



Re-advertisement

Call for applications for PhD Student positions under the collaboration between Duke University, the USA, and the University of Rwanda

I. Background

The University of Rwanda (UR) and Duke University are offering four PhD positions funded by the National Institute of Health, USA, to conduct research in the domain of *Neuropsychology and Neuroscience* in Rwanda.

II. Role and description

The National Institute of Health, through the Fogarty International Center and National Institute of Mental Health Center, has awarded Duke University a D43 Training grant to prepare PhD students in the area of *Neuropsychology and Neuroscience* in Rwanda. Four PhD trainees will constitute the first of two cohorts. The PhD will be awarded from the University of Rwanda in Psychology, with a concentration in Neuropsychology.

The D43 training program aims to train students to be neuroscientists with advanced expertise in the measurement of neurocognition and neurobehavior across the lifespan, to conduct research on disorders impacting brain health, and development, and to adapt and validate linguistically and culturally relevant neuropsychological tools for brain health research.

In order to build long-term research infrastructure, students and supervisors will be recruited with specific interests and expertise in topics that address critical brain health needs in Rwanda. These research areas will be broad in order to allow students to have a choice of topics for their research concentration. Areas of research concentration will include pediatric neurodevelopmental disorders, neurodegenerative disorders (e.g., Alzheimer's disease, multiple sclerosis), acquired brain injury (i.e., traumatic brain injury and stroke), infectious disease (e.g. cerebral malaria), seizure disorders, development of psychometric instrumentation for adults and children, and environmental determinants



of health (e.g. nutrition, exposure to the elements, toxic exposure). Projects will be student-led with supervisor approvals.

The project will primarily be realized at the University of Rwanda but will involve some travel to the USA for international exposure, specifically to attend neuropsychology conferences for learning and networking, and to participate in collaborative meetings focusing on neurocognitive instrument developmental frameworks.

The successful applicant will be responsible for their defined program of research, inclusive of data collection and analysis, and publication and dissemination of the results. Each trainee will receive:

- 1) Formal instruction in neuropsychology. Students will take courses in Adult and Child Neuropsychological Assessment, Behavioural Research Methods, Functional Neuroanatomy, and Applied Statistics)
- 2) Dual Research Mentors. Each student will have two mentors who are expert neuropsychologists, one from the USA and one from Africa. Together, these mentors will guide and supervise the development and execution of research.

III. Call for applications

The University of Rwanda calls for applicants for four PhD positions, each being 3 years in duration. The students will enroll for a PhD in Psychology at the University of Rwanda, and teaching and research will be in *Neuropsychology and Neuroscience*.

IV. Funding

The PhD candidate will be offered a monthly salary, and travel to the USA for conferences. Also, the registration and tuition fees at the University of Rwanda are covered (refer to the UR fees' structure). Each student will be allocated funding support for research activities. The candidate will have regular opportunities to collaborate with other D43 trainees, mentors, and directors.



V. Application requirements

The research project is looking for highly motivated candidates with a strong interest in neuropsychology and neurosciences, and a commitment to developing as a career neuroscientist.

The minimum requirements include:

Mandatory:

- Be a Rwandan citizen
- A master's degree in clinical psychology or related fields
- Perfectly speaking Kinyarwanda, having a good level of English
- Good English writing and communication skills.

Preferred:

- Being a UR permanent staff is an advantage
- Prior research experience (e.g., involvement in data collection).
- Evidence of excellent research, communication, and cooperative skills
- Good data analysis skills (R, SPSS, MATLAB, Python).
- Female candidates are encouraged

VI. Application file

Interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- A cover letter addressed to the Director of the UR CPGS indicating the candidate's interest and motivation, with specific attention to interests aligned with the areas of research specialization outlined in section II above.
- A current CV which includes a description of current research interests, past research experience, and publications
- Copy of National Identity and/or passport
- A certified copy of transcripts of BSc and MSc courses and grades
- Copies of educational certificates, if applicable
- Letters of recommendation from 3 academic referees
- Contact information of the same referees.



VII. Selection Methodology

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview on dates that will be communicated through emails.

VIII. How to apply

To apply, submit **a single pdf** (see list of documents above in section VI) to the UR-CPGS officer at ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw, Tel: 07929 88304 with a copy sent to the Principal Investigator, Deborah Koltai, PhD (koltai@duke.edu) and Prof Sezibera Vincent (v.sezibera@ur.ac.rw).

For further information on the project or details about the position, please also contact Prof.Koltai (koltai@duke.edu) or Prof Sezibera Vincent (v.sezibera@ur.ac.rw), Tel: 0788771289

Notes:

Closing date for receipt of applications: August 16, 2024

A candidate should submit only a single application.

Done at Kigali... 23... July, 2024


Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Ag. Vice Chancellor

