



Announcement

PhD Training Opportunities under the RUFORUM Graduate Teaching Assistantship Program

Over the years, universities in Africa have sought opportunities to send their staff for post-graduate training abroad in a bid to strengthen research and training, at very high costs. The loss of faculty for 4 to 5 years has negatively affected universities. In order to meet the growing demand for Doctoral level scientists in Africa, the Graduate Teaching Assistantship (GTA) programme was initiated by RUFORUM Vice Chancellors¹ to improve the quality of higher education at African Universities by increasing the proportion of academic staff with PhD qualifications, contributing to locally relevant research and reducing the time away from the home institution. The initiative was officially launched by the African Union Commissioner for Human Resource, Science and Technology, H.E. Dr Martial De Paul Ikounga on 25th July 2014 at Maputo, Mozambique during the RUFORUM Fourth Biennial Conference. The specific objectives of the GTA are to:

1. Improve the quality of higher education and increase the pool of PhD-level trained academic staff in African universities;
2. Provide opportunities for the doctoral research to contribute more directly to African development
3. Strengthen inter- university collaboration in the field of higher education in Africa; and
4. Promote staff mobility among RUFORUM member universities, and across Africa.

The RUFORUM Secretariat announces the availability of 63 PhD training opportunities under the GTA for the academic year beginning September, 2014. Potential applicants who are teaching staff at RUFORUM Member Universities are invited to submit applications to the RUFORUM Secretariat through a two-step process. Specific criteria for each step are indicated below.

- Step 1: Based on the list of available GTA's (See Table 1), identify and apply directly to University for the relevant program of choice to obtain admission into the program.
- Step 2: Apply to the RUFORUM Secretariat for the GTA.

¹ The GTA was initiated by 42 African Vice Chancellors whose universities are members of RUFORUM.

Selection Criteria:

The successful applicants will meet the following criteria:

1. Must be a staff member from a RUFORUM Member University who has been nominated for PhD training by his/her university;
2. Should have support letter from the sending University confirming nomination and support for travel, stipend, medical insurance and research funds;
3. Applicant should have a Master degree relevant to the proposed field of PhD study;
4. Applicant should identify, apply and be admitted to the graduate program by the host University;
5. Applicant should complete the RUFORUM GTA application form which should be submitted at the same time that the application form is submitted for PhD admission.

Expectations and Responsibilities:

- (1) Each successful G.T.A. will contribute to the host university by participating in teaching during his/her training in the Department hosting the PhD Training programme
- (2) No G.T.A. may be employed by another organization, other than the sending and host university during their time of study.
- (3) A 100% tuition fee waiver and accommodation provided by the host university
- (4) The sending university will normally be expected to assist the host university to arrange for supervision of field work and thesis where the research is to be undertaken in the home/sending country

Table 1: GTA positions for Academic Year 2014/2015

	Host University	Programme	Number of Available GTA positions	Possible contact emails
1	Makerere University - Uganda	1. PhD Plant Breeding and Biotechnology 2. PhD Agricultural Rural Innovations	5	prubaihayo@gmail.com and pkibwika@caes.mak.ac.ug
2	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	1. PhD Agricultural and Resource Economics 2. PhD Aquaculture and Fisheries Sciences	5	Prof Jeremiah Kang'ombe- Email: jeremiahkangombe@yahoo.co.uk
4	University of Zambia	1. PhD in Agricultural Sciences (various disciplines)	5	Prof Mick Mwala – Email: mmwala@unza.zm ; mmwala@yahoo.com
5	University of Botswana	1. PhD Agricultural Engineering 2. PhD Energy and Processing Engineering	5	Prof. Edward Dintwa Edward.Dintwa@mopipi.ub.bw
6	Moi University	1. PhD Textile Engineering 2. PhD Renewable Energy 3. PhD Public Health	5	Prof Kiprop Ambrose Email: ambkiprop@gmail.com
7	Kenyatta University	1. PhD Agribusiness	5	Prof Waceke Wanjohi

		2. PhD Integrated Soil Fertility Management		Email: wanjohi.waceke@ku.ac.ke
8	Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology	1. PhD Food Sciences and Nutrition	5	Prof David Mburu: Email: dean@agr.jkuat.ac.ke
9	University of Nairobi	1. PhD Dry land Resource Management 2. PhD Veterinary Science	5	Dean: Prof. J. W. Kimenju Email: wkimenju@yahoo.com; or john.kimenju@uonbi.ac.ke
10	University of Swaziland	1. PhD Agricultural Sciences and Other PhD Programmes	5	Prof Pinkie E. Zwane pezwane@uniswa.sz
12	University of Zimbabwe	1. PhD Plant Breeding 2. PhD Soil Science	5	Dr Charles Mutisi – Email: mutisi@mweb.co.zw or mutisi@agric.uz.ac.zw
13	Stellenbosch University	1. PhD Agricultural Sciences 2. PhD Renewable Energy	5	Dr Pauw, Christoff – Email: pauw@sun.ac.za or cpauw@sun.ac.za Prof Danie Brink Email: db@sun.ac.za
14	University of Eldoret	1. PhD Seed Science 2. PhD Soil Science 3. PhD Forestry and Wood Science	3	Dr Elizabeth Omami – Email: elizabethomami@yahoo.com or deansad@uoeld.ac.ke
15	Botswana College of Agriculture	1. PhD Agricultural sciences (various disciplines)	5	Dr John Kamau – Email: mashrimo@gmail.com; J_kamau@bca.bw

Upon nomination by the sending/ home university, the RUFORUM Secretariat will;

1. Facilitate the placement of nominated candidates to appropriate universities,
2. Facilitate contract signing i) between successful applicant and the host university, and ii) between the sending university and host university
3. Follow up on training at host/sending university, and report to home/sending university,
4. Link the GTA beneficiaries to other RUFORUM graduate students and opportunities

Submission Guidelines:

1. Applicants are encouraged to submit applications directly to the host university but with copies to RUFORUM Secretariat, Training and Quality Assurance Unit, P.O Box 16811, Kampala, Uganda, email: secretariat@ruforum.org
2. Nominating Universities should send official letters of nomination and commitment addressed to the hosting University with a copy to RUFORUM Secretariat

Date of release of the GTA announcement: 11th August 2014