



Scholars Program

In partnership with



UNIVERSITY of
RWANDA

**Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda
'360° Knowledge Accelerator towards dignifying work for young Africans'**

**Call for Application for Postgraduate Scholarships - 2nd Cohort
Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda**

for

Academic Year 2024 – 2025

September, 2024

A handwritten signature in blue ink, located at the bottom right of the page.



Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda Announcement

Call for Application for 2nd Cohort-Postgraduate Scholarships under Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda Academic Year-2024 – 2025

1. Background

The University of Rwanda in partnership with Mastercard Foundation is implementing a 10-year Scholars Program (MCF-SP@UR) aimed at enabling higher education access to qualified young Africans, yet economically disadvantaged and/ or coming from conflict and post-conflict affected areas with a focus on women pursuing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM), young people with disabilities, refugees and displaced youth, and strengthen the UR capability for inclusive and supportive tertiary education pathways to dignified work.

The Program is committed to developing Africa's next generation of ethical and transformative leaders who would influence positive forward-looking changes in their respective home countries specifically, and on the African Continent. It aims to drive and support transformation at three levels: individual (Scholars), institutional (the University), and system (higher education ecosystem and beyond).

2. Available Scholarships

- For the Academic Year 2024-2025, the Program is recruiting the 2nd cohort of 36 Scholars in UR Postgraduate Programs.
- The Program provides comprehensive scholarships for access to quality postgraduate university education at the University of Rwanda to qualified and academically talented, yet economically disadvantaged young Rwandans with leadership potentials, as well as other disadvantaged Africans, especially those in conflict and post-conflict areas.
- Priority shall be accorded to **Females, Certified Refugees, and Persons with Disabilities**

3. Eligibility

- Scholars will be sponsored in approved UR Academic Programs run in four (4) African Centers of Excellence, two (2) Regional Centers of Excellence, Center for Gender Studies, School of Economics, School of Business and the International Center for Theoretical Physics in UR.
- A list of approved eligible programs at the University of Rwanda for MCF-SP scholarship is presented in the annex.
- Priority shall be accorded to Qualified Females (70%), Certified Refugees (25%), and Persons with Disabilities (10%), who are academically talented, yet economically disadvantaged and with leadership potential.
- Must have applied to one of the eligible programs sponsored by Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UR.
- Continuing students are **NOT** eligible.

4. Selection Criteria

- To apply for the scholarship, one must have successfully completed his/her Bachelor Degree in fields of study related to the UR Masters Program s/he is applying for.
- Be Rwandan or African citizen (Refugees must be certified by UNHCR, MINEMA, or another related legal agency).
- Not above **40 years** of age for male, and not above **45 years for female** at the time of application.
- The applicant must demonstrate their critical social and/or economic needs and/or disability.

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda

- The applicant must have proven records of leadership and community engagement(s).
- The applicant must have a strong commitment to community engagement and be prepared to Go-Back and/or Give-Back to his/her community.
- 70% of all scholarships shall be accorded to Female and 80% of all scholarships shall be given to students in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) programs.
- The applicant must not be enrolled in any other tertiary institution.

5. Application Process

- A **general application** form must be completed online using the following link:
<https://forms.gle/i1u5Cd73EK1wkXJZ7>
- All applicants are required to upload other supporting documents as stated.
- Applicant can complete the online application form in more than one session. However, it is recommended that you start the application when you have all the supporting documents in place with you but the application will be considered only after formal submission steps below:
 - Through the application process, there are different documents to be attached. Please make sure you name each document you will attach with your names and ensure they are saved in PDF format (with size less than 250 kb)
 - **Click Submit** at the end of the online application, only when all the fields and attachments have been fully completed.

6. Application deadline & Support Team Contact Details

- Eligible candidates can start the online application for the scholarships while gathering supporting documents.
- The deadline for the application for the scholarships is on or before **30th September 2024 at 23:59 P.M. (CENTRAL AFRICA TIME)**.
- During the application period, Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at UR Scholarship application support team will be available to provide any needed information. The following are contact details of the heads of application support team:

Mr. Kamanzi Emmanuel-Tel: +250 788736530

UR Admission and Registration Specialist
Email: admissionsur2024@gmail.com

Dr. Uwizeye Odette

Registrar-University of Rwanda Tel: +250 788 304 391

Mr. Yabagenga Benjamin-Tel: +250 788485618

UR Database Administrator

Prof. Evariste Karangwa

Principal Lead-Recruit-Mastercard Foundation
Scholars Program at UR Tel: +250 739 140 377
Email: mcfsp.ur@gmail.com

7. Additional Information

- Telephone numbers and email addresses provided by applicants should always be active to receive critical information on their application.
- The application for the scholarship is an ongoing process, until the application deadline.
- There will be a pre-selection step and those successful will be invited for an oral interview by independent panels and at each stage, unsuccessful candidates would be notified.
- There would be unannounced on-site validation visits to the homes of selected candidates.
- There are **absolutely No Charges/ Fees/ Facilitation/ Agents or Intermediaries Required** at any stage of the application and selection processes.
- Applicants who will be discovered to have falsified information or attempt to influence the process at any stage (application or home visit) to gain advantage of the scholarship, shall be disqualified.



Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda

- The decisions of the Scholars Recruitment Committee (SRC) are Final.
- Any misconduct (breaching university rules, regulations and policies including participation in riotous acts, involvement in subversive activities, illicit financial activities, terrorism, or denial of the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi) on the part of the successful applicants (Scholars) shall lead to automatic disqualification and loss of the scholarship.
- All scholarships will be on a rolling basis, implying that annual renewal of funding is subject to satisfactory academic performance.
- Successful applicants will be expected to become champions and transformative leaders, entrepreneurs and change makers at various levels, and shall remain in close communication with the University of Rwanda for at least 5 years after completing their studies.

