



## MUST-IUC Partnership

### Call for PhD Scholarship Applications 2023/2024

#### Project Background

The MUST-IUC Partnership titled *“University as a Facilitator for Community-Based Sustainable Solutions to Demographic Challenges in South-Western Uganda”* hereafter referred to as UCoBS is a 10-year (2022-2032) collaborative partnership project between Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium) and other Flemish Higher Education Institutions funded by the Flemish Interuniversity Council (VLIR UOS) with a strong niche of improving the household livelihoods of the Most at Risk Populations (MARPs) in South Western Uganda. Two sub-projects under the MUST-IUC UCoBS partnership seek to support 02 PhD candidates in various disciplines of youth employability and renewable energy. Preference will be given to candidates that are already members of staff (or collaborators) of Mbarara University of Science and Technology. **Female** candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

#### The PhD scholarship Scope

The selected PhD candidate will benefit from 12-24 months of funding for research stays in a Flemish University and funding will be available in the stipulated training period for not more than 4 years. The full PhD funding is conditional on the successful defense of a PhD proposal and obtaining sufficient course credits at MUST and during the first months of stay in Belgium. Outside the research stays in Belgium, the candidate will have to secure her/his own funding in consultation with Mbarara University of Science and Technology. The MUST-IUC sub-projects will support the research activities and fieldwork. The selected candidate will be part of an interdisciplinary and international research project and will contribute to addressing development-relevant issues in collaboration with Ugandan stakeholders. The scholarship funding will be compliant with the official scholarship schemes of VLIR UOS and the existing policy guidelines of MUST and implementing institutions. The PhD candidate will be supervised and or promoted by a team of Flemish and Ugandan professors and defend his/her thesis at Mbarara University of Science and Technology or a Flemish institution where the PhD is registered. The PhD candidate will interact with other PhD students from Uganda and Belgium. The candidate may have his/her PhD registered at two University for a Dual or Joint PhD if interested.



## Sub-Project Three: Increased Access and Utilization of affordable Energy Technologies

This PhD position is framed in the context of the “Increased Access and Utilization of affordable Energy Technologies” sub-project. The project-specific objectives are to; (i) develop and adapt affordable and environmentally friendly energy technologies for gender-responsive outcomes; and (ii) transfer and up-scale new low-cost input and affordable energy technology. This sub-project is part of six sub-projects under the MUST-IUC UCoBS partnership.

### PhD Focus and activities

This PhD position is framed in the context of the “Increased Access and Utilization of affordable Energy Technologies” sub-project. The PhD project will be conducted under the guidance and supervision of professors from MUST and Flemish Partner Institutions. The sub-project focuses on, among others, the development of **solar cooking technologies**. The applicant should therefore develop a proposal in line with the project’s focus area.

### The scholarship Scope

The selected PhD candidate will benefit from 3 months per year of funding for research stays at a Flemish University and funding will be available in the stipulated training period for not more than 4 years. The full PhD funding is conditional on the successful defense of a PhD proposal and obtaining sufficient course credits at MUST and during the first months of stay in Belgium. Outside the research stays in Belgium, the candidate will have to secure her/his own funding in consultation with Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

The MUST-IUC **sub-project 3** will support research activities and fieldwork within Uganda. The selected candidate will be part of an interdisciplinary and international research project and will contribute to addressing development-relevant issues in collaboration with Ugandan stakeholders. The scholarship funding will be compliant with the official scholarship schemes of VLIR UOS and the existing policy guidelines of MUST and implementing institutions. The PhD candidate will be supervised and or promoted by a team of Flemish and Ugandan professors and defend his/her thesis at



**UCoBS**

Mbarara



University of Science and Technology or a Flemish institution where the PhD is registered. The PhD candidate will interact with other PhD students from Uganda and Belgium.



## The PhD applicant's Profile

- a) The applicant should be aged between 20-45 years
- b) Should hold at least an honors degree in **Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Physics**, or any related scientific discipline.
- c) Have a master's degree in Renewable energy, Electrical engineering, mechanical engineering, environmental engineering, Physics or any other related scientific discipline.
- d) Have experience in the field of renewable energy research and/or applications.
- e) We require highly motivated candidates to undertake academic research in an international context and commit to quality research outputs;
- f) Should be hard-working and able to manage a project independently, taking initiative and meeting deadlines and finish the PhD training within the stipulated time;
- g) Should be able to develop a detailed concept note (pre-proposal) and demonstrate his/her ability to finish it and produce a fully researchable and competitive proposal;
- h) Should demonstrate creativity, uncovering hidden issues that will benefit the project, science, and local livelihood in general;
- i) The candidate is expected to be frank and willing to respect agreements; believe in project confidentiality and proper data handling and processing;
- j) Should demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the administrative management of the project;
- k) Should demonstrate academic leadership and willingness to supervise Masters students;
- l) Should demonstrate good interpersonal skills to interact with other project partners and stakeholders;
- m) Should be willing to develop the research at Mbarara University of Science and Technology and continue to contribute to the teaching and research mission of MUST beyond the project's lifetime
- n) Preference will be given to candidates that are already members of staff (or collaborators) of Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Still, Ugandan candidates outside these institutions are welcome to apply.
- o) Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

## Application Procedure

The application should include:

