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Call for Scholarship - Research Scholarships on Migration and Forced Displacement in Sub-Saharan Africa

Deadline for Application: May 25th 2025 at 11.59 pm (East Africa Time)

Introduction

The call for scholarship is launched within the framework of the project “**Migration and displacement Action Plan for sub-Saharan Africa (MAPS)**”, co-funded by the European Union.

The project aims to improve research and awareness on migration and forced displacement across Sub-Saharan Africa. Particular attention will be given to the effects of disaster and climate change on migration and displacement and to specific vulnerable groups such as women, children, minorities and persons with disabilities.

Migrations and forced displacement will be analysed with reference to the perceptions of first-line practitioner groups and internal migrants and on four thematic areas:

- i. Peace: Conflicts, Borders and border policies, Human rights.
- ii. People: Gender, Age, Disabilities and Vulnerabilities.
- iii. Planet: Climate change, Disasters, Natural hazard stressors, Resilience.
- iv. Prosperity: Education, Employment, Health, Housing, Equality, Socio-spatial Inclusion.

For this purpose, we are seeking **young researchers** from the Sub-Saharan region to apply for research scholarships to engage in the research activities related to migration and forced displacement that will be carried out in the frame of the MAPS project.

The call for researchers is launched by the University of Kabale, the University of Dodoma and the Amref International University (AMIU), at the same time, to select researchers to be engaged in the 10 countries where the MAPS research will be carried out.

The scholarships are designed to empower young researchers, build capacity, and contribute to the development of high-quality, impactful research on migration dynamics in Sub-Saharan Africa. Research outcomes will feed into the development of policy recommendations and evidence-based strategies for better migration management and response.

The text of the call has also been drafted in French, with the aim to ensure the widest outreach. However, in case of discrepancies, the English version is the official one. It is to be noted that applications shall be submitted in English only.

Objective of the research scholarships

The scholarships aim to:

- Support the research capacity of **early-career scientists** in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Facilitate the collection of primary data on migration and forced displacement.
- Contribute to the academic understanding and policy development on migration dynamics in the region.

Eligibility criteria

In order to be eligible for the research scholarships, applicants must meet all the following criteria:



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- Be a national citizen in one of the following countries: **Uganda, South Sudan, Senegal, Guinea**, or are entitled to work in Uganda, South Sudan, Senegal, Guinea
- Be in the early stages of their research career in **Social Sciences, Economics, Statistics, Human Geography, Migration Studies, Development Studies, Population studies, Political studies, Engineering, Public Health, Architecture and Urban Regional Planning, Computer Sciences, Law, Medicine, or related disciplines**, defined as:
 - no more than 5 years since the PhD defence, **or**
 - no more than 7 years since obtaining a Master's degree or equivalent diploma, for those who have not completed a PhD.

Career interruptions (e.g. parental leave, health-related leave, or other justified reasons) will be taken into account in the assessment of the early stages of the candidates' research career, fully in compliance with applicable national legislation.

- Demonstrate an **interest** in migration and forced displacement issues and show potential for academic growth and contribution to the field.
- Be proficient in English.
- Be proficient in French, in case the research is to be carried out in Senegal and/or Guinea.
- Be willing to use the scholarship for the purposes outlined in the present document and not to undertake any other full-time employment and/or major commitments that would be incompatible with the requirements of the scholarship, during its tenure.
- Not to be beneficiary of a scholarship for research activities at the time of the application for the present call.

Scholarship details

Number of scholarships: 13 research scholarships will be awarded to researchers in the following 4 target countries:

- up to 4 scholarships reserved for nationals and/or residents of Uganda
- up to 4 scholarships reserved for nationals and/or residents of South Sudan
- up to 4 scholarships reserved for nationals and/or residents of Senegal
- up to 1 scholarship reserved for nationals and/or residents of Guinea¹

The University of Kabale reserves the right not to award all the scholarships and/or to award the scholarships according to a different distribution by country, in case the applications received will not meet the required quality standards.

Duration: each scholarship will be for a period of **28 months**, starting indicatively from July 2025 and ending in any case by November 2027, with the possibility of renewal for additional 3 to 6 months.

Research location: selected candidates will be required to carry out their research in the country for which the scholarship is awarded. Only candidates who are nationals or legal residents of the specified country are eligible to apply for the respective scholarship.

¹ To ensure a fair distribution of scholarships and to avoid duplications in the selection process, each candidate may apply to only one call among those issued by the universities participating in the MAPS project. In the event that a candidate submits multiple applications, only the first application received—based on the date and time of submission—will be considered valid. The applications for Guinea will be collected by the University of Kabale, of Dodoma and AMIU: the three universities will select the applications together to award the scholarships to cover the research activities in the country.



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Supervision: researchers will be supervised by a senior scholar from the University of Kabale and co-supervised by a scholar from one of the European partner universities and/or from one of the associate research institutions.

