

Water Security to Promote Gender Equity and Climate-Change Resilience in West Africa

Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships for Advanced Scholars (QES-AS-West Africa)

2nd Call for Applications

The University of Saskatchewan (UofS) has acquired funding to support **Early Career Researcher (ECR) / Postdoctoral Fellow (PDF) / PhD scholars (at dissertation stage)** from West African countries and Canada for an interdisciplinary exchange program. This is the second call for which we are looking for **3 West African** and **2 Canadian** scholars.

In partnership with several universities in West Africa (e.g., University for Development Studies, University of Ghana, Université de Thiès in Senegal, or University of Fada N'Gourma in Burkina Faso), we work to improve the research capacity locally and globally related to water security and gender equity.

More specifically, we are looking for scholars with a background in hydrology, water-health, or agricultural/development economics with an interest in exploring gendered dimensions of a topic. In the context of rural West Africa, it is envisioned that scholars' research activities will contribute to the development of:

1. Sustainable water management strategies for water security;
2. Safe water, sanitation/ wastewater management, and hygiene for families' health;
3. Safe income opportunities for a diversified livelihood portfolio.

It is anticipated that scholars will be paired between Canada and West African universities to maximise research opportunities and partnership engagement. In addition to scholarly activities in the host universities, scholars will be required to work with a local government or civil society organisation for 30% of their time overseas. Current placement partners in Canada include the North Saskatchewan River Basin Council (NSRBC), and Fertilizer Canada (FC). However, partnerships may be expanded depending on the particular interests of successful QES-AS applicants.

As the program aims to contribute to gender equity, we particularly encourage women and scholars from francophone West African countries to apply.

Eligibility

You must be eligible to apply as a candidate in one of the three categories of Early Career Researcher, Post-doctoral Fellow, or PhD student.

The QES-AS-West Africa guidelines use the following definitions for eligibility purposes:

An Early Career Researcher: An individual with a PhD, who has demonstrated strong evidence of work as an independent researcher, has led his/her own laboratory or research project for 4-6 years or is in a tenure-track position at a degree-granting institution.

A Post-doctoral Fellow: An individual, who is conducting research after the completion of their PhD, who usually works under the mentorship of a lead researcher or a principal investigator. This does not refer to a formal position falling under a collective bargaining agreement at a Canadian university, it simply refers to someone who has completed their doctoral program.

A PhD Researcher: An individual who has completed all course work and is at the dissertation stage of their PhD.

Canadian scholars must meet the following criteria:

- Be proficient in English;

- Be a Canadian citizen or hold permanent residency;
- Be willing to participate in community engagement activities in a West African country;
- Be willing to conduct research on a full-time basis at a West African partner university, over a period of 3 months, of which at least 30% of award time must involve research at an organized non-academic research placement (off campus) during their stay

West African scholars must meet the following criteria:

- Be proficient in English;
- Be a citizen of a West African country;
- Be willing to participate in community engagement activities in Canada;
- Be willing to conduct research on a full-time basis at UofS, over a period of between 6 and 12 months, of which at least 30% of award time must involve research at an organized research placement partner (off campus) during their stay in Canada

All participation is subject to being able to secure the appropriate visas, immunisations, and health insurance.

Funds available can only be used to support eligible travel expenses, living costs, and research activities. You must be able to commit to a minimum of 35 days in the exchange country (excluding travel time) to be able to access these awards. The awards cover:

- Travel expenses (most direct and economical international airfare, airport taxes, visas, medical insurance, immunization and ground transportation);
- Any registration/tuition fees required by UofS;
- Living allowance (accommodation, local transportation, food, and communications);
- Research expenses (remuneration for research assistants, resources for the research, computer and laboratory services);
- Subsidies to support teaching replacements at the West African university;
- Costs association with conference participation.

Expenses for dependents are not eligible under these awards. Applicants should direct any further questions of clarification to Dr. Sabine Liebenehm (sabine.liebenehm@usask.ca).

