

2019 REGIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND INNOVATION FUND

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Who is eligible to apply for an RSIF scholarship?

Applicants must meet the following criteria to be eligible for the scholarship program:

- a. Applicants must hold a Master's degree in a relevant field of study in that is relevant to at least one of the five PASET-RSIF thematic areas:
 - Information Communications Technology (ICT)
 - Food security
 - Climate Change
 - Minerals Mining and Materials Engineering
 - Mining, materials and minerals engineering.
- b. Applicants must be citizens of a sub-Saharan Africa country
- c. Preference will be given to university academic staff who do not hold a PhD degree. Women are especially encouraged to apply.
- d. Applicants must be willing to enroll full-time in the PhD program
- e. Applicants must be willing to participate in the "Sandwich" training component of the program whereby students would complete part of their training at a regional or international partner university/ institution.
- f. Applicants must be admitted to one of the ten RSIF African Host Universities for the 2019/2020 cohort.

2. Are all RSIF scholars required to participate in a sandwich program away from the African Host University in which they are registered?

All RSIF scholars are required to participate in a "sandwich" training /research attachment from between 6 months to 24 months at a regional or international partner institution/university. Students will be matched with a suitable institution that will allow them to continue their research pursuing solutions to African problems.

3. What characteristics should an ideal RSIF Scholar possess

Apart from the eligibility criteria, priority will be given to the following applicants:

- a) Junior African faculty/academic staff with 1-5 years of teaching/research experience but no PhD
- b) Women
- c) Have a compelling life history and academic trajectory
- d) Demonstrate a commitment to pursuing an academic career beyond the scholarship period
- e) Demonstrate leadership potential, such as community service in areas related to PASET

4. How many scholarships will be awarded this round (2019/2020)?

Up to 45 scholarships will be awarded in this second round.

5. I would like to apply for the RSIF scholarship. Which universities can I apply to?

The RSIF Scholarship is tenable at the 10 RSIF African Host Universities and within PhD Programs in the universities. Visit the websites below to learn more about each of the RSIF African Host Universities and eligible PhD programs:

- i. University of Felix Houphouet-Boigny, Cote d'Ivoire/ Africa Center of Excellence for Climate Change Biodiversity and Sustainable Agriculture (CCBAD), <http://www.wascal-ci.org/>
- ii. University of Gaston Berger, Senegal/ Africa Center of Excellence for Mathematics, Informatics, and ICT (MITIC), <http://www.ceamitic.sn/index.php>
- iii. Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania/ Africa Center of Excellence for Infectious Diseases of Humans and Animals in Southern and Eastern Africa (SACIDS) <http://www.sacids.org/>
- iv. The Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology (NM-AIST), Tanzania, <http://www.wisefutures.ac.tz/>
- v. University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, PhD Program in Petroleum and Gas Engineering / Energy Economics, <http://www.aceuniport.org/index.php?lang=en>
- i. University of Nairobi, Kenya , PhD Program in Physics, http://physics.uonbi.ac.ke/uon_degrees_details/1014
- ii. University of Ghana, PhD. Applied Agricultural Economics and Policy/Agribusiness, <https://www.ug.edu.gh/aea/>
- iii. University of Rwanda, PhD in Internet of Things: Embedded Computing Systems <https://aceiot.ur.ac.rw/?q=content/phd-studies>
- iv. Bayero University, Nigeria, PhD Program in Natural Resource Management and Climate Change, <http://www.cda-buk.edu.ng/>
- v. Kenyatta University, Kenya PhD Program in Materials Science, <http://spas.ku.ac.ke/index.php/departments/department-of-physics>

6. Can I apply to more than one RSIF African Host University?

Yes, but you will need to complete an application for each RSIF AHU you are applying to.

7. In addition to the RSIF PhD scholarship application, should I also make an application for admission directly to the university of my choice?

