

CALL FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

IMPACT-ED Project

Grant Agreement No. 101234251

Funded by the European Union

1. Background

Africa is the most climate-vulnerable landmass on earth, yet it remains the least resourced, equipped, and prepared to confront the escalating crisis of climate change. This paradox — acknowledged within the binding commitments of the Paris Agreement (Article 12, 2015) and the continental vision of the African Union's Agenda 2063 — demands urgent, bold, and sustainable action. As reinforced by UNESCO's ESD for 2030 Framework, the Africa Climate Change Education Framework (ACEF, 2022), and the UNFCCC Nairobi Work Programme, education is the most powerful tool available to bridge Africa's widening gap between climate vulnerability and preparedness

Terrestrial plants serve as the frontline indicators of climate change. Shifts in plant health, distribution, and diversity trigger cascading consequences across entire ecosystems — disrupting biochemical cycles, degrading abiotic conditions, diminishing ecosystem productivity, and destroying faunal habitats. Monitoring and protecting plant diversity is therefore not merely an environmental concern; it is a matter of ecological survival for the African continent and its people.

To address this crisis, five leading African universities — the University of Namibia, Kibabii University (Kenya), Kyambogo University (Uganda), the University of Eswatini, and the University of Nigeria Nsukka — have formed a powerful consortium, supported by the University of Turku (Finland) as a technical partner. Together, they have launched the **Integrating Mobility, Digital Tools, and Climate Education to Address Terrestrial Plant Diversity and Conservation in a Changing Climate (IMPACT-ED)** project, a transformative, continent-wide initiative designed to build a new generation of climate-responsive African graduates and professionals.

IMPACT-ED aims to embed climate change responsiveness directly into university curricula anchored in the latest digital technologies. Students, researchers, and staff participating in this project will gain hands-on, practical training in cutting-edge climate skills, including climate sensing and real-time environmental monitoring; big data collection, processing and analysis; detection and automated monitoring of terrestrial plants; and the study of waste pollution arising from manufacturing and its ecological footprint. These practical competencies will be reinforced through a suite of online learning

modules and the practical participation of all scholarship holders in biodiversity conservation through botanical gardens across all partner institutions.

IMPACT-ED is now calling for applications from Master's students, PhD candidates (credit and degree-seeking), academic trainees, and university staff to participate in a fully supported academic mobility and exchange programme across the consortium institutions. Selected participants will be immersed in interdisciplinary training environments, exposed to innovative digital tools, and equipped with green career skills that are increasingly in demand across research, industry, government, and conservation sectors. This scholarship is more than an academic opportunity — it is an invitation to be part of a movement that will reshape how Africa understands, monitors, and responds to climate change. The time to act is now, and IMPACT-ED is where that action begins. Applicants for master's and PhDs can apply from the list of programmes listed in the table.

Partner	University of Namibia (Namibia)	Kibabii University (Kenya)	University of Eswatini (Eswatini)	University of Nigeria (Nigeria)	Kyambogo University (Uganda)
Masters	1. Biodiversity Management 2. Renewable Energy (Material Science) 3. Information Technology 4. Renewable Energy (Photovoltaics)	1. Physics 2. Information Technology 3. Curriculum and Instruction 4. Business administration 5. Computer Science 6. Digital forensics 7. Microbiology	1. Textile 2. Food Science and Nutrition 3. Horticulture 4. Consumer Science 5. Agriculture and Biosystem 6. Engineering	1. Climate Change and Sustainable Development 2. Geographic Information Systems (GIS) 3. Renewable Energy 4. Botany, Agricultural Economics 5. Food Science and Technology 6. Computer Science, Zoology and Environmental Botany 7. Environmental Management and Green Energy 8. Agricultural and Bioresources Engineering 9. Sustainable Energy Management	1. Geographical Sciences 2. Remote Sensing and GIS 3. Conservation and natural resources management 4. Soil Science

No. of MSc. Positions	5	5	5	5	5
PhD	1. Education (Science Education) 2. Education (Curriculum and Assessment Studies)	1. Physics 2. Information Technology 3. Curriculum and Instruction 4. Business administration	1. Textile 2. Food Science and Nutrition Technology 3. Horticulture, Consumer Science Education 4. Agriculture and Biosystem Engineering	1. Agricultural and Bioresources Engineering 2. Environmental Botany 3. Renewable Energy 4. Climate Change and Sustainable Development	1. Geography
No. of PhD positions	1	1	1	1	1
Trainees	3	3	3	3	3
Staff	1	1	1	1	1

2. Objectives of the Scholarship Scheme

The objectives of this call are to:

1. Support academically excellent students whose interests align with the thematic priorities of the IMPACT-ED project.
2. Equip postgraduate students and staff with practical, hands-on skills in digital tools and climate-related technologies.
3. Build interdisciplinary capacity for climate change responsiveness among students and staff across African higher education institutions.
4. Develop green career readiness and innovation skills among mobility participants through exposure to emerging environmental challenges.
5. Prepare industry-ready trainees with applied climate and environmental skills through structured internship placements.
6. Promote skills development and international exposure.

3. Thematic and research priorities

1. The IMPACT-ED project research areas include Biodiversity conservation (terrestrial plants)
2. Climate change and adaptations

3. Climate change modelling and monitoring
4. Climate change Policy frameworks

4. The scholarship shall cover the following:

Category	Monthly Allowance
MSc Students	890 EUR per month
PhD Students	1,230 EUR per month
Staff Members	2,370 EUR per month
Trainees	1,230 EUR per month

What is covered:

- Subsistence allowances
- Tuition fees (PhD and MSc) as per host institution rates.
- Costs related to training (like research costs: subject to approval)
- Participation to conferences organised by IMPACT-ED (with approval)
- Basic Insurance costs

Additional support for student with special needs will be provided, this is only applicable to applicants whose physical, mental or medical situation make it difficult to participate in the mobility.

