



Borlaug Higher Education for
Agricultural Research and Development

Request for Expressions of Interest from U.S. Universities for Ph.D. Degree Training Academic Year 2016-2017

Background

The Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development ([BHEARD](#)) program is funded by USAID through CIMMYT and administered by Michigan State University in collaboration with the Bureau for Food Security. The goal of the BHEARD program is to build capacity of host country agricultural research institutions by providing M.S. and Ph.D. degree and short-term training opportunities to their staff members. Inclusion of qualified women candidates is especially encouraged. **The current set of participating countries includes Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, and Uganda.** These candidates join continuing trainees from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Ghana, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique and South Sudan.

After thorough application review and selection processes involving interviews of candidates, the USAID missions have recommended 27 potential candidates for Ph.D. degree training at U.S. universities. This includes:

- 9 candidates from Kenya
- 5 candidates from Liberia
- 9 candidates from Rwanda
- 4 candidates from Uganda*

Funding to support these Ph.D. candidates is available through the BHEARD program, for training programs to begin in **Fall 2016**. These candidates were selected from institutions which met the BHEARD program criteria; **a list of selected candidates and their areas of interest for graduate study is provided in [Annex A](#).**

Copies of the students' scholarship applications, statements of purpose, transcripts, and CVs are available for download through a link to GoogleDrive:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7jlvGW0sasEVzUzcFpsV1FuRmM&usp=sharing>

Candidates who have taken the GRE and TOEFL tests will have scores listed in [Annex B](#); for candidates who do not yet have scores available, an expected date for scores will be listed.

Please note that no funding is available for English language training in the U.S., so only students receiving regular admission will be considered for the scholarship.

* Preference for hosting these Ugandan candidates will be given to the university awarded funding for the Institutional Capacity Development program with Makerere University's Department of Agricultural and Natural Resources (DANRE). More information for this RFA can be found at http://bheard.anr.msu.edu/news/bheard_requests_applications_for_institutional_capacity_development_with_mak

Program Description

The Borlaug Higher Education for Agricultural Research and Development (BHEARD) program, managed by Michigan State University invites **'Expressions of Interest'** from U.S. universities to provide Ph.D. degree training for **students from Kenya, Liberia, Rwanda, and Uganda**. Candidates are employees of some of the major agricultural research institutions of these countries, including ministries of agriculture, research universities, etc.

Please note that U.S. degree programs should be designed – and align closely – with the following eight parameters:[†]

1. Degrees will be awarded by a U.S. university.
2. Degree training begins in Fall 2016[‡].
3. The university will demonstrate flexibility in academic program requirements so as to address competency and knowledge needs as identified by the candidates' home institutions and the USAID mission for these students. The university will demonstrate innovation and flexibility by "tailoring" the degree program to meet the requirements for capacity building in the identified thematic areas, if necessary allowing academic credit for courses from different disciplines and departments, and to allow students to complete course and exam requirements within three calendar years. Program design should also take into account constraints that may be faced by women candidates.
4. **Course work and exams should be completed within three academic years**, after which the candidates will return to their home country to carry out dissertation research and write their dissertations.
5. **Dissertation research, write-up, and defense will be carried out in the student's home country**, usually during the year following the candidate's return from the U.S. Requirements for a final dissertation defense seminar should be completed in the home country utilizing electronic and/or tele-conferencing technology to the extent possible, obviating the need for the trainee to return to the U.S. university to defend his/her dissertation.
6. Students' research topics must be consistent with the priorities of the candidate's home institution and with the priorities of USAID's [Feed the Future](#) program. Students' research topics may be pre-approved by the USAID missions, and cannot be changed without prior approval from BHEARD.

[†] ***All eight parameters must be adhered to in order for the university and scholar to successfully complete the program.***

[‡] Universities may propose having trainees begin programs with the Spring (January) 2017 semester, but preference will be given to programs with a Fall 2016 start date.

7. Candidates will receive funding for one round-trip to their home country for purposes of developing their research proposal, or implementing initial research activities. The trainee's major advisor will also be able to visit the student once while the student is home for research, mostly likely after completion of the U.S. training phase, to provide guidance on the conduct of the research.
8. In their academic and research programs, candidates will be mentored by a U.S. advisor; in addition to this advisor, students should identify a local consultant in their home country to act as a mentor, such as a university faculty member or qualified researcher.
9. **The BHEARD Office will process all visas.** All candidates will be issued USAID-sponsored J-1 visas, which carry the obligation to fulfill a two-year home country residency period at the end of the degree program.

