

College of Humanities and Social Sciences Makerere University
Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the Fields of Historical
Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences
Call for Fellowship Applications

Background

On the advice of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the government of Uganda divested itself from higher education generally, and University education particularly in the 1990s. Starved of funds by the government and anticipating revenue windfall from paying students, Makerere University and indeed many public universities in the region opened their doors to private students. The expansion in university enrolment was a double-edged sword. On the one hand, it created access to university education for many qualifying and deserving students and also brought financial relief to universities for some time. On the other hand, the expansion put a strain on both human and physical resources meant for small numbers of elitist colonial universities. Ironically, although there was an unprecedented increase of students in the liberalised universities, the lack of clear career prospects and constant denigration by government officials about the value of Humanities and Social Sciences to the national development project resulted in a reduction not only of undergraduate, but also postgraduate students in Humanities and Social Sciences in universities in the region. In fact, it is a potential challenge that when the current crop of senior scholars in these disciplines retires in the next decade or so, there would be a serious human resources deficit in some university departments.

It is against this background that the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, with financial support from The Gerda Henkel Foundation seeks to intervene with a proposed Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences. This initiative intends to train a new generation of high calibre Humanities and Social Sciences scholars and researchers for the region. The College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University announces a three-year-fulltime fellowship for qualifying candidates to pursue studies leading to the award of a PhD in Humanities and Social Sciences.

Initially, CHUSS Graduate School seeks to admit at least a cohort of 10 PhD students in the first year working on topics that address an interdisciplinary study of Historical Humanities. The Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences engages with a cluster of subjects that study human society with a particular sensitivity to change over time, historical context, and the development of various kinds of evidence to support analyses about the causes, characteristics, and implications of such changes in human society. These are subjects that equip students with many skills such as the ability to conduct independent research, analyse text or images, and write persuasively. They also focus on helping students better understand how these skills and analytical approaches can be applied to issues of societal significance beyond the university.

While internationally, Historical Humanities is a cluster of disciplines such as Art History, Classics, History, History of Science, Medicine and Technology, and Religious Studies; at Makerere University, the Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences is reconfigured to include interdisciplinary research projects with an explicit intersection between Historical Humanities and Social Sciences. Preference in selection will be accorded to interdisciplinary research projects that approach the study of the Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences with **a clear and strong historical bias and/or focus** in disciplines such as:

- The Classics, namely, the study of literature, philosophy, epic, and drama
- Prehistory/Early History of Africa
- Archaeology
- Historicising language and linguistics in Africa
- Historicising religion (Islam and Christianity) in Africa
- Security, Society and the State
- Islam, the Modern Nation State and Transnational Movements

Note

(For further clarification on the last two sub-themes (Security, Society and the State and Islam, the Modern Nation State and Transnational Movements) please visit our partner's website: http://www.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/special_programme_islam or http://www.gerda-henkel-stiftung.de/special_programme_security

General Requirements for Applicants

Practical research experience from working in Humanities and Social Sciences research projects at a University or Research Institute and a strong foundation in writing and research methods is desirable. The successful candidates should have excellent oral and written communication skills. Although the programme is structured as a cohort system, which offers the opportunity and possibility of collegiality, and introductory foundational seminars in the first year that can build comradeship and companionship, it is particularly a PhD by research and is thus guided by the existing Makerere University Directorate of Graduate School Guidelines of a PhD by Research. This means that successful applicants should demonstrate the ability to work alone for long hours to achieve set targets. They should also have excellent interpersonal and problem solving skills.

Eligibility

Eligible candidates to an Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences:

- Should be a Ugandan national or a national of a Sub-Saharan African country. Admission into the cohort will aim for a 60:40 ratio of Ugandans and Sub-Saharan African Citizens respectively and will aim at gender parity. Qualified female candidates are especially encouraged to apply. However, both principles of equity will be guided by the quality of the application proposals presented
- Should be a holder of Master's degree in Humanities and Social Sciences from a recognised university. The Master's degree must have been completed less than ten years ago at the time of application
- Should be a holder of Honours undergraduate degree in Humanities and Social Sciences from a recognised university
- Should be fluent or show proof of fluency in English Language, since English Language is the language of instruction and thesis writing at Makerere University
- Provide two letters from two academic referees who are intimately familiar with his/her work recommending his/her application. It is important that the referees, who have been named on the applicant's application form, are the ones who supply a reference for him/her

- Confirm that you will be available from July 2017 to undertake a three-year full-time study leading to the award of a PhD in the fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences of Makerere University
- Preference will be given to applicants with a maximum age of 40 years (men) or 45 years (women) by 30th June 2017. The special contribution of the candidate's proposed study to Humanities and Social Sciences scholarship may vary this requirement.

Funding

The Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences is a fully-funded programme with the generous financial help from the Gerda Henkel Foundation tenable at Makerere University. The scholarships will cover all costs of the PhD programme, including travel, living expenses, medical insurance, laptop computer, university fees and all research and training costs. The maximum value of the scholarship, commencing in 2017, is UGX 40,320,000 in 2017/2018, UGX 40,320,000 in 2018/2019 and UGX 40,320,000 in 2019/2020.

Timeline

The Inter-disciplinary PhD by Research programme in the fields of Historical Humanities and Humanistic Social Sciences is a full-time 3-year doctoral training by research, which starts in July 2017 and terminates in June 2020 for the first Cohort. Successful candidates will develop a full proposal with the help of a supervisor and register with the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University for commencement of their PhD programme.

How to apply

Completed application form and accompanying supporting documents must be submitted by Friday, 14 April 2017 to:

The Principal, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Makerere University, P.O BOX 7062 Kampala

Tel: +256414531909

Email: graduate.college@chuss.mak.ac.ug with copy to principal@chuss.mak.ac.ug

For Further Information

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

- Dr Edgar Nabutanyi (Programme Coordinator)
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We look forward to receiving your application.