RUFORUM

Call for Post- Doctoral Fellowships: RU/2018/Post Doc RTP /01

Wajao - Unleashing the potential of African science leaders

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) a network of 85 universities in 35 African countries, with funding from Carnegie Cooperation of New York invites application from former RUFORUM-Carnegie supported doctoral alumni for 2 year post-doctoral fellowships to be based at a university in Africa.

The 2 year post-doctoral fellowships builds on, and helps to scale up, the RUFORUM commitment to strengthen postgraduate training and academic mobility in Africa. Since 2012, RUFORUM with support from Carnegie Cooperation of New York and other agencies has facilitated, mentored and contributed to a growing number of doctoral graduates who upon successful completion of their studies return to their home countries and integrate back in teaching and research. Thus, the goal of this call is to increase and ensure high retention rate of these graduates in Africa to help strengthen African universities and research institutions to meet the growing demand for higher education and research for creating knowledge and prosperity in the continent. The emphasis is on facilitating recent PhD graduates in ways that will improve their teaching, research, leadership and mentoring skills. It is important that they are supported in ways that contribute to increasing the critical mass of dedicated scientists that are working together to transform higher education in Africa and contribute to the global knowledge commons. At the individual level the post-doctoral fellowship is intended to provide an opportunity for the Fellows to establish their credentials and develop connections and skills to raise research resources and improve career prospects in the future. It is also aimed at building their capacity so that they in turn are able to guide and create a new generation of scientists for the continent through supervising and mentoring Masters and PhD students.

Eligibility and Requirements

- This call targets the former PhD beneficiary of Carnegie Cooperation of New York funded through RUFORUM from 2012 to 2017 who have graduated by December 2017. However, applications from candidates who have submitted their theses for external examination will also be considered.
- The applicant would need to be attached to a RUFORUM University faculty for the Post-Doctoral fellowship, where his/her main university mentor will be based. The hosting faculty should provide a support letter confirming willingness to host the Post-Doctoral fellow. The Fellow may also identify other mentors based in other institutions, such as the CGIARs, etc but need to be attached to a University.
- As part of the Fellowship, the Post-Doc Fellow will be provided with research funds that will be linked to supporting research activity of at least one PhD and one or more Masters Students who do not have research funding such as students funded under the Intra African Academic Mobility Program. The research areas could be directly linked to the field of training of the Post-Doctoral Fellow but could also cover new areas to broaden the perspective of the Fellow and promote interdisciplinarity.
The applicants should submit a research proposal, maximum 10 pages, 1.5 lines spacing, font 12 times new roman. The proposal should articulate the rationale for the Fellowship, provide an overview of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme, the proposed research thrusts, methodology, feasible work plan and clear deliverables. Importantly, the proposal should clearly articulate how the fellow plans to integrate postgraduate students who will be part of the research team but at the same time will be required to use the opportunity to finalize their dissertations leading to award of a degree. It should clearly also indicate how the Fellow will provide mentoring support to the research students and others and build his/her international linkages.

A detailed motivation letter will be required from the applicant, supported by a recommendation endorsement from their institution of employment and others where they require attachment.

The Post-Doctoral Fellowship Award

The Award for this call is a maximum of US$60,000 per fellowship and is expected to cover:

- **Stipend**: $26,400 – equating to $1,200 for 10 months in Year 1 and 12 Months in Year 2. This stipend is paid in order to allow the Fellow to focus on the research, publications and supervision of their research team by releasing some of their teaching and other duties and to reduce the need for engagement in consultancies.

- **Research funds**: $26,700 to support the research activities of the Post-Doctoral Team that will include PhD and Masters Students to conduct research under the supervisor of the Fellow. In the post-doctoral arrangement, partial research support will be given to selected postgraduate students (at least one PhD student ($16,700), preferably a Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), and 1-2 MSc students ($10,000) to cover field research costs, research paper publication and dissemination of findings,

- **Special mentor support**: $3,600 to be retained by RUFORUM to support the Mentorship Programme. The cost of the mentor covers bench fees, hosting fees, and cost of the mentor visiting some of the research facilities and participating in convening’s along with the Post-Doctoral Fellows.