8. Description of the Scholarship Package

This is a comprehensive scholarship that will be managed by the University of Rwanda. The Program also offers an opportunity for the Scholars to receive holistic training that empowers them and lead them to the academic success, community engagement, and transition to employment opportunities, which will equip the Scholars to be global citizens. The scholarship will mainly cover:

- Comprehensive financial support (full tuition fees, fully paid on-campus accommodation, a laptop, learning materials, annual return ticket allowance, and a full-year monthly stipend).
- Psycho-social Support Services.
- Uniquely sourced internships with industry for professional development.
- Continued academic support through academic mentorship, virtual learning, and tutoring.
- Career Development Services (including Industrial Mentorship, Career Guidance, Professional Development, and Enterprise Development, among others).
- Regular group meetings with other Scholars that focus on personal and professional development opportunities and activities tailored to build societal relationships and Scholars' capacity.
- Opportunities to participate in leadership congresses, community services and mentoring (Go-back Give-Back).
- The prestige of becoming part of the growing family of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Alumni and networking with the Global Scholars Community.

Considering the level of investment, successful applicants will be required to become high achievers, highly engaging and focused Scholars, able to give back and make changes in their respective communities and Africa in general.

9. List of UR Postgraduate Programs approved for the Scholars' application

Campus	College	School	Postgraduate Programs	Scholarships		Comment
				Female	Male	
Nyarugenge	CST	African Centre of Excellence in Energy and Sustainable Development (ACE ESD)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSc in Electrical Power Systems ▪ MSc in Renewable Energy ▪ MSc in Energy Economics 	3	1	STEM
		African Centre of Excellence in Internet of Things (ACE-IOT)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ MSc in Internet of Things: Embedded Computing Systems (MSc in IoT: ECS) ▪ MSc in IoT: Wireless Intelligent Sensor Networking (MSc in IoT: WISeNet) 	3	1	STEM



Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda

		ICTP-East African Institute for Fundamental Research (EAIFR)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSc in Physics-High Energy Physics MSc in Physics-Condensed Matter Physics MSc in Physics-Geophysics 	3	1	STEM
		Regional Centre of Excellence in Biomedical Engineering (CEBE)	MSc in Biomedical Engineering	3	1	STEM
Gikondo	CBE	African Centre of Excellence in Data Science (ACE-DS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSc in Data Science: Actuarial Sciences MSc in Data Science: Biostatistics MSc in Data Science: Data Mining MSc in Data Science: Demography MSc in Data Science: Econometrics 	3	1	STEM
		School of Economics	Master of Science in Economics	2	1	N-STEM
		School of Business	Master of Business Administration	2	1	N-STEM
	CASS	Center for Gender Studies	Master of Social Sciences in Gender and Development	2	1	N-STEM
Remera	CMHS	EA Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunisation and Health Supply Chain Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MSc in Health Supply Chain Management Master in Pharmaceutical Analysis and Quality Assurance 	2	1	N-STEM
Rukara	CE	African Centre of Excellence for Innovative Teaching and Learning Mathematics & Science (ACEITLMS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Master of Education in Biology Education Master of Education in Chemistry Education Master of Education in Math Education Master of Education in Physics Education 	3	1	STEM
Total: 36				26	10	

10. Evaluative Interviews

- Among the applicants, 36 Scholars will be selected by the Scholars Recruitment Committee (SRC) based on the established selection criteria.
- Interviews will be scheduled and conducted using a predefined interview guide aligned with the expectations of the Program and the vision of the institution.
- Applicants shall receive equal treatment especially concerning the questions being asked. Thus, the members of SRC shall discuss and agree on the questions to be asked and their distribution among panel members ahead of interviews.

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at University of Rwanda

- An interview report shall be presented by the SRC in collaboration with the PIT office summarizing the interview processes and the interview results per academic program.
- The interview report shall be shared electronically with panel members for their inputs and agreement.
- The Chair of SRC shall submit the interview report to VC for the UR Executive Organs' approval of the interview results, and subsequent home visit schedule.

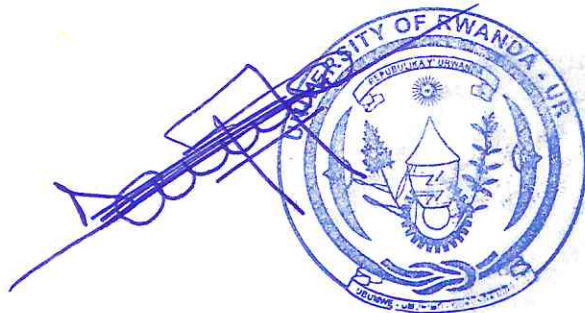
11. Declaration of results

- The approved list of selected candidates for the scholarship will be published on the UR website.
- The Scholarship award letters will be issued to successful candidates.
- Award letters will be issued by the VC office via e-mail.

12. Confirmation of the scholarship award by candidates

- Successful candidates shall receive a scholarship award letter together with a scholarship acceptance form that must be completed and signed by the candidate to confirm acceptance of the scholarship.
- Duly completed and signed forms shall be returned via the Program email within five workdays after reception of the scholarship award letter.
- In case a candidate declines the offer for any reason, the next in line of performance in the same program shall be awarded the scholarship.
- A scholarship offer cannot at any time be deferred.

Done in Kigali,11/09/....., 2024



Assoc. Prof. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas
Ag. Vice Chancellor, University of Rwanda