Cost of the Training Program

Expenses associated with the graduate education of these students, including tuition, stipend, health insurance and travel will be covered by Michigan State University under the BHEARD Grant from USAID. A limited budget is also available to support the conduct of in-country research, and the U.S. advisor should expect to seek opportunities for leveraging other funds to support the student's research.

Since an objective of the BHEARD program is to manage costs effectively so as to allow for a larger number of trainees, U.S. universities submitting Expressions of Interest are encouraged to seek ways to limit their Ph.D. training costs, and to cost share. No minimum cost share is required, however.

U.S. universities are encouraged to use BHEARD funding to provide **graduate research assistantships** for students, if it will reduce costs. More guidelines are provided in the instructions for budget preparation.

Request for Expressions of Interest

Who can submit "Expressions of Interest?"

Responses to this Request for Expressions of Interest are being sought from U.S. university administrators (e.g., Deans, Associate Deans, Directors, Department Chairs) and graduate program officers from Colleges of Agriculture or International Program Offices (or comparable units) which offer graduate programs in disciplines that match the areas of interest of the USAID mission and the candidates as profiled in [Annex A](#). Expressions of Interest are especially sought from universities that have a demonstrated interest in the participating countries, as evidenced by professional faculty experience or collaborative projects in that country or region.

How to submit Expressions of Interest?

U.S. universities interested in providing Ph.D. training in the identified graduate program areas for students should complete and submit the following:

1. **General Submission Form** - <http://goo.gl/forms/QNH6jQTzU5>
 - a. This form only needs to be submitted once per university
2. **Candidate Submission Form** - <http://goo.gl/forms/uRpAK4F3g8>
 - a. This form must be submitted for each candidate you would like to propose hosting
3. **Budget Template**
 - a. A budget template for each country should be emailed to BHEARD@anr.msu.edu

After submitting your form, please copy and keep the URL – this will allow you to return to and edit your response, if needed.

All questions should be directed to the BHEARD Program Office at:

By e-mail: bheard@anr.msu.edu

By mail: Kathryn Greenhalgh, BHEARD Placement Coordinator
Michigan State University
446 W. Circle Drive, Room Number 219-8
East Lansing, MI 48824-1039

By Phone: (517) 884-7909

By Fax: (517) 432-1800

Due date and follow-up process for Expressions of Interest?

Expressions of Interest submission surveys should be submitted no later than **Monday, February 22**. Please note that universities should only express interest in candidates they find academically admissible, and no funding is available for English language training in the U.S.

Once the proposals have been reviewed, universities will be notified of their candidate placements. Candidates will then be instructed to submit an international graduate application to their designated university.

Because the BHEARD program requires that the selected candidates come to the U.S. and begin their Ph.D. degree programs by Fall 2016, it will be necessary to have confirmation that the students you list in your submission form are admissible to your graduate programs. This will give the students adequate time to formally apply for admission and receive an official letter of admission, obtain the USAID-sponsored J-1 visa, make travel and all necessary arrangements for their pending study in the U.S.

Selection Criteria

It is important to note, the selection of a U.S. university or universities in which to place BHEARD program trainees will be based on the following criteria:

1. Ability of the university to offer innovative Ph.D. degree programs in accord with the academic interests of the candidate and the priorities of the USAID mission in the participating countries.
2. Ability of the university to meet the program parameters outlined in the [Program Description](#) section above, including attention to issues of access for qualified women candidates.
3. Assurance of admission of selected qualified candidates to appropriate Ph.D. degree programs for a Fall 2016 start date.
4. Commitment and experience of the university and the potential faculty members to be engaged long-term in these participating countries, and to contribute to building sustainable institutions and increasing the competitiveness of their agriculture and natural resource sectors.
5. National competitiveness of the Ph.D. degree program in terms of quality (i.e., faculty recognition, academic course offerings, etc.) and cost (i.e., registration and tuition fees, housing, etc.) compared to programs at other U.S. universities.
6. Competitiveness of budget for graduate training (e.g., tuition, stipend, residency requirement, etc.). Although not required, providing matching contributions to keep costs down (i.e., waiver of out-of-state tuition fees, support for faculty travel, support for research activities in the student's country, etc.) would be viewed favorably.
7. If multiple Expressions of Interest are received that meet the BHEARD program parameters and the above criteria for evaluation and selection, the ultimate decision on which university (or universities) will receive the training award(s) will be made by USAID with the local selection committee in the student's home country, which includes representatives from the target institutions that have nominated the degree candidates.