Benefits. The scholarship shall include:

- Monthly stipends to cover living costs during the research period. Stipends will comply with the standard rates commonly applied by universities in the host country.
- Research costs, including travel for fieldwork, data collection, and dissemination of research findings.

In addition, researchers who will be awarded a scholarship will:

- Have the opportunity to benefit of training and capacity-building opportunities offered by the MAPS project, i.e. workshops, online courses, and shall participate (online and/or in presence) to the three summer schools that will be organised in the frame of the MAPS project to focus on migration-related research and data collection.
- Be assigned a laptop.

Research tasks

As part of the scholarship, selected researchers will:

- Participate in **desk research** and analysis of migration and forced displacement.
- Conduct indicatively **40 in-depth interviews and qualitative data collection** in the context of migration and forced displacement in the selected country.
- Participate in the **data analysis process** with other researchers.
- Co-author **scientific publications** based on their research findings.
- Attend **summer/winter schools** organized in the frame of the project and actively engage with their supervisors.
- Engage in **capacity-building** through the summer schools and **online training courses**.
- Collaborate with fellow researchers in conducting a comparative analysis across the 10 countries involved in the MAPS project.

Upon award of the scholarship, a formal agreement will be drawn up and signed between the university and the successful candidate. This agreement will outline the applicable terms and conditions as well as the relevant milestones and deliverables that are expected to be achieved thanks to the scholarship.

How to apply

Interested candidates must fill in the application (google) form available at the [link application](#) by **11.59 pm EAT of 25th May 2025** to provide all the information confirming they meet the eligibility criteria as well as all the necessary requirements.

In addition, through the google form, the following documents shall be uploaded:

1. **Motivation Letter** (maximum 1 page) explaining why you are interested in migration and forced displacement research, and how the scholarship will contribute to your academic and professional development
2. **Research Proposal** detailing the research topic you wish to explore within the framework of migration and forced displacement in the country where you may be assigned the research activity.
3. **Letter of Support** from a supervisor at a university or research institution
4. **Academic Transcripts** from the applicant's most recent qualifications (Master's or PhD).
5. **Certificates and documentation** to provide evidence of some of the key information required, e.g. identity document, master degree certificate, academic transcript, proposal of research project (to



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confirm applicants' interest in the themes of the research), copies of the publications (if any) and of the research awards (if any).

Before the deadline, the form can be filled out at own convenience, as information already entered before the submission is not lost. Even after submitting the form, it will be possible to edit the responses (**but it will not be possible to replace the files uploaded**). Once the form is submitted, the system will automatically send a copy to the email address provided.

Late applications and applications submitted via email or other channels will not be considered.

To ask for any clarification on the selection process or the scholarship, emails may be sent to mapsproject@kab.ac.ug up to 1 week before the deadline. All responses will be also be published on the website of the call (www.kab.ac.ug).

Selection process

The selection process will be conducted by a committee of experts, including representatives from the MAPS project consortium, and will be based on two steps: a pre-selection of 2 participants per available position and an oral interview.

The pre-selection of candidates will be based on the following criteria:

- **Academic Qualifications.** Points will be awarded based on the level of education, the relevance of the degree to the research topic, and the quality of academic studies.
- **Research Proposal:** the candidate must submit a clear and feasible research proposal that aligns with the objectives of the MAPS project. The proposal should show originality, relevance to migration and forced displacement issues, and potential for academic and practical impact.
- **Research Experience and Academic Potential.** Points will be awarded based on the duration, relevance, and impact of previous research experiences. Evidence of academic achievements (e.g., publications, conference presentations, research awards) will be positively evaluated.
- **Language Proficiency.** Points will be awarded based on the level of proficiency in English (and in French, in case the research is to be carried out in Senegal, Ivory Coast or Guinea). Official language certifications or demonstrated experience in international academic or professional settings will be considered positively. Knowledge of one or more national languages spoken in the selected country is considered an asset.
- **Motivation and Commitment.** Points will be awarded based on the candidate's motivation for pursuing the scholarship and their long-term commitment to the field of migration and forced displacement. Candidates should demonstrate a clear understanding of how the scholarship aligns with their academic and professional goals, and how they plan to contribute to the field. The motivation letter will be a key part of this assessment.
- **Diversity and Inclusion.** Efforts will be made to ensure a diverse and inclusive selection process, with particular attention to gender balance, and promote the participation of vulnerable groups.

Pre-selected candidates will be notified indicatively **by June 20th 2025**. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a remote oral interview, to be conducted indicatively **by July 15th 2025**. The interview will aim to assess the candidate's research potential, motivation, and ability to contribute to the objectives of the MAPS project.

Successful applicants will be notified indicatively by July 21st 2025 to have the opportunity to participate in the first MAPS Conference taking place in Dar es Salam (Tanzania) on 28th July 2025. The participation will be in presence, provided that successful applicants shall get the visa (if necessary).

All candidates will be notified of the outcome of the evaluation of their application.