

# 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 Uganda Martyrs University

Call ID:RU/2026UMU/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 open to applicants interested in and eligible to study Bachelor of BSc in Agricultural Economics and Management, M.Sc in Agribusiness and Innovation, MSc in Agroecology, MSc in Monitoring and Evaluation, at Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda.

### 2.1. General Admission Requirements to Uganda Martyrs University

Undergraduate Programme	Admission Requirements
BSc in Agricultural Economics and Management	<p>The Agribusiness Management programme aligns with Africa's Agenda 2063, the global SDGs, and Uganda's Vision 2040 by addressing the urgent need for skilled human capital to drive agricultural transformation, economic growth, and food security. It equips learners with integrated knowledge in business management, marketing, finance, economics, and agricultural systems to enhance productivity, resource efficiency, and entrepreneurship in the agrifood sector. The programme aims to produce graduates capable of leading private sector growth, fostering job creation, and promoting sustainable agro-industrial development. Targeting advanced-level graduates, agricultural technicians, and practitioners, it focuses on building managerial, analytical, and innovative capacities to meet emerging national and global agribusiness challenges while encouraging self-employment and community-oriented development.</p> <p><b>Direct Entry Scheme</b> To qualify for Bachelor of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness Management, the applicant must be a holder of an Ordinary level certificate of education or its equivalent from a National Examination Body, with at least five passes. Furthermore, S/he should have obtained at least two principal passes at the Advanced Level in two of the most relevant subjects obtained at the same sitting: these include Economics, Mathematics, Agriculture. One of the following relevant subjects shall also be considered: Entrepreneurship, Geography and Food Science are also considered.</p> <p><b>Diploma Entry Scheme</b> Holders of a diploma with at least a second class or its equivalent from a recognized institution shall be admitted to this programme. They should have done a diploma either in general Agriculture, agribusiness, Forestry, Environment Sciences, Food Science, Science Technology (in Physics, Biology or Chemistry) and Animal production or Crop production. Other entry schemes include; Higher Education Certificate, Mature Age Entrants from recognized centers and Transfer of Credits following the Credit Transfer Policy.</p>

## 2.2 General Admission Requirements to Postgraduate Programs

### 2.2.1 Pre-admission requirements for all M.SC. Applicants

Eligible applicants will be invited to undertake the Graduate Admission Test (GAT). Candidates will receive login credentials and/or reporting instructions prior to the test date. The GAT will be administered both physically at designated centers and online for applicants unable to travel. Physical sessions will commence with a briefing at 9:00 am and run for three (3) hours, while online sessions will begin at 9:00 am and last four (4) hours to accommodate technical considerations. Technical support will be provided by Mr Emmanuel Kasozi (+256 705408478, ekasozi@umu.ac.ug) and Mr. David Musoke (+256 757414650/773731776, dmusoke@umu.ac.ug) for online candidates during the test period. The GAT will assess applicants analytical, quantitative, and comprehension skills relevant to their chosen program. Only candidates who successfully pass the GAT will be considered for admission and their names submitted to RUFORUM for the next stage of the scholarship selection process. **Applicants should NOTE the time the call will close, because GAT sessions will be conducted every Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday of the week, from the time the call is released, to the time it closes.**

Masters Programme	Admission Requirements
<p>Master of Science in Agribusiness and Innovation</p>	<p>The Master of Science in Agribusiness and Innovations is designed to equip professionals with advanced analytical, managerial, and entrepreneurial skills needed to transform the agricultural sector into a competitive and sustainable enterprise. Integrating economics, business management, and agricultural science, the programme prepares graduates to address complex challenges along agricultural value chains while fostering innovation, job creation, and environmental sustainability. It targets mid-career professionals and graduates seeking to enhance their capacity in agribusiness leadership, policy, and enterprise development. Through a multidisciplinary and practical approach involving research, ICT, and community engagement, the programme aims to build a new generation of agribusiness professionals capable of improving productivity, profitability, and resilience in Uganda’s agro-food systems and beyond, in alignment with national development priorities and global goals.</p> <p><b>Entry Requirements</b>                      The Master of Science in Agribusiness Innovations (MSc AI) program is a multi-disciplinary program that admits students with a background in Agriculture, biological sciences, Business, humanities and natural sciences. For entry into the master’s programme, applicants should possess: a) At least a second-class degree in any agricultural and business related undergraduate program from a NCHE accredited programme. Applicants must have passed a Graduate Admission Test (<b>See section 2.2.1</b>) administered by the Directorate of Postgraduate studies Research and Enterprise.</p>
<p>Master of Science in Agroecology</p>	<p>The Master of Science in Agroecology at Uganda Martyrs University was established to address the growing challenges faced by smallholder farmers in sub-Saharan Africa such as land scarcity, environmental degradation, and climate variability by promoting sustainable and locally adapted farming systems. Anchored within the Agroecology in Practice Education and Training Programme, it offers an interdisciplinary, participatory, and experiential approach to learning that integrates ecological, social, and economic dimensions of agriculture. The programme aims to produce graduates capable of analyzing farms as dynamic systems, designing production methods that balance productivity with conservation, and applying local and scientific knowledge for sustainable land use.</p> <p><b>Entry Requirements</b>                      The course shall be open to holders of at least 2nd Class Upper in a Bachelors degree in biological sciences, and any other degree deemed relevant from recognized institutions. Applicants must have passed a Graduate Admission Test Test (<b>See section 2.2.1</b>). Priority will be given to students of Ecological organic agriculture and those working. Priority will be given to students of organic agriculture and those working in very closely related systems to ensure graduates’ future contribution to sustainable development.</p>

