



Norad

Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation

PhD Scholarship

1. Background

Haramaya University (HrU) in collaboration with Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU – Norway), Makerere University, University of Dar es Salaam, and Uganda Martyrs University (UMU) invites academic staff from HrU and Regional Offices working with HU to apply for a PhD scholarship within the framework of the NORHED II funded project on "Environmental Risk Management Under Increasing Extremes and Uncertainty (MERIT)". The project is a 6 years project from January 2021 to December 2026, led by NTNU with grant funding from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) NORHED II Programme. The project aims to build institutional capacity of HrU and partner institutions to provide quality education, research and outreach in the field of environmental risk and extremes that meet labour market demands, supports sustainable national socio-economic development and achievement of Sustainable Development Goals. As part of the research component, there is a plan to recruit three PhD candidates on competitive basis from HrU and partner institutions who will work in the field of biodiversity and ecosystem management, climate smart agriculture, biodiversity and climate change, range ecology and biodiversity, climate change, disaster risk management and environmental risk and extremes to enable them effectively contribute to the national development agenda.

2. Research clusters

The PhD studies will be conducted under the three research clusters indicated below. Applicants have to indicate the research cluster under which their PhD study will be situated.

Research Cluster I – Biophysical Systems and Nature Based Solutions: Cluster I will address better understanding of natural hazard processes under uncertainties socioecological systems of East Africa related to environmental extreme events and biodiversity management. Prevalent hazards like landslides, floods, drought will be studied at spatially explicit scales. States and connectivity of biophysical systems covering elements like soils, geology, geomorphology, hydrology, vegetation dynamics, climatic patterns and climate change and land cover will be addressed. It will cover local consequences such as impact on ecosystems, communities, agriculture and livelihood. It will address the biogeochemistry and feedbacks under current and future climatic conditions. Suitable Nature Based Solutions (NBS) packages with potential for risk mitigation will be tested.

Research Cluster II – Socio-Economic/cultural System: Cluster II will address the vulnerability component of risk covering social institutions, livelihood strategies and asset bases and adaptation to risk and climate change stress related to environmental extreme events and biodiversity management. Gender issues, social inclusion, networks including state and non-state actors will be tackled. Community resilience/Hazard management at local level taking into consideration constructs and contexts.

Research Cluster III – Climate Risk Governance and policy: Cluster III will interrogate governance and policy arrangements that either constrain or propel effective risk management related to environmental extreme events and biodiversity management. Institutional and policy frameworks for environmental risk and climate change governance will be tackled. Issues of legal frameworks, institutional mandates, service delivery structures, state and non-state actors at national and local government levels will be explored including interactions between national and lower governance scales.

How to apply: Interested applicants should submit applications by e-mail to the Project Coordinator at HrU **Dr. Sintayehu Workeneh; Email: sintekal@gmail.com**. Qualified candidates must send scanned soft copies of their motivation letter, application letter, authenticated degrees and transcripts (of both Bachelors and Masters), CVs, recommendation letters, support letters from employers (if any), and valid identification cards/passports in a PDF format as one document (i.e. not as list of separate documents). Publications and PhD research concept note should be sent in a PDF format as separate documents.

Eligibility requirements, qualifications and experience: The applicant should be an employee of HrU or Regional/Federal Offices working closely with HrU. Applicants must have a strong academic background and research experience for successfully completing a PhD study,

Applicants for the PhD program must have an MSc degree or its equivalent in biodiversity and ecosystem management, climate smart agriculture, biodiversity and climate change, range ecology and biodiversity, climate change, disaster risk management, and other related disciplines.

Language skills: To be qualified the applicant should also have very good English skills both oral and written.

PhD Scholarship and study conditions: The successful candidate will have PhD scholarship for a period of four years and will be expected to register at Haramaya University. The student will be expected to follow the registration procedures at HrU. The student will be expected to spend a total of 6 months at NTNU and the rest of the PhD study period will be spent at HrU. The successful candidate will become part of an organized research team on the MERIT Project and will be expected to write a paper-based dissertation, which will contribute to the project's publication targets. Research and travel expenses to and from Norway will be covered by the project.

The selection process: Applications will be evaluated by the Project Team. When assessing the applications, emphasis will be put on: 1) The quality of the project proposal, 2) The proposal's alignment with the project goals, 3) Number and quality of publications related to the project and 3) the Masters Study grades. The successful applicant must have a formal admission as a PhD student at HrU. Only shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview.

Expected start date: The planned starting date is December 30 2021. The student will be expected to refine the research proposal at HrU, review literature, participate in seminars and possibly take some methodological courses.

Application deadline: All application materials (including scanned copies of academic documents) must be received by November 30, 2021 until 5PM.