Call for applicants for TWO PhD scholarship opportunities

The research project on Remote Sensing for Community-driven applications: from WA+ to co-learning (RS-4C). IHE-DELFT Netherlands and Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi

(RS-4C)

Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI), University of Nairobi with funding from Netherlands hereby invite applications for two PhD scholarships under the project **Remote Sensing for Community-driven applications: from WA+ to co-learning** (RS-4C). Subject to satisfactory performance and legal requirements, each PhD scholar will obtain a degree from The University of Nairobi.

About the research project

Despite ongoing efforts to sustainably manage water for the wellbeing of society and the preservation of vital ecosystems, unsustainable, inequitable and uncoordinated practices are still ubiquitous. Integrated water resources management can play a significant role for sustainably and equitably managing water resources, however the availability, reliability and accessibility of relevant information is still a challenge. To overcome one hurdle of the data availability challenges, hydro-meteorological and hydrological data obtained from satellite remote sensing (RS) has been used to understand the earth and the atmospheric processes. However, while academic research on remote sensing advances at a fast pace, the actual use of these products for managing water faces a number of challenges.

The project Remote Sensing for Community-driven applications: from WA+ to co-learning aims to address these challenges by fostering trans- and interdisciplinary collaboration and co-learning between different academic disciplines and with diverse stakeholders, including grassroots organizations and communities.

Successful PhD applicant, will carry out interdisciplinary and innovative research in the Athi River Basin in Kenya to identify the data needs of the communities in the river basin, to develop innovative digital methods and tools using remotely sensed data products and ground based measurements to empower the communities of the river basin for meaningful participation in decision making for sustainably managing their water resources.

The PhD scholarship is available to start in early September 2024 for a period of up to 36 months.

Eligibility

A:- For the Spatial analysis and Remote sensing PhD scholarship, the call is open to Kenyan nationals with

- An MSc/MA in Environmental Science, Ecology and Conservation Science, Geospatial Sciences, Geographical information system, Remote Sensing, Geography, natural resources management, Hydrology and Water Resource Management, or a related field
- Strong understanding of application of remote sensing and spatial skills for water resources management is important

- Good analytical and programming skills
- Strong skills in handling and working with remote sensing data and spatial analysis tools,
- Strong understanding of interdisciplinary research, particularly in the areas related to application of remote sensing to water resources management.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders since the research will involve local communities and multi-stakeholders' engagement.
- Good communication and writing skills in English language.

The successful candidate is expected to commit full time to the PhD study and must be flexible in collaborating and sharing data with PhD scholars and research team in RS-4C project for mutual benefit and coherence. The candidates must be ready to stay in Netherlands for a period of three months.

B:- For the Socio-economic PhD, the call is open to Kenyan nationals with

- An MSc/MA in Development studies, Political Science, Political Ecology, Sociology, Environmental Science, and Conservation Science, environmental governance, natural resources management, Geography, or related studies
- Strong understanding of socio-economic data collection skills both qualitative and quantitative in natural resources including water resources
- Good analytical skills
- Strong skills in handling and working with qualitative and quantitative data analysis tools,
- Strong understanding of interdisciplinary research, particularly in the areas related to natural resources governance
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to collaborate effectively with diverse stakeholders since the research will involve local communities and multi-stakeholders' engagement.
- Good communication and writing skills in English language.

The candidate is expected to commit full time to the PhD study and must be flexible in collaborating and sharing data with PhD scholars and research team in RS-4C project for mutual benefit and coherence. The candidates must be ready to stay in Netherlands for period of three months.

We strongly encourage female applicants.

About the scholarships

Each scholarship includes funds for equipment and materials, fieldwork and other operational costs, participation in international courses and conferences, and monthly allowances for three years. Moreover, the PhD scholarship includes a period of three-months stay in Netherlands and which covers costs related to travel and accommodation and per diem during the stay in Netherlands. Successful applicants will have their principal supervisor at the WMI-UON and co-supervisors at the Netherlands, IHE Delft.

The successful student will be registered at the Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) University of Nairobi with a 3 months' study travel to Netherlands. Research work will be undertaken in Kenya within the Athi river basin, coordinated by Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies, University of Nairobi with supervision involving the Wild Life Training Research Institute and IHE Delft Institute for Water Education.

Requirements for the application and submission

Applicants should submit the following documents together **as one package**.

- Cover letter/Motivation letter. This should cover interest in water related sector, and longer-term career ambitions (150 words max);
- Curriculum Vitae
- Certified copy of Bachelor of Science/Art and Master of Science/Art and MSc/MA transcript of records
- Certified English translation of transcripts if not already in English
- Official explanation of the grading system if from outside the Kenyan Universities
- Two recommendation letters from academic referees
- A maximum of two-page doctoral study concept relevant to the research project. The synopsis should include a proposed title, background, problem statement, objectives, and indicative methodology.

The deadline for submission of application is **[18th June 2024, 11 PM].**

The application must be submitted electronically to wmi@uonbi.ac.ke, CC to violet.matiru@gmail.com, s.seyoum@un-ihe.org, judithnyunja@gmail.com

Note: Please indicated in the email subject **RS-4C PhD application Remote Sensing or Socio-economic**

Assessment process

- After the submission deadline, the applicants will be assessed academically.
- Shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview and a written aptitude test in late June 2024.
- The preferred doctoral studies starting date is September 1, 2024.
- The interviewing panel reserves the right not to consider material received after the deadline and not to consider applications that do not fulfil the requirements mentioned above.

Inquiries

Inquiries about this particular scholarship must be addressed to wmi@uonbi.ac.ke, CC to violet.matiru@gmail.com, s.seyoum@un-ihe.org, judithnyunja@gmail.com