



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR A MASTERS FELLOWSHIP ON AQUATIC ANIMAL HEALTH AND ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT UNDER ECARESA NORHED NORAD PROJECT 2021 – 2026

Background

Aquaculture in Sub-Sahara Africa (SSA) is on the rapid increase with projections of 60% growth by 2030. In addition, Tanzania, Kenya and Mozambique possess Indian ocean coastlines that serve as good locations for development of marine aquaculture that is almost absent in Africa today. Aquaculture production provides an important source of protein and contributes to food security and economic development. This potential is underexploited in SSA and governments of several countries including Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi and Mozambique have prioritized aquaculture production through their strategic development plans. The growing industry however faces various challenges such as fish diseases and aquatic contamination that threaten its profitability and sustainability. The quality of fish products in terms of pathogens and chemical contaminants have implications for human health and sustainable environmental development. Sustainable aquaculture production requires thorough understanding of disease control with prevention and biosecurity as cornerstones. The use of quality feed, access to farmed species with optimal genetic background, and protection of the production environments and a balanced use of natural resources are required in order to prevent fish diseases and to secure healthy food. In many regions, aquaculture has been sufficiently profitable to permit strong growth. With Intensification, aquaculture may on the other hand cause harm to the environment because of the release into water bodies of organic effluents or disease treatment chemicals and antibiotics, and genetic contamination for wild species. Experience has shown that one of the challenges that higher institutions of learning in Africa face in relation to lack of human capacity is -drain, where highly trained personnel leave the institutions for better pastures. *This practice has to be discouraged if Africa is to be self-sufficient.*

Project Goal and Intended outcome

The Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) in Norway in collaboration with the Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST) and University of Dar-es Salaam's Institute of Marine Science (IMS) in Tanzania; University of Nairobi (UoN) and Egerton University (EU) in Kenya; Makerere University (MU) in Uganda; University of Zambia (UNZA) in Zambia; Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi and Eduardo Mondlane University (UEM) in Mozambique is undertaking a collaborative research project entitled ***“Enhanced Capacity for Aquatic Resources in East and South Africa (ECARESA)”***. The project is supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) under the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED II). The goal of the project is to strengthen institutions, education and research capacity in aquatic and environmental health in Sub Saharan Africa. The project intends to achieve the above goal through training of human resources at masters, PhD and Post Doc levels while generating the information to fill the knowledge gaps.

Call for Application

MUST in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Life Sciences (NMBU) in Norway and Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) in Malawi invites suitably qualified candidates to apply for a two years postgraduate fellowship in a Master's Degree Programme in Aquatic Animal Health and Ecosystem Management. Successful candidates will work closely with the POSTDOC be part of a networked cohort of highly skilled personnel in health of aquatic resources who are able to work with relevant sectors/stakeholders to improve their levels of preparedness, field surveillance, and response to pollution and disease outbreaks in aquatic environment within the Eastern Africa region. The MSc Student will be enrolled at LUANAR University (Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources) and supported through ***“Enhanced Capacity for Aquatic Resources in East and South Africa (ECARESA) project”*** and is funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) under the Norwegian Programme for Capacity Building in Higher Education and Research for Development (NORHED II).

Fellowship package

The fellowship will cover monthly stipend, academic-related travel, it will support research, conference and networking activity; as well as community and policy engagement (CPE) activities. This fellowship will also include mentorship and practical capacity-building activities aimed at harnessing a robust suite of aquatic health and disease surveillance skills, data standards and analytical methodologies, and scientific writing for policy uptake. It will strengthen the capacity of aquatic scientist personnel in aquatic health to efficiently monitor, analyze and interpret aquatic disease outbreak data and health management issues, and to inform policy and decision making within countries in the broader Eastern Africa region.

Eligibility

MUST has a strategic ambition of being a leading research institution. Candidates for this fellowship will be selected in accordance with this, and is expected to be in the upper segment of their class with respect to academic credentials.

We ask applicants to provide a numbered list in their application letter corresponding to these criteria, explaining whether and how they meet each point

- i. Be an employee of Mbeya University of Science and Technology (MUST)
- ii. Have a minimum of a Bachelor of Science Degree in Aquaculture, Fisheries Science, Animal science, Veterinary Sciences, Environmental science, Ecotoxicology or other relevant biological sciences, with at least a credit pass or a strong pass, and a GPA of not less than 3.8.
- iii. Good academic qualifications (grades and relevant experience)
- iv. A good background and/or strong interest in undertaking research in health of aquatic resources.
- v. Willingness to work in a team and a strong ambition to accomplish the research goals of the project.
- vi. Strong practical and analytical skills.
- vii. Excellent communication skills with a good command of spoken and written English.
- viii. Personal suitability and motivation for the position.
- ix. Good social and collaboration skills and ability to work independently and in an interdisciplinary scientific environment
- x. A person recruited will be bonded to MUST for not less than two years.

xi. Be prepared to accept the ECARESA-fellowship on July, 2023.

The application must include:

- Cover Letter (not more than 500 words) detailing the motivation for applying for the course and how the program fits with your overall career goals as well the contribution this training will make in preparing you to respond to pandemics in East Africa and beyond
- A 1,000-words proposed research project concept
- Updated CV (summarizing education, positions and academic work, scientific publications and other qualifying activities);
- Copies of certified academic certificates, transcript of records and letters of recommendation.
- Include two support letters from (i) a principal investigator or head of the work institution showing commitment of the candidate to remain working in the sub-Saharan region for a minimum of two years after the fellowship, (ii) a researcher in relevant field the candidate is applying for
- Copy of passport (personal details page) or National Identification (ID) card,
- Electronic clear colored passport size photograph (2cmx2cm, jpg, png, tiff)
- List of publications and academic work that the applicant wishes to be considered by the evaluation committee
- Commitment to complete the course within 2 years

How to apply

The application letter addressed to the Selection Committee, DPSRP (Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, Research and Publication), and supporting documents must be submitted online via the email addresses provided below before **June 03, 2023, at 1700 hrs.** East African Time (EAT). Applications received after this deadline will NOT be considered.

1. Dr. Ashery Mwidege; E-mail: dpsrp@must.ac.tz/amwidege2020@gmail.com
2. Dr. Hadija Matimbwa; E-mail: hadija.matimbwa@must.ac.tz /hadija.matimwa@gmail.com

Copy to Dr. Eliezer Brown Mwakalapa; Email: eliezer.mwakalapa@must.ac.tz /mwakalapaeb@gmail.com