1. A concept (no more than 5 pages) is mandatory. The Concept note must include a title for the proposed study, brief background highlighting key literature, research problem, main research question(s)/objectives, methodology, and a list of key references.
2. A CV (2 pages)



3. Certified copies of academic degrees' documents and transcript of records.
4. A statement of motivation – why you think you are the best candidate for the PhD position (1 page).
5. A letter of recommendation from the current employer/immediate supervisor (1 page) – if applicable.
6. A letter from an academic referee supporting your application (1 page).
7. A digital copy of your master thesis;

### Scholarships under Sub-Project Five (Second Call 2023/2024)

**Project Title: Increased youth employability through Skilling, innovations, experiential learning and technology transfer**

#### **Ph.D. Focus and Activities**

This PhD position is framed in the context of sub-project 5 titled '**Increased youth employability through skilling, innovations, experiential learning and technology transfer**'. This sub-project is part of six sub-projects under the MUST-IUC UCoBS partnership. The PhD project will be conducted under the guidance and supervision of professors from MUST and Flemish Partner Institutions. The sub-project focuses on developing competitive knowledge in order to strengthen individuals and society's proactive and innovative capacities in dealing with change through *Entrepreneurship and Innovativeness*. The sub-project will use/offer training, mentoring, coaching, and industrial placements to equip MUST and community youth with entrepreneurship skills for mindset change and Industry will take part in events like entrepreneurship week, exchange visits, innovation cafes, and entreFESTS. Specifically, this PhD project aims to prepare students for original research that takes a multidisciplinary approach to innovation, policy, and entrepreneurship, as well as to foster independent and innovative thinking in policy, innovation, and entrepreneurship; under two themes:

1. Managing and commercializing science of innovations;
2. Building and operating entrepreneurial ecosystems/networks;

#### **The PhD applicant's Profile**

- a) The applicant should be aged between 20-40 years



- b) Should hold at least an honors and a Master's degree in Business, Economics, or any related scientific discipline.
- c) Have experience in handling youth entrepreneurial-related tasks at a reputable institution
- d) We require highly **motivated** candidates to undertake academic research in an international context and commit to quality research outputs;
- e) Should be **hard-working** and able to manage a project independently, taking initiative and meeting deadlines and finish the PhD training within the stipulated time;
- f) Should be able to develop a detailed **concept note** (pre-proposal) and demonstrate his/her ability to finish it and produce a fully researchable and competitive proposal;
- g) Should demonstrate creativity, uncovering hidden issues that will benefit the project, science, and local livelihood in general;
- h) The candidate is expected to be frank and willing to respect agreements; believe in project confidentiality and proper data handling and processing;
- i) Should demonstrate a willingness to positively contribute to the administrative management of the project;
- j) Should demonstrate academic **leadership** and willingness to **supervise Masters students**;
- k) Should demonstrate good interpersonal skills to interact with other project partners and stakeholders;
- l) Should be willing to develop the research at Mbarara University of Science and Technology and continue to contribute to the teaching and research mission of MUST beyond the project's lifetime

Preference will be given to candidates that are already members of staff (or collaborators) of Mbarara University of Science and Technology. Still, Ugandan candidates outside these institutions are welcome to apply.

**Female** candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

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The application should include:

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2. A CV (2 pages)
3. Certified copies of academic degrees' documents and transcript of records.



4. A statement of motivation – why you think you are the best candidate for the PhD position (1 page).
5. A letter of recommendation from the current employer/immediate supervisor (1 page) – if applicable.
6. A letter from an academic referee supporting your application - optional (1 page).
7. A digital copy of your master thesis;

### General Submission Procedure

#### Sub Project Three

Applications plus all supporting documents should be emailed as pdf to: [elizaakwi@gmail.com](mailto:elizaakwi@gmail.com), copied to [jobungoloch@must.ac.ug](mailto:jobungoloch@must.ac.ug) and [aamwikirize@must.ac.ug](mailto:aamwikirize@must.ac.ug). For any inquiries, please reach out to Dr. Johnes Obungoloch on [jobungoloch@must.ac.ug](mailto:jobungoloch@must.ac.ug)

#### Interviews

The selection process will involve two stages which will take place between July 24<sup>th</sup> and August 4<sup>th</sup> 2023. Pre-selected candidates will be contacted for an interview. The successful candidate should be ready to start the PhD studies by September 2023.

#### Sub Project Five

The applications should be addressed (and submitted) to the Sub-project-5 leader, Dr. Manasseh Tumuhimbise ([tumuhimbise.manasseh@must.ac.ug](mailto:tumuhimbise.manasseh@must.ac.ug) copy Annah Amwikirize ([aamwikirize@must.ac.ug](mailto:aamwikirize@must.ac.ug)) Deliver hard copy applications to MUST-IUC UCoBS Programme Support Unit offices at MUST Town Campus. For more information, contact [aamwikirize@must.ac.ug](mailto:aamwikirize@must.ac.ug) +256-775888001/701235515

#### Interviews

The selection process will involve two stages – pre-selection will take place on July 25<sup>th</sup>. 2023. Pre-selected candidates will be contacted for an interview on August 1<sup>st</sup>. 2023. The successful candidate should be ready to start his/her PhD studies by October 2023. **The deadline for submission of all applications is Friday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023 at 11:59 Pm.**