



NTNU - Trondheim
Norwegian University of
Science and Technology



PhD Scholarship Announcement (1 Position)

Makerere University, through the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Climatic Sciences and the School of Social Sciences & Makerere University Business School, in collaboration with the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (Norway), University of Stavanger (Norway), University of Juba (South Sudan) and Technical University of Kenya (Kenya) are jointly implementing a **NORHED II Project (2021 - 2026): 'Capacity Building for Socially Just and Sustainable Energy Transitions in East Africa'**.

About the project

The East African region has embraced the global drive to transition to low carbon economies and clean energy. However, a key challenge is the persistent lack of knowledge, capacity and skilled personnel to support the transition. The project focuses on building capacity and competence through education, research and outreach to ensure that the region has a workforce with the relevant skills set and knowledge required to implement and demand for a just and sustainable low-carbon energy transition agenda.

In order to ensure state-of-the-art research, research-based education, institutional capacity-building and dissemination, the project interventions will be informed by four cross-cutting research themes (RTs):

- RT 1: Geographies of energy transition in East Africa
- RT 2: Stranded assets and green growth in East Africa: Role for state and non-state actors
- RT 3: Inclusive engagement in energy transitions: Gender, participation and justice
- RT 4: Energy infrastructure, environmental impacts and changing social practices

The PhD position at the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Climatic Sciences, Makerere University will focus on RT 1: Geographies of energy transition in East Africa.

About the RT1: The successful candidate will be expected to creatively focus his/her study on at least one large and one small solar plant in a case country, as well as one novel case such as a mini-grid or community energy model for solar PV rollout. The study is expected to among other themes, examine the relationship between specific energy geographies and the nature of solar rollout: how they affect each other, and how they vary by scale.

How to apply: Interested applicants should submit applications by e-mail to Prof Frank Mugagga (frank.mugagga@mak.ac.ug / fmugagga@gmail.com) and Dr. Charlotte Nakakaawa Jjunju (charlotte.jjunju@ntnu.no), including:

- 1) a brief statement of interest or cover letter describing your motivation to apply (max 1 page);
- 2) a concept note or description of research ideas of not more than 4 pages, outlining the focus, possible research questions, and the methodological and theoretical focus;
- 3) a curriculum vitae (CV) of max 4 pages;

5) publications if any; and as it is often difficult to judge the applicant's contribution to publications with multiple authors, a short description of the applicant's contribution must be included.

6) contact information (with phone numbers and e-mail addresses) for two persons who may act as referees.

Application deadline: Soft copies of the applications must be received by **15th August 2021** to the above indicated email addresses.

Eligibility requirements, qualifications and experience: The applicant should have completed a Master's Degree in any of the following Disciplines; - Geography/Geographical Sciences, Land use and Regional Development, Development Studies, Social Sciences or any other closely related subject. Applicants should have an excellent academic and educational record (Minimum: Upper Second for undergraduate and an average of B for the Masters) and strong analytical and writing skills (any peer-reviewed publications or previous research experience will be an advantage). Successful applicants will be expected to contribute to the project's publication targets and will be encouraged to publish in international, peer-reviewed ISI journals. The candidates should be able to work independently but also as part of the project team.

Age limits: Not more than **40 years** (female applicants) and **35** (male applicants) at the time of application.

PhD study conditions: The successful applicant is expected to register on the PhD-program at the Department of Geography, Geoinformatics and Climatic Sciences at Makerere University. The candidate will spend 5 months in Norway (on student exchange) to participate in the research groups and take some courses on sustainability transitions. The candidate will be jointly supervised by Scholars from Makerere University, supported by colleagues from the Project Team.

The selection process: Applications will be evaluated by an independent evaluation committee. The Project Team will make the final selection of successful candidates based on recommendations from the evaluation committee.

Expected start date: The planned starting date is **1st October 2021**. The PhD contract will include a Go/No-Go decision moment after one year, which is taken based on the performance of the PhD student and compliance with the research plan.

PhD Duration and Scholarship: The PhD candidate will be expected to complete studies within 4 years (43 months at Makerere University and 5 months on student exchange in Norway). The successful candidates will have a competitive scholarship covering tuition, functional fees, research and travel costs to Norway and stipend for 4 years.

For specific inquiries about the scholarship, please contact Prof Frank Mugagga Email: frank.mugagga@mak.ac.ug / fmugagga@gmail.com; or Dr. Charlotte Nakakaawa Jjunju (charlotte.jjunju@ntnu.no).

Female candidates from marginalized groups are encouraged to apply.