No, you will be required to submit only one application through the RSIF online application system. Once the RCU completes the pre-assessment process, including checking for application completeness all application materials will be shared with the relevant RSIF African Host University.

8. Can I apply to any PhD program at an RSIF African Host University?

No, RSIF Scholarships are restricted to a specific PhD program at each African Host University.

9. Are there any age restrictions for applicants?

No. There is no age restriction for applicants for the RSIF program, however priority is given to young faculty without PhDs.

10. Are sub-Saharan African citizens who reside abroad eligible to apply?

Yes, any citizen of a sub-Saharan African country may apply for the scholarship program.

11. Can I apply I to study on a part-time basis?

No. Only students who are willing to enroll in a full-time PhD program are eligible for the RSIF scholarship program.

12. What are the financial benefits of the RSIF scholarship?

The program provides financial support for up to 4 years. Students admitted to the program will receive a stipend to cover expenses such as travel to/from home country, health insurance, living expenses, etc. The scholarship will also cover tuition, and some research expenses. Moreover, RSIF scholars will have access to competitive research grant awards by submitting proposals in collaboration with their faculty and international partners.

13. As an RSIF Scholar, would I be able to receive additional awards/funding/scholarships to supplement my learning?

Yes, you can receive other awards. If you existing scholarship award covers your tuition, you will only receive a stipend from the RSIF. If you award covers only a portion of your tuition, the university will adjust your unmet financial need accordingly and RSIF will cover the remaining balance. All other forms of award must be disclosed to icipe and the university.

14. Does the scholarship provide benefits for families?

No, the scholarship only provides financial support to the applicant. There is no separate dependent support.

15. Do I need to be proficient in both French and English to be eligible for the program?

Proficiency in at least one of the languages is mandatory. Please note that some universities offer courses in only one language. For this round, two of the universities selected are Francophone and the other are Anglophone

16. What kind of housing is available to RSIF students?

Please refer to the Host University website or contact a Host University representative for more details.

17. How will I receive my scholarship?

Tuition fees are paid directly to the university in advance, and the stipend will be sent directly to scholars personal account on a quarterly basis (every 3 months). These

responsibilities are outlined in a Scholar Agreement, which each selected scholar is required to sign before the disbursement of the award.

18. How do I apply for the RSIF scholarship program?

Applicants should submit an online application and supporting documents to the RSIF Scholarship program available at this link: <https://app.rsif-paset.org/rsif-applications-2019/index.php>

19. How many references do I need for my application?

We require you to submit the names and email addresses of at least two referees who are willing to provide information on your qualifications and experience (professional and academic). We will request references if you are shortlisted for the scholarship.

20. How are RSIF scholars selected?

The RSIF scholarship is a highly competitive program that seeks to recruit students with an excellent academic track record, proven leadership skills and ambitious goals to participate in the long-term development of ASET fields in sub-Saharan Africa. RSIF scholarship applications will undergo a rigorous review and selection process including; eligibility screening, African Host University screening using university criteria; interview and final selection by a panel of thematic area experts and final endorsement by the Executive Board of PASET. An applicant will be successfully accepted into the RSIF program once the he/she has successfully made it through all rounds if selected.

21. Do I need to apply for admission to my chosen RSIF African Host University before I apply for the RSIF scholarship?

No, candidates are first required to apply for an RSIF scholarship. If you are awarded an RSIF scholarship, then you will be instructed to make an official application for admission to the university. You must meet the eligibility requirements of the university you are applying to.

22. When is the deadline to submit my application?

The deadline to submit applications is July 22, 2019, 5:00pm EAT. Late applications will not be considered.

23. How will I be notified of my application decision?

All applicants will receive final notification from PASET-RSIF via email correspondence by September 2019.

24. Who can I contact if I have more questions about the RSIF program?

Please send any questions via email to Sagal Abdulle at sabdulle@icipe.org.

25. I am having trouble with my online application. Who can I contact?

For any technical issues, please contact Wilberforce Wanjala at wwanjala@icipe.org