

TAGDev 2.0

Transforming African Agricultural Universities to meaningfully contribute to Africa's Growth and Development



In partnership with



**Call for Scholarship Applications under the
TAGDev 2.0 Programme for the 2026/2027
Academic Year at Africa University**

Call ID: RU/2026Africa Uni/TAGDev 2.0



1.0 Background

The Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (RUFORUM) in partnership with Mastercard Foundation, Gulu University (Uganda), Egerton University (Kenya), Africa University (Zimbabwe), University of Free State (South Africa), Malawi University of Science and Technology (Malawi), University of Eldoret (Kenya), Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda), University of Port Harcourt (Nigeria), University of Cape Coast (Ghana), University of Bamenda (Cameroon), National University of Agriculture (Benin), and Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique (Morocco) are implementing a 10 year programme (2023-2033) called Transforming African Agricultural Universities to Meaningfully Contribute to Africa's Growth and Development (TAGDev 2.0). The programme seeks to strengthen universities and TVET institutions to better serve communities by skilling and empowering Africa's young people and their institutions to drive inclusive, equitable and climate resilient transformation of agriculture and agrifood systems. The TAGDev 2.0 programme will support young African students that are economically disadvantaged but academically competent to access university education. The scholarship is open to both female and male applicants. However, females, refugees, internally displaced persons, and persons with disabilities are highly encouraged to apply.

2.0 Eligible Programmes

This call for Scholarships for the 2026/2027 academic year is opened to applicants interested in and eligible to study Bachelor of Science Honours in Agribusiness Management, Bachelor of Science Honours in Software Engineering, Master of Science in Agribusiness, and Master of Science in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity at Africa University, Zimbabwe.

2.1. Admission requirements to Africa University and the specific academic programmes

Undergraduate Programmes	Admission Requirements
BSc. Hons. in Agribusiness Management	<p>Candidates should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two GCE Advanced Level passes in Geography, Agriculture, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Management of Business, Accounts, Biology and Economics, or a recognised relevant Diploma. • 5 'O' Level passes at grade 'C' or better including English Language and Mathematics/ Applied Mathematics/Pure Mathematics/ Applied Statistics. • Applicants from outside the Zimbabwe Education system should have equivalent qualifications in addition to being proficient in the English Language.
BSc. Hons. in Software Engineering	<p>For entry the candidates should have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least two GCE Advanced Level passes in Mathematics, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Accounts, Business Studies and Economics, or an approved Diploma in a relevant field or a professional qualification. • 5 'O' Level passes at grade 'C' or better including English Language and Mathematics. • Applicants from outside the Zimbabwe Education system should have equivalent qualifications in addition to being proficient in the English Language.
Masters Programmes	Admission Requirements
MSc. in Agribusiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first degree in a relevant area. • Applicants from outside the Zimbabwe Education system should have equivalent qualifications in addition to being proficient in the English Language.
MSc. in Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A first degree in a relevant area. • Applicants from outside the Zimbabwe Education system should have equivalent qualifications in addition to being proficient in the English Language.

2.2 Appeal to potential applicants

Interested applicants are requested to visit the university website (www.africau.edu) to familiarize with admission requirements for each degree programme of their interest.

2.3 Contact Information

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3.0 Eligibility for Scholarships

3.1. Who is eligible to apply?

Scholarships are open to candidates in Africa from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Candidates from conflict and post-conflict areas of Africa residing in Zimbabwe are also encouraged to apply. The applicant has to be in position to qualify for admission into undergraduate and/or postgraduate programmes at Africa University. All applicants should read and thoroughly understand the admission criteria for the relevant programmes at Africa University. Students already having a scholarship of any kind are not eligible to benefit from this scholarship opportunity. Anyone with a double scholarship if found will automatically be discontinued. Beneficiaries of TAGDev scholarships are not eligible to apply.

3.2. Selection criteria

- i. Be an African national currently residing in Africa.
- ii. Be economically disadvantaged, from marginalized communities, Refugee Displaced Person (RDP) from refugee settlements within Zimbabwe, and Person With Disability (PWD) in Africa.
- iii. Be less than 30 years for undergraduate and less than 35 years for masters studies at the time of application.
- iv. Should have completed secondary school and/or diploma for a Bachelors degree application not more than four years (2022-2025) from the time of this call.
- v. The applicant should meet admission criteria to be eligible for programmes at Africa University.
- vi. For admission into Africa University for an undergraduate degree programme one must have attained Five Ordinary Level passes at grade C or better including English Language

and Mathematics; Advanced level passes in at least two subjects or equivalent, or a relevant Diploma from an accredited institution.

