Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Programme for Collaborative Training in Agro-Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management for Resilient African Agroecosystems (COLABERA)

Call for application MSc and PhD scholarships

COHORTE 1

1. About COLABERA

The Collaborative Training in Agro-Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management for Resilient African Agroecosystems (COLABERA) is an Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Programme funded under the African Union-European Union partnership framework.

The project aims to strengthen African higher education systems through advanced training, research collaboration, innovation, and academic mobility in agro-biodiversity, ecosystem management, climate resilience, and digital transformation for sustainable African agroecosystems.

COLABERA contributes to the African Union Agenda 2063 and supports the development of highly skilled African professionals capable of addressing current environmental, agricultural, and technological challenges across the continent.

The project brings together five African universities and one European technical partner:

- Cheikh Anta Diop University (Senegal)
- University of Abomey-Calavi (Benin)
- Uganda Martyrs University (Uganda)
- Muni University (Uganda)
- University of Lubumbashi (DR Congo)
- Polytechnic University of Porto (Portugal – Technical partner)

Through this project, a total of 42 fellowships are available for training:

- 20 Master's scholarships (full degree mobility)
- 4 PhD scholarships (full degree mobility)
- 11 short-term traineeships (6 months)
- 7 staff (academic exchanges across partner universities)

2. Objectives of the Programme

The programme seeks to:

- Strengthen postgraduate education and research capacities in Africa;
- Promote intra-African academic mobility and institutional collaboration;
- Develop innovative solutions for resilient agroecosystems;
- Enhance digital transformation in agriculture through AI, IoT, and High-Performance Computing;

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- Foster inclusive and gender-responsive scientific leadership across Africa.

3. Priority academic fields

- Agro-biodiversity
- Agroecology and Food Systems
- Ecosystem Management
- Plant and Microbial Biotechnology
- Artificial Intelligence for Agriculture
- Climate-smart agriculture
- Renewable Energy and Environmental Sustainability
- IoT and Digital Agriculture

4. Target beneficiaries

Applicants must be nationals and residents of eligible African countries. Beneficiaries of scholarship are categorized into two target groups (TGs):

- TG1 include students and staff from COLABERA project hosting institutions i.e., Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Muni University, Uganda Martyrs University, University of Abomey-Calavi and University of Lubumbashi. To qualify for TG-1, a candidate must be a student of a participating university.
- TG2 includes students from all other African universities and countries, with priority being given to students from conflict-affected and disadvantaged countries, including Burundi, Cameroon, Liberia, Mali and Sierra Leone.

Priority will be given to:

- Students from partner universities
- Students from other African universities
- Women candidates (minimum target: 40%)
- Refugees/conflict-affected candidates
- Candidates with disabilities

5. Eligibility criteria

The assessment of eligibility of a candidate will follow the following criteria:

For Master's applicants:

- Bachelor's degree in a relevant field
- Strong academic record

For PhD applicants:

- Master's degree in a relevant field
- Research proposal aligned with COLABERA themes

All applicants must:

- Apply to a university outside their home country

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- Meet language requirements of the host institution
- Submit complete application documents in a single PDF file named: Surname_Firstname_HostUniversity_Level.pdf

6. Scholarship package

Selected candidates will receive:

- Tuition fees coverage
- Monthly stipend
- Travel costs
- Health/travel insurance
- Research support (where applicable)

7. Required documents

- Application form (https://qr-codes.io/eFUaHS)
- Motivation letter
- CV/Resume
- Academic transcripts
- Degree certificates
- Passport/ID copy
- 2 Recommendation letters
- Research proposal (PhD only)
- Proof of language proficiency (if required)

8. Application process

Step 1: Apply for admission to an eligible programme at a host institution
Step 2: Submit scholarship application with all supporting documents
Step 3: Shortlisting.
Step 4: Final scholarship award

Note: Candidates who apply for the scholarship without evidence of application/admission to host institution shall not be considered in the selection for scholarship Award.

Host Institution	Programme Applied For	Type of Study Applied for	University website	University contact person
Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar	Agroforestry, Ecology & Adaptation	MSc	www.ucad.sn	Prof Kandioura NOBA Kandioura.noba@ucad.edu.sn Dr. Ablaye NGOM ablaye11.ngom@ucad.edu.sn
	Plant & Microbe Biotechnology	MSc		
	Agroforestry & Adaptation	PhD		

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Muni University	Artificial Intelligence	MSc	https://muni.ac.ug/	Prof. Clement OKIA clementokia@gmail.com
	Biodiversity Conservation	MSc		
Uganda Martyrs University	Agroecology	MSc	http://umu.ac.ug/	Dean Faculty of Agriculture deanagric@umu.ac.ug
	Agroecology & Food systems	PhD		
University of Abomey-Calavi	Digital Broadcasting (IoT) Wireless Network Planning	MSc	The link of UAC is www.uac.bj	Prof Achille ASSOGBADJO assogbadjo@yahoo.fr
	Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy	MSc		
	Management of Natural Resources & Biodiversity	MSc		
	Natural Resources Conservation & Management	PhD		
University of Lubumbashi	Ecosystem Management	MSc	www.unilu.ac.cd	Prof. Jonas LWALABA W.L. lwalabal@unilu.ac.cd
	Informatics, AI & Innovations	MSc		

9. Application deadline

The call for applications and scholarship is open from 25th May 2026 and will close on 05th July 2026. Interested candidates should download and fill the application form, and submit by email to the project coordination office, colabera.intraafrica@ucad.edu.sn, with a copy to the project coordinator in the host institution.

All applications must be submitted by the deadline date (05th July 2026, GMT).

10. Contact Information

COLABERA Project Coordination Unit
Cheikh Anta Diop University (UCAD), Senegal
Email: colabera.intraafrica@ucad.edu.sn
Website: https://www.colabera.org

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