TAGDev 2.0

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

RUFORUM

Capacity Building in Agriculture

In partnership with

mastercard foundation

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

Call ID: RU/2026 GuluUniv./TAGDEV2.0

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 in Food Bioscience and Agribusiness, , Bachelor of Science in Environment and Natural Resources Management, Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology, Bachelor of Quantitative Economics, Master of Science in Environmental Science and Natural Resources Management, Master of Science in Agri-Enterprises Development, Master of Science in Food Security and Community Nutrition, and Master of Science in Information and Communication Technology for Development at the Gulu University, Uganda.

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

Bachelors Programmes	Admission Requirements
BSc Food Bioscience and Agribusiness	**Direct Entry:** Principle passes in any two of the following: Chemistry, Biology, Agriculture, Food and Nutrition, Physics, and Mathematics **Diploma Entry:** A second-class/credit National Diploma in agriculture, animal husbandry, veterinary, crop husbandry, or other related disciplines obtained from a recognised institution
BSc Environment and Natural Resources Management	**Direct Entry:** Principal passes in any two of the following: Chemistry, Biology, or Geography at Advanced Level obtained at the same sitting. **Diploma Entry:** A second-class/credit National Diploma in forestry, agriculture, animal husbandry, crop husbandry, veterinary, beekeeping, Foods & Nutrition, Environmental Health, fisheries or other related disciplines obtained from a recognised institution
Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology	**Direct Entry**: Principal passes in any two A-Level subjects obtained at the same sitting. In addition, Technology the candidate should have obtained either a credit in Sub-Maths at A' Level or at least a credit in Mathematics at O' Level **Diploma Entry:** A Credit Class Diploma in computing or its equivalent from a recognized Institution
Bachelor of Quantitative Economics	**Direct Entry:** Principal pass in Economics and in any one of the remaining A-Level subjects; obtained at the same sitting

Masters Programmes	Admission Requirements
MSc Agrienterprises Development	At least a second-class Bachelor's degree in Agricultural Sciences, Veterinary Medicine, Business Administration or any other Economics-related disciplines from a recognized Institution
MSc Food Security and Community Nutrition	At least a second-class Bachelor's degree in any of the following disciplines: Agriculture, Food Science and Technology, Biological Sciences, General Sciences, Veterinary Medicine or other medical fields from a recognised institution
MSc Information and Communication Technology for Development	• A Bachelor's degree with at least a Second-Class Lower degree in Information Systems, Information Technology, Computer Science, Software Engineering, and Computer Engineering from a recognized Institution, or • A Pass/Third Class Bachelor's Degree with a Postgraduate Diploma in Computing disciplines, including Information Systems, Information Technology, and Computer Science. Software Engineering, and Computer Engineering from a recognised Institution; or • Any other Bachelor's degree with at least a second class upper from a recognised • Institution

2.2. Appeal to potential applicants

Interested applicants are requested to visit the university website www.gu.ac.ug to familiarize with admission requirements for each degree programme of their interest.

2.3. Contact Information
Prof. Duncan Ongeng
TAGDev 2.0 Programme Coordinator,
Gulu University mcf.agric@gu.ac.ug d.ongeng@gu.ac.ug.
Telephone: +256 750 483583 Website: www.gu.ac.ug

3.0 Eligibility for Scholarships

3.1. Who is eligible to apply?
Scholarships are open to candidates in Uganda from economically disadvantaged backgrounds. Candidates from conflict and post-conflict areas of Africa residing in Uganda are also encouraged to apply. The applicant has to be in position to qualify for admission into undergraduate or postgraduate programmes at Gulu University. All applicants should read and thoroughly understand the admission criteria for the relevant programmes at Gulu 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 a national of Uganda and East African countries implementing the common East Africa Higher Education Protocol (Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and South Sudan).
ii. Be economically disadvantaged, from marginalized communities, and/or coming from conflict and post-conflict areas in Uganda.
iii. Be less than 30 years for undergraduate and less than 35 years for masters' studies at the time of this call.
iv. The applicant should meet admission criteria to be eligible for a programme at Gulu University.
v. Demonstrate interest in agriculture, agribusiness and entrepreneurship.
vi. Demonstrate leadership qualities.
vii. Have commitment to working in agriculture and agricultural value chains.
viii. Have a strong commitment to community transformation.
ix. 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, and entrepreneurship training. 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 will be supported with travel documents.
2. PWDs will receive assistive devices to support learning and movement during the course of studies.

3.4. 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 grade B level of Gulu 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

The application process will be in two stages.
i) The first stage is application for admission to the programme of choice at Gulu University submitted to Gulu University.
ii) The second stage is application for the TAGDev 2.0 scholarship submitted to RUFORUM. Both stages have to be done concurrently.

4.1 Application for University Admission at Gulu University

The procedure for submitting the application for admission into Gulu University is as follows:
- Your applications to Gulu University must be submitted through Gulu university application portal on http://apply.gu.ac.ug
- You must register by filling in either your e-mail or mobile number, click REGISTER NOW button and follow the prompts. Please note that you MUST have access to that email or mobile number before you can register.
- After Successful Registration, you will be redirected back to Login Page and your One Time Password (OTP) will be sent to both your E-mail address and Phone Number.
- Login using either your e-mail address or your telephone number and your Password. The system will prompt you to change the password to the one you can easily remember. Check your Email and SMS for your login password.
- Click the "Apply Now" button displayed under the appropriate scheme to fill and submit the form online.
- Applicants for the Diploma and Graduate Entry Schemes must attach copies of certified Transcript and Certificate named in the format Surname Academic Documents (e.g., Okello Academic Documents), through the application portal, while filling and submitting the form. Each document must be in a single Portable Document Format (PDF) file and not exceed 1 MB.

For admission-related inquiries, contact Admissions Division, Department of Academic Registrar on Telephone numbers +256774981400 (Principal Assistant Academic Registrar)/ +256775757303 (Assistant Academic Registrar) or email: admissions@gu.ac.ug.

Other perquisites to take note of:
i. Applicants with academic documents

prescribed in languages other than English should have their documents translated to English.

ii. Applicants who obtained secondary school qualifications elsewhere other than Uganda should contact Uganda National Examinations Board (UNEB) to have their qualifications equated to Ugandan grades.

iii. Applicants with post-secondary qualifications should visit the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE) website for procedures of equating foreign qualifications.

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 incase 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/2026GuluUniv./ TAGDev2.0**

viii. Click Apply to start filling the Application Form.

ix. Remember to save while filling the form by **"Clicking Save Draft"**

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.