

The PASET-Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund (RSIF)

RSIF's Doctoral Training Sandwich Program

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The **PASET** Regional Scholarship and Innovation Fund

An Africa-led initiative to bridge the skills gap in Applied Sciences, Engineering, & Technology



Regional Coordination Unit



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RSIF aims to:



Build **sustainable doctoral training, research and innovation ecosystems to develop transformative technologies** in Africa for economic growth and development



Build the **capacity of core SSA universities (RSIF African Host Universities)** to establish **international-quality PhD training, research and innovation** for the benefit of the region



Funds **doctoral training, research and innovation** in priority fields of Applied Sciences, Engineering and Technology



Develop **partnerships and networks** between Host Universities, international and regional research centres, universities, private sector and industry



Increase **participation of women** in PhD programs, research and innovation in ASET fields in SSA

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The Sandwich Program seeks to realize these two objectives:



Build the **capacity of core SSA universities (RSIF African Host Universities)** to establish **international-quality PhD training, research and innovation** for the benefit of the region



Develop **partnerships and networks** between Host Universities, international and regional research centres, universities, private sector and industry

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Focus on 5 priority thematic areas



ICTs including big data and artificial intelligence



Food security and agribusiness



Minerals, mining and materials engineering



Energy including renewables



Climate change

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Scholarships Awarded

278 PhD Scholarships

- Cohort 1: 15
- Cohort 2: 64
- Cohort 3: 94
- Cohort 4: 105



278 Sandwich placements in International Partner Institutions

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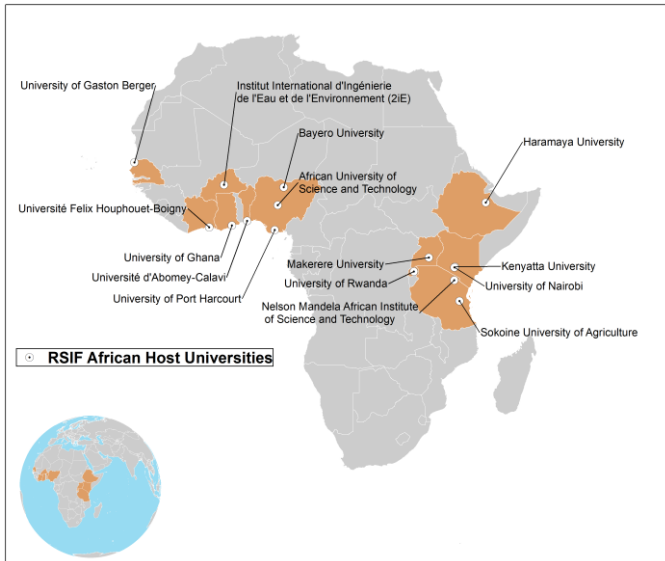
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15 African Host Universities



- Institut International d'Ingénierie de l'Eau et de l'Environnement (2iE)
- Bayero University
- African University of Science and Technology
- University of Port Harcourt
- Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology
- Université Felix Houphouet-Boigny
- Université Gaston Berger
- Université Abomey-Calavi
- University of Ghana
- Sokoine University of Agriculture
- University of Nairobi
- Kenyatta University
- Haramaya University
- University of Rwanda
- Makerere University

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RSIF International Partner Institutions (IPIs)

- IPIs are universities, research institutes/centers or companies (public or private)
- Willing to develop close partnership with one or more African Host Universities (AHUs)
- Willing to host PhD sandwich opportunities – 6 months to 2 years – to RSIF PhD scholars
- Open to work with AHUs to improve quality of relevant PhD programs
- Willing to work on collaborative research & innovation projects with AHUs



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Identification of prospective IPIs

- Prospective IPIs are identified through:
 - Recommendations by key stakeholders, including the PASET Consultative Advisory Group (CAG), current IPIs and AHUs, existing international partners of AHUs, and World Bank.
 - Search by the RCU-*icipe* based on identified needs for student attachments.
 - A survey of top **Universities/Research Centres/Companies** that are working as leaders in their fields with a strong culture of research to innovation to find solutions to problems similar to those being addressed by RSIF scholars.
 - An open call if necessary.



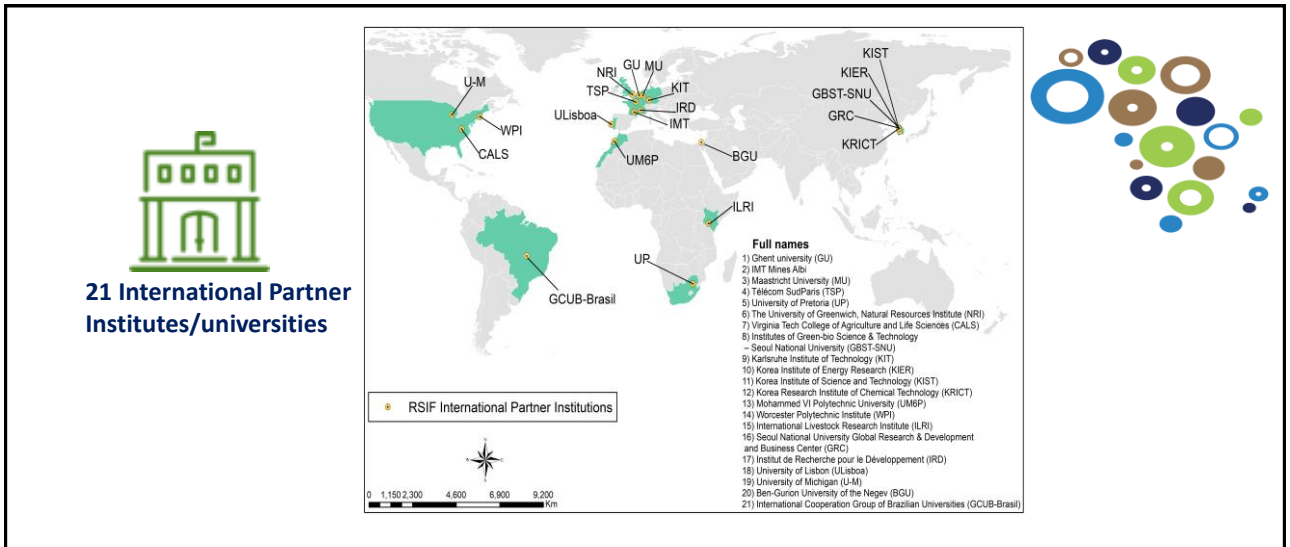
These are subject to a selection criteria and approval by RSIF management

