Call for Scholarship Applications under the TAGDev 2.0 Programme for the 2025/2026 Academic Year at Africa University

Call ID: RU/2025Africa Uni/TAGDev 2.0

Training the Next Generation of Scientists for Africa

1.0 Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in partnership with Mastercard Foundation, Gulu University (Uganda), Egerton University (Kenya), Africa University (Zimbabwe), University of Free State (South Africa), Malawi University of Science and Technology (Malawi), University of Eldoret (Kenya), Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda), University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria), University of Cape Coast (Ghana), University of Bamenda (Cameroon), National University of Agriculture (Benin), and Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique (Morocco) are implementing a 10 year programme (2023-2033) called Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev 2.0). The programme seeks to strengthen universities and TVET institutions to better serve communities by skilling and empowering Africa's young people and their institutions to drive inclusive, equitable and climate resilient transformation of agriculture and agrifood systems. The TAGDev 2.0 programme will support young African students that are economically disadvantaged but academically competent to access university education. The scholarship is open to both female and male applicants. However, females, refugees, internally displaced persons, and persons with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply.

2.0 Eligible Programmes

This call for Scholarships for the 2025/2026 academic year is opened to applicants interested in and eligible to study Bachelor of Science Honours in Agribusiness Management, Bachelor of Science Honours in Software Engineering, Master of Science in Agribusiness, and Master of Science in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity at Africa University, Zimbabwe.

2.1. Admission requirements to Africa University and the specific academic programmes

Undergraduate Programmes	Admission Requirements
BSc Hons in Agribusiness Management	Candidates should have: • Passed at least 5 subjects at Ordinary Level including English Language and Mathematics. • At least Two GCE Advanced Level passes from Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Food Science, Crop Science, Animal Science, Physics, Applied Mathematics, Pure Mathematics, Statistics, Geography, Economics, Business Studies and Accounts, or equivalent university entry qualifications in the applicant's country of origin. For special entry the candidates should: • Have passed at least 5 subjects at Ordinary Level including English Language and Mathematics. • Hold a relevant Diploma from an accredited Institution.
BSc Hons in Software Engineering	Candidates should have: • Passed at least 5 subjects at Ordinary Level including English Language and Mathematics. • At least two GCE Advanced level passes in any of the following subjects; Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Accounts, Business Studies, Economics, or equivalent university entry qualifications in the applicant's country of origin. For special entry the candidates should: • Have passed at least 5 subjects at Ordinary Level including English Language and Mathematics. • Hold a Diploma in Information Technology, Computer Science or related area, from an accredited Institution.

Masters Programmes	Admission Requirements
Master of Science in Agribusiness, and Master of Science in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity	For Masters programmes, applicants must have the following: • A good Bachelor's Degree in a relevant area; • General Certificate of Secondary School Education with Five Ordinary level passes at grade C or better including English Language or equivalent; • Proficiency in English Language • English is the language of instruction at Africa University. For that reason, all prospective students shall be expected to demonstrate through the English Diagnostic Proficiency Test their capacity to pursue their studies at the University; • A student who does not meet the minimum required English Proficiency Standards shall be required to undertake a One Year Intensive English Programme prior to beginning of studies.

2.2 Appeal to potential applicants

Interested applicants are requested to visit the university website (www.africau.edu) to familiarize with admission requirements for each degree programme of their interest.

2.3 Contact Information

Dr. Walter Manyangarirwa
TAGDev 2.0 Programme Coordinator,
Africa University, Zimbabwe
Email: manyangarirwaw@africau.edu
Telephone: +263 77 441 1637
Website: www.africau.edu

3.0 Eligibility for Scholarships

3.1. Who is eligible to apply?

Scholarships are open to candidates from Africa and residing in Africa from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Candidates from conflict and post- conflict areas of Africa residing in Zimbabwe are also encouraged to apply. The applicant has to be in position to qualify for admission into undergraduate and/or postgraduate programmes at Africa University. All applicants should read and thoroughly understand the admission criteria for the relevant programmes at Africa University. Students already having a scholarship of any kind are not eligible to benefit from this scholarship opportunity. Anyone with a double scholarship if found will automatically be discontinued. Beneficiaries of TAGDev scholarships are not eligible to apply.

3.2. Selection criteria

i. Be an African national currently residing in Africa.
ii. Be economically disadvantaged, from marginalized communities, Refugee Displaced Persons (RDP), and Persons With Disabilities (PWD) in Africa.
iii. Be less than 30 years for undergraduate and less than 35 years for Masters studies at the time of application.
iv. Should have completed secondary school and/or diploma for a Bachelors degree application not more than four years (2021-2024) from the time of this call.
v. The applicant should meet admission criteria to be eligible for programmes at Africa University.
vi. For admission into Africa University for an undergraduate degree programme one must have attained Five Ordinary Level passes at grade C or better including English Language and Mathematics; and Advanced Level passes in at least two subjects or equivalent, or a relevant Diploma from an accredited institution.
 For special entry the candidates should:
 Have passed at least 5 subjects at Ordinary Level including English Language and Mathematics. Hold a relevant Diploma from an accredited Institution.
vii. Demonstrate interest in agriculture, agribusiness, the digital economy and entrepreneurship
viii. Demonstrate leadership qualities
ix. Have commitment to working in agriculture and agricultural value chains
x. Have a strong commitment to community transformation
xi. Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