Selection criteria

The following key aspects will form criteria of awarding the applicants;

- the intrinsic interest and substantive merit of the work proposed;
- the likely effect the Fellowship will have on the university and the expected future contribution of the Fellow;
- the contribution the research is likely to make to scholarship in the country, the region as well as internationally;
- the commitment to establish a research team and strengthen supervision skills of Masters and PhD students, and the potential spill over to undergraduate students
- the potential contribution of the Fellow to building a critical mass of young scientists in Africa with a strong network to reinforce sharing of knowledge and approaches; and
- The feasibility of the work plan.
Mentorship
The post-doctoral program proposes to hone the teaching, supervision and research skills and network of the Fellows, through strengthening experiences and by facilitating links to coaching and mentorship of the Fellows by both higher education and technical specialists. The aim is to develop a critical mass of African post-doctoral fellows dedicated to transforming the research capacity and approaches in their institutions, to strengthening their mentoring and supervisory skills and to ensuring research impact. The Fellows will receive mentoring and training by well-recognized scientists from within Africa, from the diaspora, and other international partners.

Participation to Scientific Conferences
Each Post-Doctoral fellow will be supported to attend the RUFORUM Biennial Conference slated for October 2019.

Grant Award Process
Grant letters are prepared for each approved application and sent to the Vice Chancellor of the respective University Faculty / school. The grant award letter specifies the amount of the grant, purpose and responsibility of the university in monitoring the use of the grant funds and reporting requirements. Funds are only disbursed after full commitment, through signature by the respective university Vice Chancellor. Grants awarded are published in the RUFORUM Newsletter and are posted in the RUFORUM website (www.ruforum.org).

Reporting requirements
The Fellows will be required to submit six monthly progress reports and a completion report at the end of twenty four months.

Time Frame
The foreseen time frame for the award process is as follows:
   i. The deadline for receiving applications at RUFORUM Secretariat is 10th February 2018
   ii. Administrative check / Compliance Review and feedback to applicants by 15th February 2018
   iii. Review of Proposals completed by 28th February 2018
   v. RUFORUM Secretariat sends out Grant Award letters by 31st March 2018
   vi. Grant advances disbursed by 15 of April 2018
Proposal Submission

How to apply for a scholarship via RIMS

1. Open this website link: http://rims.ruforum.org/

2. If you do not have an account you will be asked to register here: http://rims.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 / forgotten your password

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

1. Open this website link: http://rims.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://rims.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 scholarship application via RIMS

1. After successfully logging on click ‘Apply for a Scholarship’
2. Choose correct call ID which is RU/2018/Post Doc RTP /01
3. Complete the online application form
BUDGET CEILING FOR POST DOC FELLOWSHIPS (USD 60,000)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year 1</th>
<th>Year 2</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>A) Post Doc Fellows (related costs)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1) Tuition</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Post Doc Stipend* (USD $1200 per Post Doc student per month)</td>
<td>12000</td>
<td>14400</td>
<td>26400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>12,000</td>
<td>14,400</td>
<td>26,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>B) Research costs (include travel and other related research costs)</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1) MSc Research Costs</td>
<td>6000</td>
<td>4,000</td>
<td>10000</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) GTA/PhD Research Costs</td>
<td>10000</td>
<td>6700</td>
<td>16700</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>16,000</td>
<td>10,700</td>
<td>26,700</td>
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<td><strong>C) Equipment and supplies</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>E) Mentoring (Mentors monitoring and other related bench costs)</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1) Mentors Participation</td>
<td>1,500</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>3,400</td>
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<tr>
<td>2) Mentors bench fees</td>
<td>1,000</td>
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<td>1,000</td>
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<td><strong>SUB-TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>2,500</td>
<td>1,900</td>
<td>4,400</td>
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<td><strong>F) Other costs</strong></td>
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<td>University Administrative cost</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>1250</td>
<td>2500</td>
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<td><strong>GRAND TOTAL</strong></td>
<td>31,750</td>
<td>28,250</td>
<td>60,000</td>
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1. Year 1 of stipend will be paid for 10 Months and Year 2 of stipend will be paid for 12 Months. **Overhead should not be charged on this project.
2. The Budget Ceiling is USD 60,000 (United State Dollars Sixty Thousand only)
3. Budget Notes:
   3. Please provide budget notes and justification for research costs