The Application Process

Applications are now open for 2022. Those interested in participating must submit an application to Mrs. Joy Mitsogianni (joy.m@usask.ca). Review of applications will begin December 1, 2022, however, applications will be accepted and evaluated until the positions are filled.

Each application must consist of:

1. A letter (maximum 3 pages) that includes the following:
 - a. An introduction of yourself, your experience, and why you are interested in becoming a QES-AS scholar (max. 250 words).
 - b. Identification of a research theme that can be attributed to one of the four project objectives that you are interested in pursuing and why it is important to you and your career development (max. 350 words):
 - c. A description of the output that you envision creating as a result of your research (max. 500 words).
 - d. How you envision working with a partner organisation and is there a specific organisation that would be able to utilise this work (max. 350 words)?
 - e. Is there anything else that you think is important for us to know (max. 150 words)?
 - f. Anticipated dates for participation / travel.
 - g. Any accommodations that would be required
2. A signed copy of the Declaration of Eligibility form.
3. A curriculum vitae (CV) (max. 4 pages).

4. Names and contact information (email, position, affiliation, address, phone number) for three references.

Declaration of Eligibility

I, the undersigned, confirm that I am eligible to apply for a QES-AS-West Africa grant.

[Please check all of the following that apply]

I am currently enrolled as a PhD student at University of Saskatchewan¹

OR

I have completed my PhD and am eligible for a position as a Post-doctoral Fellow
Please state the university that conferred your PhD and the year you graduated:

OR

I have managed an independent research program for the last 4 to 6 years
Please state the institution where this research program is held:

OR

I am a tenure-track faculty member at a degree-granting university
Please state the university where you hold this position:

I am a citizen (or permanent resident) of:

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Benin | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ghana | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Burkina Faso | <input type="checkbox"/> | Guinea | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cabo Verde | <input type="checkbox"/> | Guinea-Bissau | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cameroon | <input type="checkbox"/> | Liberia | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Canada | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mali | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Central African Republic | <input type="checkbox"/> | Mauretania | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Chad | <input type="checkbox"/> | Niger | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Congo | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nigeria | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Cote d'Ivoire | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sao Tome and Principe | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dem. Republic of the Congo | <input type="checkbox"/> | Senegal | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Equatorial Guinea | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sierra Leone | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gabon | <input type="checkbox"/> | Togo | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gambia | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |

¹ You must have completed all parent program elements required prior to undertaking research before applying to this opportunity.

I have/am able to acquire relevant immunisations

I am not aware of any impediments to obtaining the appropriate visas to participate

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Supervisor / Departmental Approval:

Name: _____ Date: _____

Signature: _____

Program Requirements

The QES-AS-West Africa consists of five elements that each scholar accepted into the programme must engage in:

- 1) University research – a full time research project (70% of your time) with a specific deliverable, such as an academic paper, a research proposal, a white paper, or an innovative pedagogical application.
- 2) Local non-academic placement partner research - at least 30% of the time must be spent working with a local non-academic partner organisation in practical, hands-on research. Incoming scholars can conduct their placements in Canada or in an eligible West African country (see the list on page 3).
- 3) Local community engagement – formal or informal application of global experiences / knowledge to enhance the local community, on or off campus. This can be achieved through public speaking, networking, problem-solving, and leadership activities; participation in community events; peer mentoring; cross-cultural exchanges; or, volunteering.
- 4) Leadership training – develop and identify leadership skills and demonstrate how these skills have been applied throughout the exchange.
- 5) Contribute to development of the QES global network – engage in networking activities, social media, and other opportunities.

Expected deliverables of QES-AS-West Africa participants include at least one research deliverable, an activity log that records time spent on activities, a description of the activity, any in-kind or financial support leveraged in order to participate in the activity, role in the activity, impact of participation, and any reflections on the activity. Scholars will submit a Scholar Narrative Report at the end of their QES award reporting on the five elements, supported by the research outputs and activity log.

“The Canadian Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Scholarships (QES) is managed through a unique partnership of Universities Canada, the Rideau Hall Foundation (RHF), and Canadian universities. The QES-AS- West Africa is made possible with financial support from IDRC.”