For special entry the candidates should:

Have passed at least 5 subjects at Ordinary Level including English Language and Mathematics. Hold a relevant Diploma from an accredited Institution.

- vii. Demonstrate interest in agriculture, agribusiness and entrepreneurship
- viii. Demonstrate leadership qualities
- ix. Have commitment to working in agriculture and agricultural value chains
- x. Have a strong commitment to community transformation
- xi. Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

3.3. What the scholarship covers

This is a full board comprehensive scholarship that covers: tuition fees, research costs, workshop and conference costs, living expenses including stipend and hostel, laptop, internship attachment, community engagement and field attachment, entrepreneurship training and transportation. Consequently, considering the level of investment, successful applicants will be required to become high achievers, highly engaging and focused students/graduates and change makers contributing to outreach services in the communities, capable of creating enterprises that create jobs for themselves and others and have personal satisfaction and dynamism.

3.4. Support to Refugees, Displaced Persons (RDPs) and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs).

In addition to other scholars benefits, RDPs and PWDs will receive the following support:

1. RDPs within Zimbabwe will be supported with arrangements to campus.
2. PWDs will receive assistive devices to support learning and movement during the course of studies.

3.5. Nature of the scholarship

This is a comprehensive scholarship with direct and indirect costs that will be covered by the programme through the implementing university where the student will be studying. Indirect costs such as participation in the international conference will be directly covered by the RUFORUM Secretariat. The following further apply:

- i. Direct costs for student training will be transferred to the university as a grant payable to the university. The students will receive

their respective services and entitlements from the university as the implementer and where necessary from RUFORUM.

- ii. All scholarships will be on a rolling basis implying that, the scholarship will be renewed on annual basis subject to satisfactory academic performance at Africa university.
- iii. Retaking more than four courses will lead to the withdrawal of the scholarship awarded to the candidate.
- iv. Applicants who may be discovered to have falsified information in order to gain advantage of the scholarship shall be disqualified on confirmation of the falsification and/ or forgery.
- v. Any misconduct (breaching university rules especially examination malpractice, violence towards others) on the part of the successful applicant shall lead to automatic disqualification and loss of the scholarship.
- vi. Successful applicants will be expected to become champions and transformative leaders, entrepreneurs and change makers at various levels and shall remain communicating with RUFORUM and the Universities as part of the Programme Alumni.

4.0 Application process and procedure

4.1 Application for university admission at Africa University

The application process will be in two stages. The first stage is application for admission to the programme of choice at Africa University submitted to Africa University. The second stage is application for the TAGDev scholarship submitted to RUFORUM. Both Stages have to be done concurrently.

a) All applications for admission must be submitted online on our website (www.africau.edu) using our online portal OR by email through the following email addresses:

Africa University

Assistant Registrar,
Academic Affairs

Email: studentrecruitment@africau.edu
OR applications@africau.edu

For further inquiries, please contact us on
Tel: +263 8688002151, Cell: +263 712609487.

Africa University application procedure:
Interested candidates fulfilling the above mentioned requirements are invited to:

- a. Apply online through our website (www.africau.edu) using our application portal
- b. Upload certified copies of your academic and professional certificates, birth certificate, National I.D. and Marriage Certificate where applicable.
- c. Attach supporting evidence explaining why you should be considered for the TAGDev 2.0 scholarship.
- d. Post Graduate programme applicants are also required to submit an autobiographical statement.

4.2 Application for Scholarship

The procedure for submitting the TAGDev 2.0 scholarship application through the RUFORUM Information Management System (RIMS) is as follows:

- i. Access the RIMS Web Portal through; <https://rims2.ruforum.org/>
- ii. Create your account by clicking on Register Here.
- iii. An email will be sent to your valid email address to activate your account. Please check in the Spam or Junk for message in case activation mail is not reflected in your inbox.
- iv. Login using your email and password you used for creating.
- v. After successful login, the Applicant Dashboard will appear with different options.
- vi. Go to Calls –> Scholarship Calls.
- vii. Select the Call ID: RU/2026Africa Uni/TAGDev 2.0
- viii. Click Apply to start filling the Application Form.
- ix. Remember to save while filling the form by **“Clicking Save Draft”**.
- x. Download and submit it with your application form for admission to the University.

For any assistance, kindly contact the administrator at mcf@ruforum.org.

Submission Deadline: 1st May 2026

Dates for key Virtual Information Session Days shall be communicated in due course.