

RUFORUM Global Research Alliance Graduate Research Grants

Call for proposals for Doctoral Research Grants

Call ID: RU/GRA-GRG /PhD/2023

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM; www.ruforum.org), International Livestock Research Institute in Nairobi (ILRI) and the Global Research Alliance on Agricultural Greenhouse Gases (GRA; <https://globalresearchalliance.org/>) invite applications from RUFORUM Member Universities for the second Global Research Alliance Graduate Research Grants (GRA-GRG) call. This call aims to train PhD students in Africa to conduct advanced applied research on livestock greenhouse gases.

Africa's livestock is one-third of the global livestock population and provides about 40% of the agricultural GDP in Africa. Livestock will be increasingly important in the future in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) because the demand for animal-source food is projected to increase due to population growth, increased incomes, and urbanization. Policies to reduce GHG emissions from livestock production in Africa are aspirational goals stated in Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) that nearly every African country committed to after the 2015 Paris Agreement. Within the agricultural sector, livestock is the largest emitter of GHG, hence a key sub-sector for achieving reductions in GHG emissions intensity.

Funding for the GRA-GRG is provided by the Government of New Zealand through the Ministry for Primary Industries, in support of the GRA.

This Request for Proposal (RFP) seeks to extend university activities to work more closely with rural communities, especially agro-pastoral and pastoral, through multi-disciplinary and multi-institutional partnerships involving key stakeholders such as research, extension and development agencies, policymakers, and the private sector.

This Call will support two PhD research grants for a period not exceeding four years.

The two PhD projects will be funded under this call. The PhD projects are part of a joint research initiative among GRA, RUFORUM and ILRI's Mazingira Center. The PhD program design will follow a three-pronged approach to not only enhance capacities in agricultural GHG research but also foster collaboration between the Global South and North. The successful candidates will enrol in RUFORUM member Universities but will be based mainly at ILRI's Mazingira Centre. The candidates will acquire joint supervisory help from experts from relevant RUFORUM member Universities and Global North partner universities and advisers from ILRI. The research themes for the PhD projects are:

1st PhD project: Collation of in-vivo data and animal measurements to improve Tier 2 methodology

The aim of the project is to improve Tier 2 inventory estimates using in-vivo measurement results. The successful student will collate and analyze Mazingira data and publish existing data to improve current equations used for national GHG inventory accounting. Further, it aims to measure animal production including *apparent* digestibility and enteric methane emissions from locally representative cattle breeds and diets using chamber and SF6 measurements. The successful candidate will learn how to conduct a scientific literature review as well as how to use state-of-the-art animal laboratory and field-based scientific methodologies to measure *in vivo* enteric methane emissions.

2nd PhD project: On-farm data collection and measurements to test inventory methodologies and improve tools for activity data collection for enteric methane and manure GHG emissions, including sensitive analysis

The aim of the project is to improve Tier 2 methodologies using on-farm data and measurements and the development of an effective tool for data collection. The successful candidate will conduct on-farm data surveys testing different protocols and tools using sensitivity analysis as well as using the findings to optimize tools for future activity data collection. This research will be highly collaborative between NZAGRC, ILRI's Mazingira Centre (<https://www.ilri.org/research/facilities/ilri-mazingira-centre>) and local partners. By the end of the PhD, the successful candidate will learn how to design, conduct and analyse on-farm surveys, how to conduct a sensitivity analysis and develop tools for data collection.

Eligibility and Compliance

1. The PhD scholarship applicants, should be from a RUFORUM member university, have a primary degree (First or upper Second Class Honours), and M.Sc. in an appropriate discipline (e.g. animal science, biological science, biotechnology, etc.).
2. PhD scholarship applicants should seek a suitable PhD supervisor at RUFORUM member universities. Applicants who make it to the interview stage will need to provide evidence indicating that they have secured a supervisor (or are in active discussion with a potential supervisor).
3. Applicant must provide proof of admission or application to the RUFORUM Member University where they secured a supervisor.
4. Applicants must submit a one-page letter briefly outlining the reasons for applying for this PhD and capability statement in term of research experience.
5. Applicants must provide two-page CV detailing education and research experience and including the names of two referees.
6. Researchers from agro-pastoral and pastoral regions of the continent are encouraged to apply
7. The successful candidate should be highly self-motivated and be prepared for laboratory and field work for sample collection, laboratory analysis related to their research, and working in a multi-cultural and interdisciplinary team.