Annex A: BHEARD Scholarship Candidates for Fall 2016 Admission

(sorted by Country, then by General Subject Area)

COUNTRY	LAST NAME	GENDER	EMPLOYER	GENERAL SUBJECT AREA	RESEARCH INTERESTS
Kenya	Kiratu, Nixon Murathi	M	Egerton University	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	Climate Change and Food Insecurity Resilience under the Devolved Government in Kenya
Kenya	Momanyi, Denis	M	Egerton University	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	The Impacts of Integrated Forage Legume-Cereal Intercropping and Livestock Farming Systems on the Livelihoods of Smallholder Farmers in Kenya; Climate change
Kenya	Khainga, Dickson Nangabo	M	Egerton University	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	Evaluating the impact of Integrated mixed farming on food security and livelihoods of marginalized communities in semi-arid areas of Kenya; Climate change
Kenya	Wanyama, Rosina Nanjala	F	Tegemeo Institute	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	The Role of Orange Fleshed Sweet Potatoes (OFSP) in Enhancing Household Welfare in Kenya
Kenya	Okumu, Paul Onyango	M	University of Nairobi	Animal or Livestock Sciences (including Animal Nutrition, Veterinary Science, or Physiology)	Pathobiology; Productivity Enhancement
Kenya	Wasonga, Daniel Omondi	M	University of Nairobi	Plant Breeding and Genetics (including Plant Molecular Biology)	Characterization of Striga Isolates collected from Sorghum growing regions of Eastern Africa
Kenya	Okiro, Lilian Auma	F	Egerton University	Plant Breeding and Genetics (including Plant Molecular Biology)	Plant biotechnology; Climate change

Copies of the students' scholarship applications, statements of purpose, transcripts, and CVs are available for download through a link to GoogleDrive:

<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7jlvGW0sasEVzUzcFpsV1FuRmM&usp=sharing>

Kenya	Kisambo, Bosco Kidake	M	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization	Plant Breeding and Genetics (including Plant Molecular Biology)	Productivity Enhancement, Ecology; Increasing pasture production through selection and evaluation of Early germinators among selected rangeland grasses
Kenya	Muhonja, Linah	F	Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organization	Seed Technology	Development of seed system model that will enhance productivity of various crops thus alleviating poverty, nutrition and food insecurity
Liberia	Flomo, Deamanie Musu B	F	Ministry of Agriculture	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	Agribusiness; Production and Value Chain Analysis of Rice
Liberia	Jueseah, Alvin Slewion	M	Ministry of Agriculture	Fisheries or Aquaculture	Natural Resource & Environmental Economics; Modeling the living marine resources to ascertain stock status, establish long-term sustainable utilization and present policy advice
Liberia	Gbokie, Thomas	M	Ministry of Agriculture	Food Science and Nutrition (including Food Safety or Technology)	Agro-processing/Value Addition; Postharvest Physiology and Technology
Liberia	Baysah, Nataline Sonnie	F	Central Agricultural Research Institute	Seed Technology	Seed Science and Technology; Development of Rice and Cassava
Liberia	Baah, O Theophilus P	M	Ministry of Agriculture	Soil Science	Soil Fertility; Development of Rice and Cassava
Rwanda	Habimana, Richard	M	University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	Animal or Livestock Sciences (including Animal Nutrition or Physiology)	Poultry breeding and genetics; Molecular biology and bioinformatics