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The RSIF Sandwich Program

- A requirement of the doctoral training that the scholar does some of the research work in an IPI
- Intended to provide a richer research experience
- Provide opportunities for research and training collaboration
- Provide access to State-of-the-Art research centres and universities
- Willing to prioritise African research challenges

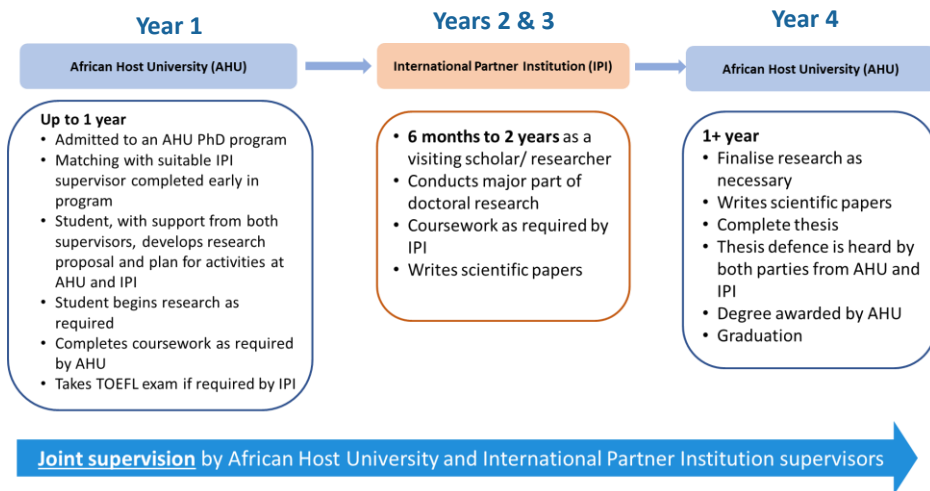
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RSIF PhD Sandwich Model



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Initiating Sandwich Placement

- Research concept is well-defined
- Tentative Research Title proposed
- Search for a suitable IPI from those in partnership with PASET-RSIF (PASET-RSIF website)
- Use educational search engines (Google Scholar, Research Gate, etc.) to identify potential supervisor at the IPI
- Scholar and AHU supervisor reaches out to PASET-RSIF RCU to make the connection to the IPI potential supervisors**
- RSIF makes the connection through the RSIF coordinator at the IPI
- Discuss concept/proposal with potential supervisor at IPI
- Formalize the matching with the IPI
- Refine the research title and proposal



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RSIF Scholar matching process contd.



- Tripartite discussion initiated on email or meeting - agreeing on modalities for the placement (research, logistics and cost)
- A tripartite agreement is drawn (if not already in place)
 - requires legal counsel review and input by partner institutions
 - Signed by institutional representatives

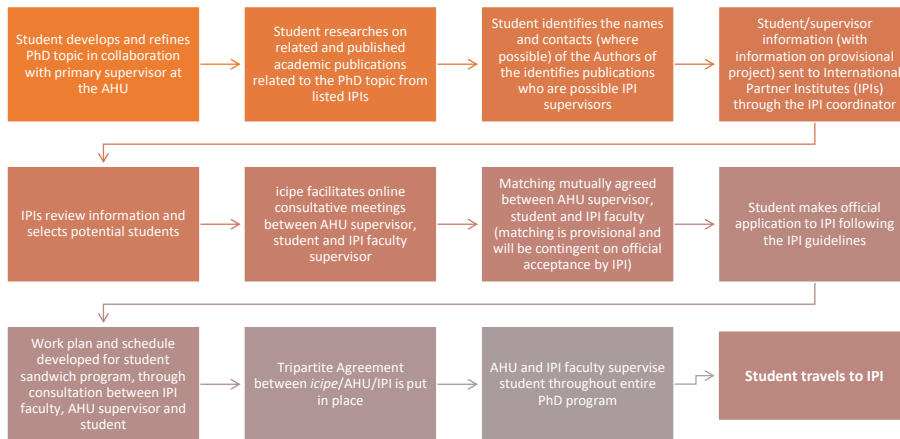
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RSIF Scholar matching process



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Financial support for sandwich placement



- Research cost
 - some IPIs supplement research costs
- Return travel and visa
- Relocation allowance
- Living and accommodation expenses
- Medical insurance

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Placement dictated by IPI requirements or location



- Only faculty members
- Scholars placed in only in projects with research funding
- Type of visa – e.g. UK 6 months
- Cost of living

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Areas to consider in the process



- Tripartite agreement must be in place
- Type of visa may determine what scholar can access in terms of services in the IPI country:
 - Accommodation
 - Ability to open a bank account
 - Ability to register a mobile phone line
 - Level of taxation pegged on status
 - Issuance of student/researcher ID by the IPI
- Carefully review institutional regulations/requirements for receiving visiting scholars

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RSIF PhD Sandwich Program



Thank you
Merci beaucoup
Obbrigado

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Acknowledgement

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