8. The proposal should be no more than 10 pages (A4, 12-point Times New Roman, single spaced with 1-inch (2.54cm) margins on either side) and follow the proposal writing guidelines contained within the CGS Manual.

Submission of applications

- a) Applications should be done via the RUFORUM Information Management System (RIMS) <http://rims2.ruforum.org/>
- b) Prior to submission, prepare the following items:
 - (i) **Register in RIMS as outlined in the below section. Only the Lead Researcher is required to register**
 - (a) Proposal document in a pdf file
 - (b) CV of the applicant in a single pdf file
 - (c) Capability statement of the Team in terms of research experiences
 - (d) Cover letter supporting the application from the University supervisor and the authorised administrative office
 - (ii) Budget and budget justification in Microsoft excel template should be provided. Eligible expenses include, monthly stipend, tuition, research stuff (materials, equipment, software; and participation to conferences, project-related travel) and field expenses.

Time Frame

The foreseen time frame for the award process is as follows:

- i. The deadline for receiving applications at RUFORUM Secretariat is 30th March 2023.
- ii. Administrative check / Compliance Review and feedback to applicants by 5th April 2023.
- iii. Review of Proposals completed by 25th May 2023.
- iv. Communication to Successful applicants by 30th May 2023.
- v. RUFORUM Secretariat sends out Grant Award letters by 10th July 2023
- vi. Grant advances disbursed by 30th July 2023
- vii. Official commencement of project implementation 1st August, 2023

1. Please complete the application online.

1. Open this website link: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/>
2. If you do not have an account you will be asked to register here: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/contacts/register/>
3. After registering successfully, you will be taken to your dashboard. What you see on your dashboard depends on the permissions that you have been assigned by the RIMS Administrator.
4. For most members of the RUFORUM network we have captured your emails in RIMS. So, the system might tell you that your account already exists. If this is the case, then follow the steps related to resetting your password or forgotten password

What to do if you have forgotten your password or need to reset your password

1. Open this website link: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/>
2. Instead of logging on, Click "Forgot Password"
3. You will be asked to enter your email address and then click reset password
4. The link to enable you to reset your password will be sent to your email address.

Please also check for this link in your spam folder in case it is delivered to your spam.
Follow the instructions to reset your password

5. Use your email and the new password to log into RIMS
6. After successfully logging on you will be taken to your dashboard. What you see on your dashboard depends on the permissions that you have been assigned by the RIMS Administrator

How to log on if you have an existing account

1. Open this website link: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/>
2. Click to log into RIMS by entering your email as the username and your password

After successfully logging on you will be taken to your dashboard. What you see on your dashboard depends on the permissions that you have been assigned by the RIMS Administrator.

How to submit a fellowship grant application via RIMS

1. After successfully logging on click '**Apply for a Grant**'
2. Choose correct call ID which is: **Call ID: RU/GRA-GRG /PhD/2023**
3. Complete the online application form.

For information

For any quick inquiries, please write to s.nghituwamhata@ruforum.org with a copy to cgs@ruforum.org.

For further details, please visit the project website at:

RUFORUM: <https://www.ruforum.org>

Informal contact to make enquiries about the PhD is welcome to Dr. Claudia Arndt (claudia.arndt@cgiar.org), Prof. Majaliwa Mwanjalolo (m.majaliwa@ruforum.org) or Prof. Roger Hegarty (roger.hegarty@nzagrc.org.nz).

Potential applicants are invited to use this [CV template](#) and [Budget template](#) for the Call.

For further information on the application process please refer to the [Competitive Grants System Manual](#)¹ and to the Graduate Environmental and Agricultural Research guide ([GEAR](#)).

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR APPLICATION!

The grant will be awarded to applicants from RUFORUM member universities with no outstanding membership fees and overdue accountabilities at the time of selection