

# PhD Scholarship

Four PhD positions under the Plant Health Theme

**icipe is offering four PhD positions, one working on development of microbial biopesticide, one working on a chemical ecology - based biological control approach, one working on plant-based biorationals for management of Fall armyworm and the last working on factors influencing the ability of maize to compensate for damage by FAW.**

**Closing date for applications: 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019**

**Any application received after this date will not be considered or acknowledged. Kindly note that only successful candidates will be notified by 16<sup>th</sup> December 2019.**

## PhD SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

- 3-year doctoral training by research: start: Jan 2020, end: Dec 2022

- The first PhD position (Project 1) is based at *icipe's* Duduville Campus at Nairobi, Nairobi City County, Kenya but with field work in key maize production regions in Kenya

- The second PhD position (Project 2) is based at *icipe's* Thomas Odhiambo Campus at Mbita, Homa Bay County, South Nyanza, Kenya but with field work Kenya, eastern Uganda and Tanzania.

- For more information on the available projects go [here](#)

- **Please note:** Successful candidates will develop a full proposal and register with a University after they commence their PhD programme at *icipe*.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR PROJECT 1 (Development and testing of microbial biopesticides for the management of Fall armyworm in East Africa)

- The successful applicant will hold an excellent master's degree with both coursework and research in Crop protection/Entomology with specialization in insect pathology or in Applied Microbiology with specialization in insect pathology.
- Knowledge in Chemical ecology and nematology will be an asset.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR PROJECT 2 (Designing a chemical ecology-based biological control approach for the invasive Fall armyworm in Africa)

- The successful applicant will hold an excellent master's degree with both coursework and research in a relevant field, Entomology, Crop Protection or Plant Sciences, with experience in Chemical Ecology procedures or Chemistry.
- Field experience in maize systems.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR PROJECT 3 (Validation of indigenous-knowledge and plant-based biorationals for management of Fall armyworm)

- MSc degree in biology, crop protection, entomology or a related fields.
- Previous experience on conducting field experiments and lab bioassays, botanical pesticides and their characterisation might be helpful.
- A good knowledge about design of field experiments and lab bioassay, statistical analysis will be of help in the project.

### GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR APPLICANTS FOR PROJECT 4 (Understanding the key factors influencing the ability of maize to compensate for damage by fall armyworm at different crop phenological stages)

- MSc degree in biology, crop protection, entomology or a related fields.
- Previous experience with conducting field experiments and lab bioassays, economic threshold assessment of pest and disease might be helpful
- A good knowledge about design of field-, Screenhouse- and lab experiments, data modelling and multivariate analysis will be of help in the project.

## ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- A Bachelor's degree with a minimum pass of second-class, upper division.
- The Master's degree must have been completed less than six years ago at the time of application.
- The applicant must be a national of Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda.
- Qualified female candidates and candidates from less privileged regions or groups as well as candidates with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.
- A good command of the English language (written & spoken).
- Completed application form and accompanying supporting documents submitted online.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Download and complete the scholarship Application Form

To download the Application Form as a doc file click [here](#)

To download the Application Form as a docx file click [here](#)

- Then go to the online application platform by clicking [here](#) to add information and upload your completed Application Form and the following documents:

- Curriculum Vitae (please use the Europass Format: <http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>)
- Certified copies of official university certificates and transcripts, and any other professional or academic certificates. Please combine into 1 file. If necessary, you may zip the file to make it smaller for uploading. For pdf files, can reduce the size using the online tool at <https://smallpdf.com/compress-pdf>
- Copy of a signed recommendation letter from your employer (if currently employed) or University where MSc was undertaken. The letter *must be on institute letterhead*.
- Close-up photograph in colour of your full head and upper shoulders
- Copy of National ID
- Copy of Passport biodata page (the page that has your picture and personal details)

Once you have entered and uploaded everything, click the **Continue** button. This will take you to the **Review your Entries** page where you can review and change anything in your application. When you are satisfied with your application, click the **Continue** button to submit your application. This cannot be undone, so please make sure all your application information is correct before submitting. We will send an email acknowledgement when we receive your completed online application.

## NOTE

- **DO NOT** submit your application by email. Only applications and accompanying documents submitted online will be accepted.
- **It is highly recommended that you submit your application well before the deadline, especially if you commonly experience slow Internet speeds or frequent Internet outages.**
- It is also highly recommended that you reduce the sizes of your files as much as possible to make them easier to upload.
- Accepted formats for documents: *doc, docx, ppt, pptx, pdf, rtf, zip, rar, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp, tif*
- Maximum size for any one file is 5 MB.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Q:** May I submit my application by email?

**A:** No. Only applications submitted through the online platform here will be accepted.

**Q:** May I submit my application in French?

**A:** No. Your application must be in English.

**Q:** I cannot upload one of my files. What is wrong?

**A:** (1) Perhaps your file is too large. The maximum size for any single file is 5 MB. Please reduce the file size if it is too large. (2) Perhaps your Internet is too slow or intermittent. It is highly recommended that you reduce the sizes of your files as much as possible to facilitate uploading. Also, try uploading your documents when internet traffic is low e.g. at night. (3) Perhaps you are trying to upload a file that is not one of the accepted file formats (Accepted formats: *doc, docx, ppt, pptx, pdf, rtf, zip, rar, jpg, jpeg, png, bmp, tif*)

**Q:** I have completed all the requirements for my Undergraduate degree but I have not yet graduated. May I apply?

**A:** Yes you may apply. Instead of the Undergraduate degree certificate please provide a letter from the university stating that you have completed all the requirements for the Undergraduate degree.

**Q:** I submitted my application online, but I did not receive an email application. What is wrong?

**A:** There are two possibilities: (1) you entered an incorrect email address, or (2) You did not actually submit your application. Please read the Application Procedure very carefully and redo your application.

## OTHER QUESTIONS

In case of any questions regarding the application, kindly contact:

**Ms. Vivian Atieno,**

Capacity Building Officer,

Capacity Building and Institutional Development Programme, *icipe*

[vatieno@icipe.org](mailto:vatieno@icipe.org)

Tel: **+254 20 863 2272**

Thank you in advance for considering this opportunity.

We look forward to receiving your application.

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