



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR POSTDOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS

I. Background

The School of Education at the College of Education, University of Rwanda (UR-CE), with financial support from the “Transformative Higher Education and Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Growth (TELLS)” initiative, has secured funds for capacity development in higher education and research. In this regard, Postdoctoral Fellows/Postdoctoral Researchers are being recruited.

II. Project Description

The Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) has supported North-South-South university partnerships through the “Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED),” launched in 2012.

In line with this, a 5-year project (2019-2024) titled "Enhancing Quality and Internationalization of Study Programs Through Mobile Transformative Pedagogy (EQIP)" was established between the University of Agder (Norway), Makerere University (Uganda), and the University of Rwanda under the NORHED I program (2013-2019).

In 2021, under the NORHED II program (2021-2026), a new Grant Agreement for a 5-year project (2021-2026) called "Transformative Higher Education and Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Growth (TELLS)" on capacity development in higher education and research was signed between NORAD and the University of Agder (UiA).

TELLS aims at developing sufficient stock of gender balanced imaginal, transformative leaders and workforce for sustainable development of Sub-Saharan Nations. In so doing TELLs has the following four (4) objectives:

- Employability - fast-track access to future work markets
- Promotion and recognition of excellence in teaching
- Promotion of new and transformative teaching and learning methods/models
- Development of policies & new strategies / guidelines for innovative teaching and learning

III. Role of Postdoctoral Fellows/Postdoctoral Researchers

The primary goal of postdoctoral fellowship is to develop research skills and expertise, contribute to original research, and prepare for a successful career in research or academia. Under the mentorship and supervision of an experienced team of researchers/academics, Postdoctoral Fellows/Researchers will be expected to:

- Conduct independent research
- Contribute to ongoing projects
- Publish research findings





- Work effectively with the advisory team
- Collaborate with other researchers
- Prepare for their future career (e.g., by participating in postgraduate teaching, assessment, and academic program review)

▪ **Number of Positions and Research Areas**

Five (5) postdoctoral positions are available. The post-doctoral fellowships will primarily produce research results on the new challenges in the area of future educational technology but also contribute to research based education for both the PhD and masters programmes in TELLS. The post-doctoral fellows shall undertake research in only one of the 13 research questions from any one of the research themes below:

Theme 1: New Learning Experiences

1. What innovative learning experiences can we create using the latest digital solutions?
2. How can we effectively apply new findings from pedagogical research?
3. How can we ensure the sustainable deployment and future development of new learning experiences?

Theme 2: Deployment

4. How can we continuously update our existing study programs based on research and development?
5. What activities can help focus on digital inclusion and promote gender balance?
6. What changes are required to implement a shared infrastructure that supports future classroom technologies and open distance education?

Theme 3: Co-Creation

7. How can we collaboratively develop and deliver modules and courses for both local and remote students?
8. Is it feasible to facilitate virtual student exchanges with partner universities?
9. How can we enable virtual staff exchanges that allow students from multiple institutions to join shared classes and staff members to collaborate in a distributed team hosted at a partner university?
10. Does virtual staff exchange promote knowledge sharing and inspire colleagues to continuously evolve their teaching methods?

Theme 4: Digitization

11. What strategies can help students overcome IT illiteracy and lack of Internet access, ensuring they have access to digital learning resources?



12. Which emerging classroom technologies can be transformed into new learning experiences and teaching methods?
13. What new processes and policies are necessary to ensure that capacity growth in the education sector leads to increased efficiency and cost reduction for educational institutions?

V. Funding and Logistics

All academic costs related to this postdoctoral offer will be covered by the TELLS project, including tuition fees, research costs, publication fees, and conference expenses. Additionally, necessary equipment and materials for research will be assessed and procured as needed for both the supervisory team and the Postdoctoral Fellow.

VI. Application Requirements

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Hold a PhD in Education, Instructional Design and Technology, or Computer Science, with proven research publications/outputs in ICT in education/Instructional Technology
- Be an academic staff member of the University of Rwanda
- Must have completed their PhD degree within the last 5 years.
- Commitment to complete their post-doctoral research within 18 months with at least two (2) scientific publications

VII. Application File

Interested candidates should submit the following documents:

- A quality research proposal (maximum 6-8 pages including references) on the chosen research question with the following sections: Background, problem statement and motivation; theories and frameworks; materials and methods; research directions; proposed titles of at least two (2) research publications and work plan
- A motivation letter demonstrating the applicant's commitment and interest in the program
- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV) indicating previous research work
- Notarized copies of previous degrees
- Three recommendation letters from senior academic staff members, one preferably from the applicant's PhD supervisor or university
- Links or copies of recent publications (at least two)

VIII. Specific Eligibility Criteria

- Be a full-time academic staff member of the University of Rwanda
- Be fluent in English, both spoken and written



- Female applicants will be given a competitive advantage, in line with UR's gender policy and commitment to bridging the gender gap in research and teaching

IX. Fellowship Duration and Funding

1. The fellowship will have a maximum duration of 18 months (March 2025 – August 2026).
2. The total stipend for the program is 3,000,000 Rwf (three million Rwandan francs), disbursed in three installments. Each installment will be released every six months upon submission and approval of the required deliverables by the assigned academic mentors, advisors, or supervisors.
3. The TELLS Project will cover publication fees (where applicable) for a minimum of two recommended publications in reputable journals.
4. All publications must be co-authored with the assigned academic mentors, advisors, or supervisors.
5. Each postdoctoral fellow will be assigned at least one local academic mentor and one international mentor, preferably from a project partner university.

X. Selection Methodology

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview on dates communicated via email.

XI. How to Apply and Key Dates

Applicants are requested to send the documents as listed above in a zipped file 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 sent to the Coordinator of Postgraduate Studies at the School of Education, UR-CE. Email: leobuhigiro@gmail.com / j.l.buhigiro@ur.ac.rw not later than 12th March 2025 at 5PM (Kigali Time)

XII. Who to Contact for Further Information

For further information regarding this call, kindly contact: **Dr. Mathias Nduwingoma, TELLS Project Manager**, Tel: +250788897814, Email: m.nduwingoma@ur.ac.rw, ndumathias2001@yahoo.com.

Done at Kigali on 24/02/2025

Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Acting Vice Chancellor