3.3. What the scholarship covers

This is a full board comprehensive scholarship that covers: tuition fees, research costs, workshop and conference costs, living expenses including stipend and hostel, laptop, internship attachment, community engagement and field

attachment, entrepreneurship training and transportation. Consequently, considering the level of investment, successful applicants will be required to become high achievers, highly engaging and focused students/graduates and change makers contributing to outreach services in the communities, capable of creating enterprises that create jobs for themselves and others and have personal satisfaction and dynamism.

3.4. Support to Refugees, Displaced Persons (RDPs) and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).
In addition to other scholars benefits, RDPs and PWDs will receive the following support:
1. RDPs will be supported with travel documents
2. PWDs will receive assistive devices to support learning and movement during the course of studies.

3.5. Nature of the scholarship
This is a comprehensive scholarship with direct and indirect costs that will be covered by the programme through the implementing university where the student will be studying. Indirect costs such as participation in the international conference will be directly covered by the RUFORUM Secretariat. The following further apply:
i. Direct costs for student training will be transferred to the university as a grant payable to the university. The students will receive their respective services and entitlements from the university as the implementer and where necessary from RUFORUM.
ii. All scholarships will be on a rolling basis implying that, the scholarship will be renewed on annual basis subject to satisfactory academic performance at grade B level of Africa University.
iii. Retaking more than four courses will lead to the withdrawal of the scholarship awarded to the candidate.
iv. Applicants who may be discovered to have falsified information in order to gain advantage of the scholarship shall be disqualified on confirmation of the falsification and/ or forgery.
v. Any misconduct (breaching university rules especially examination malpractice, violence towards others) on the part of the successful applicant shall lead to automatic disqualification and loss of the scholarship.
vi. Successful applicants will be expected to become champions and transformative leaders, entrepreneurs and change makers at various levels and shall remain communicating

with RUFORUM and the Universities as part of the Programme Alumni.

4.0 Application process and procedure

4.1 Application for university admission at Africa University
The application process will be in two stages. The first stage is application for admission to the programme of choice at Africa University submitted to Africa University. The second stage is application for the TAGDev scholarship submitted to RUFORUM. Both stages have to be done concurrently.

All applications (online/soft copy) for admission must be submitted to the university address below:

Africa University
Assistant Registrar, Academic Affairs
1 Fairview Road, Off Nyanga Road,
P.O. Box 1320 Mutare, Zimbabwe
Email: studentrecruitment@africau.edu
OR applications@africau.edu
website: www.africau.edu

For further inquiries, please contact us on Tel:+263 8688002151, Cell: +263 712609487.

Africa University application procedure:
Interested candidates fulfilling the above mentioned requirements are invited to:

a. Apply online through our website (www. africau.edu) using our application portal.
b. Applicants for the TAGDev 2.0 scholarship are exempted from paying the application fee.
c. Upload certified copies of your academic and professional certificates, birth certificate, National I.D. /or valid passport, and Marriage Certificate where applicable.
d. Furthermore, upload supporting evidence explaining why you should be considered for the TAGDev 2.0 scholarship on the application portal.
e. Post Graduate programme applicants are also required to submit an autobiographical statement as explained below:

   In no more than 1500 words, give a description of your professional activities and employment record since acquiring your first degree or professional qualifications, relating them to your career objectives, aspirations and goals.

For additional information about the scholarship at Africa University please contact:

Dr. Walter Manyangarirwa
TAGDev 2.0 Programme Coordinator,
 Africa University
Email: manyangarirwaw@africau.edu
Telephone: +263 77 441 1637

4.2 Application for Scholarship
The procedure for submitting the TAGDev 2.0 scholarship application through the RUFORUM Information Management System (RIMS) is as follows:

i. Access the RIMS Web Portal through:
    https://rims2.ruforum.org/
ii. Create your account by clicking on: "Register Here".
iii. An email will be sent to your valid email address to activate your account. Please check in the Spam or Junk for messages in case activation mail is not reflected in your inbox.
iv. Login using your email and password you used for creating your account.
v. After successful login, the Applicant Dashboard will appear with different options.
vi. Go to Calls – > Scholarship Calls.
vii. Select the Call ID:
    RU/2025Africa Uni/TAGDev 2.0
viii. Click "Apply" to start filling the Application Form.
ix. Remember to save while filling the form by clicking "Save Draft".
x. Download, and submit it with your application form for admission to the University to the emails:
    studentrecruitment@africau.edu OR
    applications@africau.edu

For any assistance, kindly contact the administrator at: mcf@ruforum.org.

Submission Deadline: 1st April 2025
Dates for key Virtual Information Session Days shall be communicated in due course.