

RUFORUM-MaRCCI

Call for Post- Doctoral Fellowships: RM/2022/Post Doc/02

Applications are invited for three post-doctoral fellowships to be based at Makerere University Regional Center for Crop Improvement (MaRCCI). This fellowship is aimed at supporting training and mentoring the most promising young scientists in Africa to become independent, internationally-recognized research leaders in the field of Plant Breeding, Biotechnology and Seed Systems. Successful applicants will develop their potential to become excellent researchers within a structured mentored training environment offered by MaRCCI, one of the African Higher Education Centres of Excellence. The successful applicants will work under the mentorship of MaRCCI scientists.

The Postdoctoral fellowships will be for 24 months. Applicants will be expected to have been awarded their PhD degrees not more than three years prior to launching their application. The fellowships should be designed to develop the applicant's potential to compete, in future, for International research funding. Fellows will be required to take advantage of the research, resources, excellent mentorship and strong research networks through MaRCCI to achieve high quality publications, international collaborations and research grants.

Applicants for the Fellowships must show a commitment to pursuing a research career in their home countries after the training and engaging policy makers and the public in their research work. The fellowships will be jointly funded by MaRCCI and RUFORUM through funding from the Carnegie Cooperation on New York. The support will include a stipend, and research support. MaRCCI will provide accommodation, and meet some of the field research costs of the three Fellows and the graduate students attached to the Fellows. ***Female applicants are especially encouraged to apply.***

Eligibility and Requirements

- This call targets former *PhD beneficiaries of Carnegie Cooperation of New York funded through RUFORUM* who have completed their studies. Other PhD graduates, especially women, who have trained under RUFORUM Regional Programmes may also apply. The Doctoral qualification should not be older than 3 years and **women are specifically encouraged to apply.**
- The applicant would need to be attached to MaRCCI for the Post-Doctoral fellowship, where his/her main university mentor will be based. MaRCCI should provide a support letter confirming willingness to host the Post-Doctoral fellow.
- As part of the Fellowship, the Post-Doc Fellow will be provided with research funds that will be linked to supporting research activity of at least one PhD and two Masters Students. The research areas could be directly linked to the field of training of the Post-Doctoral Fellow to be done under MaRCCI but could also cover new areas to broaden the perspective of the Fellow and promote inter-disciplinarity.

Applications should be submitted to RUFORUM Secretariat ([Please see guidelines](#) for more detailed information). The call will be open from 01 January 2022 and close **15th January 2022 at 17:00hrs (EAT)**.

For inquiries or any additional information, please contact Dr Runyararo J. Rukarwa (r.rukarwa@ruforum.org) at RUFORUM Secretariat and Dr. Richard Edema at MaRCCI (redema12@yahoo.com).

A GUIDE TO APPLYING FOR POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship Application Procedure

The applicants should submit:

- A research proposal, maximum 12 pages, 1.5 lines spacing, font 12 times new roman. The proposal should articulate the rationale for the Fellowship, provide an overview of the Post-Doctoral Fellowship Programme, the proposed research thrusts, methodology, feasible work plan and clear deliverables. Importantly, the proposal should clearly articulate how the fellow plans to integrate postgraduate students (2 Masters and 2 PhD) who will be part of the research team but at the same time will be required to use the opportunity to finalize their dissertations leading to award of a degree. It should clearly also indicate how the Fellow will provide mentoring support to the research students and others and build his/her international linkages.
- Result framework, budget and timeline
- A detailed motivation letter (max 2 pages), supported by a recommendation endorsement from their institution of employment.
- Copies of original tertiary qualifications and CV.

Financial Support

The fellowship includes:

- Stipend **\$1,200** per month for 24 months.
- Research funds: **\$24,300** to support the research activities of the Post-Doctoral Team that will include PhD and Masters Students to conduct research under the supervisor of the Fellow. In the post-doctoral arrangement, partial research support will be given to selected postgraduate students (at least one PhD student (**\$14,300**) and 2 MSc students (**\$10,000**) to cover field research costs, research paper publication and dissemination of findings,
- Special mentor support: **\$4,400** to be retained by RUFORUM Secretariat to support the Mentorship Programme. The cost of the mentor covers bench fees, hosting fees, and cost of the mentor visiting some of the research facilities and participating in convening's along with the Post-Doctoral Fellows.
- University administrative cost of **\$2,500**.

Please note that the budget ceiling for post doc Fellowships is \$ 60,000.

Proposal Submission

Please complete the application on line (to be open 01 January and close 15 January 2022).

1. Open this website link: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/>
2. If you do not have an account you will be asked to register here: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/contacts/register/>
3. After registering successfully you will be taken to your dashboard. What you see on your dashboard depends on the permissions that you have been assigned by the RIMS Administrator.
4. For most members of the RUFORUM network we have captured your emails in RIMS. So the system might tell you that your account already exists. If this is the case then follow the steps related to resetting your password / forgotten your password

What to do if you have forgotten your password or need to reset your password

1. Open this website link: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/>
2. Instead of logging on, Click "Forgot Password"
3. You will be asked to enter your email address and then click reset password
4. The link to enable you to reset your password will be sent to your email address. Please also check for this link in your spam folder in case it is delivered to your spam. Follow the instructions to reset your password
5. Use your email and the new password to log into RIMS
6. After successfully logging on you will be taken to your dashboard. What you see on your dashboard depends on the permissions that you have been assigned by the RIMS Administrator

How to log on if you have an existing account

1. Open this website link: <http://rims2.ruforum.org/>
2. Click to log into RIMS by entering your email as the username and your password

After successfully logging on you will be taken to your dashboard. What you see on your dashboard depends on the permissions that you have been assigned by the RIMS Administrator.

How to submit a fellowship grant application via RIMS

1. After successfully logging on click '**Apply for a Grant**'
2. Choose correct call ID which is **RM/2022/Post Doc/02**
3. Complete the online application form.

Please submit the detailed motivation letter, Copies of merged academic documents in the "**support letters**" Section clearly labelled.

Selection criteria

RUFORUM relies on the professional expertise, experience and judgment of the reviewers in the Proposal review process.

The following key aspects will form criteria of awarding the applicants;

- i. intrinsic interest and merit of the work proposed;
- ii. the effect of Fellowship on university and expected future contribution of the Fellow;
- iii. the research contribution towards national or regional development;
- iv. commitment to establish a research team and strengthen supervision skills of Masters and PhD students, and the potential spill over to undergraduate students;
- v. the potential contribution of the Fellow to building a critical mass of young scientists in Africa with a strong network to reinforce sharing of knowledge and approaches; and;
- vi. the feasibility of the work plan.

Time Frame

The foreseen time frame for the award process is as follows:

- a) Preannouncement of the call 1st October 2021-31st December 2021
- b) Submission will be open from 1st January 2022 to 15th January 2022 (17:00hrs EAT)
- c) Administrative check / Compliance Review and feedback to applicants by 31st January 2022.
- d) Review of Proposals completed by 15th February 2022.
- e) Communication to Successful applicants by 1st March 2022.
- f) RUFORUM Secretariat sends out Grant Award letters by 15th March 2022.
- g) Grant advances disbursed by 31st March 2022.

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR APPLICATION!