5. Eligibility Criteria for students

Category	Mobility Type	Key Eligibility Requirements
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MSc Applicants	Full Degree Seeking	Applicants intending to enroll in and complete a full MSc degree at a host institution within the IMPACT-ED consortium. Must possess a Bachelor's degree in a relevant discipline. Must have been admitted into their chosen programme of study at host university
	Credit-Seeking Mobility	Applicants who are already enrolled in an MSc programme at African university and who wish to undertake short-term mobility for coursework or research at IMPACT-ED partner institution. Must have completed at least one semester of postgraduate study and obtained approval from their home institution and supervisor.
PhD Applicants	Credit-Seeking / Research Mobility	Applicants must be registered for a PhD at a African HEI and have an approved PhD research topic aligned with the objectives of the IMPACT-ED project. Applicants must provide a mobility plan outlining research activities at the host institution and obtain approval from their supervisor and home institution.
Trainee Applicant		Must be a current Bachelors degree, masters or PhD student enrolled in one of the Partner University. The student must have completed all the prerequisite courses for internship.
General conditions		All applicants should no have benefited in similar MOBAF project during 2020-2027 period.

Staff and Trainee Selection Criteria

Applications will be evaluated based on the following profiles for staff and trainees:

(i) Profile of the staff position

The academic staff are employees of one of the higher education institutions involved in the IMPACT-ED project. They will be selected based on the needs expressed in their motivation letter, their background, and the importance of the capacity-building activity (requested mobility) for their home institution. They will be asked to provide a plan to share the knowledge acquired during the mobility with other staff at their home-country institution who will not benefit from the mobility.

(ii) Profile of Trainee's position

Trainees are students enrolled in a bachelor's/master's/PhD programme at one of the higher education institutions involved in the IMPACT-ED project. Selected participants will be

immersed in interdisciplinary training environments, exposed to innovative digital tools, and equipped with green career skills that are increasingly demanded across research, industry, government and conservation sectors.

General Requirements (Applicable to All Applicants)

- Must be a national and resident of an African country or staff of the technical partner University.
- Demonstrate an interest in climate change, terrestrial plant biodiversity, conservation, and environmental sustainability.
- Demonstrate proficiency in English or the language of instruction of the host institution.
- Applicants should have relevant knowledge or interest in climate change impacts, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem restoration, and digital tools in environmental monitoring.

Important: Nationals are not eligible to apply for scholarships to be undertaken in their home country.

The programme strongly encourages applications from women, youth, and other under-represented groups.

Selected candidates must comply with all academic, reporting, and mobility requirements of the IMPACT-ED project

6. Responsibilities of Scholarship Holders

Selected students will:

1. Participate actively in IMPACT-ED activities and work packages.
2. Contribute to research, innovation, or dissemination tasks.
3. Submit progress reports when required.
4. Comply with ethical and EU visibility requirements.

7. Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted electronically in **English** with the following documents.

Required Documents (For All Applicants)

1. Completed Scholarship Application Form
2. Updated Curriculum Vitae (maximum 2 pages)
3. Motivation Letter
4. Support letter from the home Higher Education Institution (HEI) for credit seeking.
5. Copy of National ID or Passport

Position-Specific Documents

MSc Applicants

1. Research concept note / proposal (**2–3 pages**)
2. Proof of admission or enrolment in an MSc programme
3. Academic transcripts

PhD Applicants

1. Research concept note / proposal (**2–3 pages**)
2. Admission letter or proof of registration for a PhD programme
3. Letter of support from the academic supervisor

Staff Applicants

1. Study or work plan
2. Certificate of previous degree(s)
3. Employment certificate from the home institution

Trainee Applicants

1. Motivation letter explaining intended learning outcomes (**maximum 1 page**)
2. Proof of enrolment at the home institution

Applications must be submitted electronically to: impact-ed@unam.na

8. Duration and available scholarships

The duration of mobility depends on the category of applicants and follows the IMPACT-ED mobility framework and host university regulations:

- **Master's mobility:** 4 to 24 months

- **PhD mobility:** 6 to 36 months
- **Trainee mobility:** 3 to 6 months
- **Staff mobility:** 2 weeks to 3 months

For each partner institution, this call targets:

- **9 MSc students**
- **2 PhD students**
- **4 trainees**
- **2 staff members**

9. Timelines (Important dates)

Activity	Date
Call announced	1 st May 2026
Information Webner	5 th June 2026
Call closed	19 th June 2026
Results release	30 th June 2026
Appeals	July 8 th 2026
Joining the program	As per Host Institution Academic calendar

All application documents should be sent electronically to: impact-ed@unam.na and copy to impacte-ed@kibu.ac.ke Subject to read: *Scholarship application#Surname*

The IMPACT-ED selection committee may conduct interviews with shortlisted applicants.

Call announcement date: 1st May 2026

Deadline for applications: **19th June 2026**

Please address any questions to: The Project PI – Impact-ED impact-ed@unam.na
indication “*Scholarship question*” as the subject

NB: Applications must represent the applicant’s own original work. Any evidence of plagiarism or misrepresentation may result in disqualification from the selection process.