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Rwanda	Manishimwe, Rosine	F	University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	Animal or Livestock Sciences (including Animal Nutrition, Veterinary Science, or Physiology)	Epidemiology; Molecular characterization of antibiotic resistant strains of enteric pathogens and commensals isolated from food-producing animals
Rwanda	Ayabagabo, Jean de Dieu	M	University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	Animal or Livestock Sciences (including Animal Nutrition, Veterinary Science, or Physiology)	Enhancing dairy cattle productivity through biotechnology in reproduction and proper feeding
Rwanda	Nishimwe, Kizito	F	University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	Food Science and Nutrition (including Food Safety or Technology)	Toxicology; Characterization of mycotoxins and mycotoxigenic fungi in food commodities
Rwanda	Djangwani, Juvenal	M	University of Rwanda, College of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine	Food Science and Nutrition (including Food Safety or Technology)	Milk production; Optimizing the farm-harvested milk quantity and quality by minimizing postharvest raw milk losses : Studies on alternative adaptable ways to limit the milk losses
Rwanda	Shingiro, Bosco Jean	M	Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda Agricultural Board	Food Science and Nutrition (including Food Safety or Technology)	Post-harvest technologies to minimise Potato Taste Defects in Rwandan coffee
Rwanda	Mukamuhirwa, Floride	F	Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda Agricultural Board	Plant Breeding and Genetics (including Plant Molecular Biology)	Soybean or Wheat breeding for multiple constraints resistance
Rwanda	Niyikiza, Daniel	M	Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda Agricultural Board	Plant Breeding and Genetics (including Plant Molecular Biology)	Disease resistance breeding; Soybeans
Rwanda	Nizeyimana, Fidele	M	Ministry of Agriculture, Rwanda Agricultural Board	Plant Breeding and Genetics (including Plant Molecular Biology)	Wheat rust resistance

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Uganda	Lwiza, Florence	F	Makerere University	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	Agricultural Policy; development of different policy reform processes
Uganda	Tanyima, Edward	M	Food and Agricultural Organization	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	Agricultural Policy; youth engagement in Agribusiness processes in Uganda; gaps between policy and research
Uganda	Letaa, Emmanuel	M	International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	Assessment of resource use among Common bean farmers in Uganda
Uganda	Adong, Annet	F	Economic Policy Research Center	Agricultural Economics or Agribusiness (including Agricultural Statistics, Data Analysis or Policy Planning)	Land governance, Land Markets and Implications for Food security

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<https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B7jlvGW0sasEVzUzcFpsV1FuRmM&usp=sharing>

Annex B: Finalist GRE and TOEFL Scores

COUNTRY	NAME	GRE	TOEFL					Scores Available
		Scores Available	READING	LISTENING	SPEAKING	WRITING	OVERALL	
Kenya	Khainga, Dickson Nangabo	1/25/2016	22	15	24	17	78	
Kenya	Kiratu, Nixon Murathi	1/25/2016	27	27	19	24	97	
Kenya	Kisambo, Bosco Kidake	1/24/2016	24	20	24	24	93	
Kenya	Momanyi, Denis	1/25/2016	25	19	24	22	90	
Kenya	Muhonja, Linah	1/25/2016	20	22	22	25	89	
Kenya	Okiro, Lilian Auma	1/25/2016	17	15	20	19	71	
Kenya	Okumu, Paul Onyango	1/23/2016	25	23	18	20	86	
Kenya	Wanyama, Rosina Nanjala	1/25/2016	19	26	23	24	92	
Kenya	Wasonga, Daniel Omondi	1/24/2016	22	21	24	23	90	
Liberia	Baah, O Theophilus P	3/7/2016	66	62	-	68 (5.5 TWE)	653	
Liberia	Baysah, Nataline Sonnie	3/7/2016						*
Liberia	Flomo, Deamanie Musu B	3/7/2016						*
Liberia	Gbokie, Thomas	3/7/2016						*
Liberia	Jueseah, Alvin Slewion	3/7/2016						*
Rwanda	Ayabagabo, Jean de Dieu	3/14/2016	23	20	20	19	82	
Rwanda	Djangwani, Juvenal	3/14/2016	22	24	23	25	94	
Rwanda	Habimana, Richard	3/14/2016	21	15	19	18	73	
Rwanda	Manishimwe, Rosine	3/14/2016	25	23	23	23	94	
Rwanda	Mukamuhirwa, Floride	3/14/2016	14	8	13	13	48	
Rwanda	Nishimwe, Kizito	3/14/2016	21	18	23	15	77	
Rwanda	Niyikiza, Daniel	3/14/2016	24	24	18	21	87	
Rwanda	Nizeyimana, Fidele	3/14/2016	13	20	17	19	69	
Rwanda	Shingiro, Bosco Jean	3/14/2016	16	13	19	21	69	
Uganda	Adong, Annet	1/30/2016						2/3/2016
Uganda	Letaa, Emmanuel	1/28/2016						2/4/2016
Uganda	Lwiza, Florence	1/26/2016						2/3/2016
Uganda	Tanyima, Edward	1/21/2016						2/4/2016

*Please note that Liberia is often exempted from having to prove English proficiency, please refer to your Graduate School's regulations

**Students with an overall TOEFL score of less than 80 will be offered the option of retaking the exam for a higher score; news scores expected by March