MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

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COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES
Office of the Principal

Inter-disciplinary PhD Programme by Research in the Fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences

Friday, November 20, 2026

Call for Applications

Background

With funding from the Gerda Henkel Foundation of Dusseldorf Germany, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences at Makerere University seeks to admit 10 students for the 2027 intake leading to the award of a PhD in the fields of **Humanities and Social Sciences** of Makerere University. Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences include but are not limited to a cluster of subjects (disciplines) that study human society with a particular sensitivity to the shifting historical contexts over time with various kinds of evidence to support analyses of what informs and shapes the changes and the implications of such changes in human society. Therefore, preference will be accorded to projects that approach the study of the Humanities and Social Sciences in the following fields:

a) The Classics, namely Literature, Philosophy, Epic, and Drama,
b) Prehistory/Early History of Africa
c) Archaeology
d) Modern African History
e) Sociology
f) Anthropology
g) Language and Linguistics
h) Creative Arts in Africa
i) Religion in Africa
j) Political theory
k) Gender Studies

General Requirements

Research experience in the Humanities and Social Sciences at a University or a Research Institute and a strong foundation in writing and research methods is desirable. The applicant should have excellent oral and written communication skills. This is a PhD by research; therefore, applicants should demonstrate capacity for independent work. They should also have excellent interpersonal and problem-solving skills.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates should:

a) Be Ugandan nationals or nationals of a sub-Saharan African country (attach a biodata page of your passport or National Identity Card to your application). Eligible candidates from Francophone and Lusophone Africa are encouraged to apply.
b) Hold **Master's degree** in the **Humanities and/or Social Sciences discipline** from a recognised university related to the candidate's intended area of PhD specialisation (**for example, if you are applying for a PhD is Sociology, you must have an MA in Sociology**).
c) Hold an **honours undergraduate degree** in the **Humanities and/or Social Sciences** from a recognised university related to the candidate's intended PhD specialisation.
d) Be fluent or show proof of fluency in English Language. Applicants whose working knowledge in English is limited will enrol for additional intensive language proficiency lessons.

e) Provide two reference letters from two academic referees who are familiar with his/her work. **Note:** the referee(s) named on the application form should be the one(s) to supply the reference letter(s).
f) Confirm that s/he will be available from July 31, 2027, to undertake a three-year full-time study at Makerere University. Upon admission, s/he will be required to show proof of a study leave from their employer.
g) Provide the address and contact (email and phone number) of next of kin.
h) **Be under the age of 40 years (male) or 45 years (female)** by July 31, 2027. Qualified female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.
i) Attach copies of their MA and Undergraduate Transcripts and Certificates that are duly certified either by the awarding institution or the respective national accreditation body.

Funding

The programme is fully funded by the Gerda Henkel Foundation and is tenable at Makerere University. The scholarship will cover all costs of PhD training listed below.

a) Tuition
b) Stipend
c) Medical insurance
d) An ICT equipment and materials allowance will be advanced to the fellows upon registration.
e) Books allowance
f) Travel to take up the fellowship for non-Ugandan fellows
g) Conference attendance allowance
h) Fieldwork allowance.

Timeline

Starting with academic year 2025, all Makerere University PhDs are three-year programmes. Consequently, the 2027 cohort will start in July 2027, and their studies will end in August 2030. Below is an indicative timeline for the programme.

i. July 2027 to March 2028: Proposal Development
ii. April 2028 to April 2029: Fieldwork
iii. May 2029 to August 2030: Dissertation Writing

Upon admission, the Fellows will receive a detailed almanac that will provide the details of expected study timelines and their respective outputs.

How to apply

Completed application form (saved in MS word: your surname underscore application e.g., Kamara_Application) with supporting documents (**in one** PDF format) must be submitted by **Friday, January 29, 2027** to:

The Principal,
College of Humanities and Social Sciences
Makerere University
P. O. Box 7062
Kampala
Email: graduate.college.chuss@mak.ac.ug, copy graduate.college.chuss@gmail.com

For Further Information

In case of any questions regarding the programme or your application, kindly contact the following:

1. Dr Edgar Nabutanyi (Programme Coordinator)
   Email: mailto: edgar.nabutanyi@mak.ac.ug
2. Dr Levis Mugumya (Programme Administrator)
   Email: mailto: levis.mugumya@mak.ac.ug
3. Ms Esther Namitala
   Email: mailto:namitalaesther@gmail.com