**MSc in Monitoring and Evaluation**

The Master of Science in Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) was developed in response to Africa's growing need for skilled professionals capable of assessing the impact and effectiveness of development initiatives led by governments, NGOs, and donors. Despite global efforts to institutionalize M&E systems, such as the Paris Declaration (2005) and Uganda's National Policy on Public Sector M&E, many institutions still face challenges like limited expertise, inadequate data, and weak institutional capacity. Recognizing this gap, Uganda Martyrs University, in collaboration with RUFORUM, established this programme to build professional competence in M&E theory, practice, and research. The programme aims to produce interdisciplinary experts equipped to design and manage evidence-based systems that enhance accountability, learning, and governance across development sectors. Graduates will gain analytical, data management, and evaluation skills necessary to plan, monitor, and assess development interventions effectively at local, national, and international levels.]

**Entry Requirements**

This course is designed for graduates with a minimum of a bachelor's degree from a recognized institution. It also targets graduate senior and mid-level government officials, development managers and other professionals covering development work, as well as those that are managing sustainable and people-centered development programs and organizations. All applicants must have a bachelor's degree or its equivalent and will be required to pass a Graduate Admission Test (**See section 2.2.1**) on admission.

**2.3. Appeal to potential applicants**

Interested applicants are requested to visit the university website to familiarize with admission requirements for each degree programme of their interest. <https://admissions.umu.ac.ug/>

**2.4. Contact Information**

Uganda Martyrs University, Uganda  
**Robinah S. Nakabo, PhD**  
 TAGDev 2.0 Programme Coordinator,  
 Uganda Martyrs University  
 Email: [rnakabo@umu.ac.ug](mailto:rnakabo@umu.ac.ug);  
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 Telephone: +256 776802981  
 Website: [www.umu.ac.ug](http://www.umu.ac.ug)

Contact for the scholarship committee:  
[dvcaa@umu.ac.ug](mailto:dvcaa@umu.ac.ug)  
 or  
[rnakabo@umu.ac.ug](mailto:rnakabo@umu.ac.ug)

Contacting the Registry Office:  
**Sr Anepher Tusiime**  
[jtusiime@umu.ac.ug](mailto:jtusiime@umu.ac.ug) or [siimejane@gmail.com](mailto:siimejane@gmail.com)  
 Telephone: 0789925528 or 0706616125  
 Ms Mary Nabukenya  
[mnabukenya@umu.ac.ug](mailto:mnabukenya@umu.ac.ug)  
 Telephone: 0700546442 or 0771649027

**3.0. Eligibility for Scholarship****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 and/or postgraduate programmes at UMU University. All applicants should read and thoroughly understand the admission criteria for the relevant programmes at UMU 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, Birundi 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. Should have completed secondary school and/or diploma for a Bachelors degree application not more than four years (2021-2024) from the time of this call.
  - v. The applicant should meet admission criteria to be eligible programmes in UMU University.
  - vi. For admission into UMU University for an undergraduate degree programme one must have attained the High School Certificate (HSC) also known as Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) or its equivalent.
  - vii. For admission to undergraduate programmes candidates are required to have
    - a. Senior four (4) and Senior six (6) passlips/ testimonials, and
    - b. One passport photograph.
  - viii. Demonstrate interest in agriculture, agribusiness and entrepreneurship.
    - i. Demonstrate leadership qualities.
    - ii. Have commitment to working in agriculture and agricultural value chains.
    - iii. Have a strong commitment to community transformation.
    - iv. 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.

### 3.5. Nature of the scholarship

This is a comprehensive scholarship with

direct and indirect costs that will be covered by the TAGDev 2.0 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 UMU 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 UMU

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

All applications for admission must be made online to the link below:

[admissions@umu.ac.ug](mailto:admissions@umu.ac.ug)

OR

[registrar@umu.ac.ug](mailto:registrar@umu.ac.ug)

For inquiries: Tel: +256772 513 715

OR

[pro@umu.ac.ug](mailto:pro@umu.ac.ug)

To apply to UMU University, applicants are required to have the following:

- Results for O' Level and A' Level

The above must be uploaded during the application process.

For additional information about the scholarship at UMU University Please contact:

**Robinah S. Nakabo, PhD**

TAGDev 2.0 Programme Coordinator,

Uganda Martyrs University

Email: [rnakabo@umu.ac.ug](mailto:rnakabo@umu.ac.ug); [nakaborseruga@gmail.com](mailto:nakaborseruga@gmail.com)

Telephone: +256 776802981

**4.2. Application for the 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/2026UMU/TAGDev 2.0
- 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](mailto:mcf@ruforum.org)

**Submission Deadline: 1<sup>st</sup> May 2026**

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