old for men and 45 years for female

V. Application documents

1. Application letter addressing commitment, statement of goals, and reasons for undertaking PhD studies. The letter is addressed to Director for Centre for Postgraduate Studies, University of Rwanda.
2. Copy of Bachelor's degree and transcript.
3. Copy of Master's degree and transcript.
4. Copy of National Identity card.
5. Curriculum Vitae highlighting experiences, achievements, and publications.

VI. Selection methodology

1. Applicants will be shortlisted in compliance with application documents and specific eligibility criteria;
2. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for interview;
3. Candidate with highest mark from interview will be awarded the scholarship.

VII. How to apply and key dates

1. Applicants are requested to send the documents as listed above (**as one merged document**) 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 Principal Investigator (d.nsabimana@ur.ac.rw), Tel: 0788 741 619;
2. Shortlisted candidates will be published on UR website
3. Date of interview will be communicated by email.

Application deadline: 17/07/2026

VIII. Contact for Any further information

For any other detailed information regarding this call, kindly contact Prof. Nsabimana Donat, Principal Investigator, Tel: +250788 741 619, email: d.nsabimana@ur.ac.rw;

Done at Kigali, 02/07/2026

Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor