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SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT DOCTORAL POSITIONS (PhD)

Project: Advancing Sustainable Technologies through Academic Collaboration in Africa

Acronym: GreenTech Mobility

Grant Agreement: EACEA No. 101234583

PROJECT OVERVIEW

GreenTech Mobility is a collaborative capacity-building project funded by the European Union under the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme (NDICI-2024-MOBAF). The project brings together six African universities: Université Nangui ABROGOUA (Côte d'Ivoire), Kenyatta University (Kenya), Catholic University of Rwanda, National University of Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics (Bénin), and University of Energy and Natural Resources (Ghana), with Technische Hochschule Köln (Germany) as European technical partner and Université Cadi Ayyad (Morocco) as associate partner.

Through student, staff and trainee exchange programmes, GreenTech Mobility will equip a new generation of African experts with the knowledge and skills to design and implement locally relevant, scalable solutions addressing Africa's most pressing sustainability challenges by fostering interdisciplinary education, research, and practical training in renewable energy, waste management, sustainable mobility, and climate adaptation.

The project directly supports the implementation of European Union Global Gateway flagship infrastructure projects across Africa, including urban transport systems (BRT), renewable energy installations (solar, hydro, biogas), sustainable ports, circular economy initiatives, climate and smart agriculture.

SCHOLARSHIP POSITIONS

GreenTech Mobility offers fully-funded doctoral scholarships for African students to pursue PhD studies at partner universities across Africa. This call is coordinated by Kenyatta University (Kenya) and is open to applicants from all African countries.

Candidates may apply for positions at:

- Université Nangui ABROGOUA (UNA), Côte d'Ivoire (<https://www.univ-na.ci/>)
- Kenyatta University (KU), Kenya (<https://www.ku.ac.ke/>)
- Catholic University of Rwanda (CUR), Rwanda (<https://www.cur.ac.rw/>)
- Université Nationale des Sciences, Technologies, Ingénierie et Mathématiques (UNSTIM), Bénin (<https://unstim.bj/>)
- University of Energy and Natural Resources (UENR), Ghana (<https://uenr.edu.gh/>)

TARGET GROUPS

The GreenTech Mobility project operates with two target groups in accordance with NDICI-2024-MOBAF programme guidelines:

Target Group 1 (TG1) - PRIORITY (80% of positions):

Students currently enrolled at, admitted to, or graduated from any of the five consortium universities: UNA (Côte d'Ivoire), KUy (Kenya), CUR (Rwanda), UNSTIM (Bénin) and UENR (Ghana). TG1 applicants receive priority consideration in the selection process.

Target Group 2 (TG2) - (20% of positions):

Students from other accredited African higher education institutions outside the consortium, including but not limited to universities in: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Mali, Sudan, Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Niger, Zambia, Malawi, Togo, and other African countries.

TG2 applicants are encouraged to apply and will be considered based on merit.

RESEARCH DOMAINS

Doctoral research under GreenTech Mobility focuses on the following priority areas aligned with Global Gateway infrastructure development and Africa's sustainability challenges:

1. RENEWABLE ENERGY & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY
 - Biogas, biohydrogen and biofuel production from organic waste
 - Solar photovoltaic systems and hybrid energy solutions
 - Clean energy integration for urban transport systems
 - Renewable energy for port operations and maritime transport
2. CIRCULAR ECONOMY & WASTE VALORIZATION
 - Waste-to-energy technologies and bioconversion processes
 - Community-based circular economy models
 - Organic waste management for urban sustainability
 - Industrial ecology and resource efficiency
3. URBAN TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH
 - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system optimization
 - Antimicrobial resistance surveillance in transport environments
 - Climate-resilient transport infrastructure
 - Urban environmental quality and public health
4. CLIMATE ADAPTATION AND SMART AGRICULTURE
 - Climate-resilient crop varieties and farming systems
 - Smart irrigation and water management technologies
 - Climate adaptation strategies for smallholder farmers
 - Agricultural productivity under climate change conditions
 - Climate-smart agricultural practices and technologies
 - Integration of traditional and modern adaptation strategies

These domains are indicative. Specific research topics will be defined collaboratively between selected candidates and supervisors upon admission, ensuring alignment with both the candidate's interests and expertise, and the project's Global Gateway objectives.

Candidates should indicate their preferred research domain(s) in their application and submit a preliminary research concept demonstrating their understanding of sustainability challenges in their chosen area.

Interested applicants are advised to visit the websites of host universities to familiarize themselves with admission requirements and available supervisory expertise.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, candidates must:

- Be a national of an African country and resident in Africa at the time of application;
- Hold a Master's degree in Science and Technology, Agricultural Sciences, Biological Sciences, Environmental Studies, Environmental Health, Natural Resource Management, Renewable

Energy, Microbiology-Biotechnology, Engineering, Community Development, or related discipline;

- Demonstrate strong academic performance (minimum GPA 3.0/4.0 or equivalent, or Upper Second Class Honours; Mention Bien 14/20);
- Meet the specific academic and language requirements of the chosen host university:
 - English proficiency: TOEFL iBT 80+ or IELTS 6.5+ (if applicable)
 - French proficiency: DELF B2 or equivalent (for francophone universities)
- Demonstrate strong research potential through prior research experience (Master's thesis, publications, conference presentations);
- Express commitment to return to home country upon completion of studies to contribute to sustainable development in Africa;
- Not have benefited from more than 12 months of EU-funded academic mobility in the past 5 years.
- Must pursue doctoral studies at a consortium university OUTSIDE their country of nationality (mobility requirement). Candidates cannot conduct research in their home country.
- Female candidates, candidates with special needs, and candidates from disadvantaged or marginalized backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.

SELECTION CRITERIA

The selection process will be based on the following criteria:

- Compliance with the admission requirements of the selected programme and host university;
- Academic excellence as demonstrated by transcripts, degree classifications, and academic references;
- Quality and feasibility of the preliminary research concept, including alignment with GreenTech Mobility research domains and Global Gateway priorities;
- Motivation and clarity of purpose as expressed in the letter of motivation;
- Research potential as evidenced by prior research experience, publications, and recommendations from academic supervisors;
- Gender balance (50% female target), socio-economic background, and other personal circumstances promoting inclusion and diversity;
- Potential for impact and commitment to contribute to sustainable development in Africa upon completion.

SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

- Full tuition fee coverage at the host university.
 - Monthly stipend: €1,230 for up to 36 months.
- Installation allowance: One-time payment upon arrival at host institution.
- Insurance: Health and liability insurance coverage for the duration of studies.
- Travel: Scholarship holders are responsible for arranging and paying for their international travel. In cases of demonstrated financial need, a travel advance may be requested and will be recovered through gradual deductions from the monthly stipend.

Note: The scholarship covers the doctoral candidate only. Family members are not covered by the scholarship.

Beyond academic training, GreenTech Mobility scholars will develop:

- Systems thinking and interdisciplinary approaches to sustainability challenges
- International research collaboration across African and European institutions
- Applied research skills linking academic work to real infrastructure projects
- Policy engagement and stakeholder communication
- Advanced technical competencies in sustainable technologies
- Leadership and project management for Africa's development

Scholars will benefit from co-supervision arrangements, access to specialized research facilities across consortium universities, networking with industry partners (renewable energy, transport, waste management sectors), and exposure to Global Gateway flagship infrastructure projects.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested candidates must submit all required documents as one complete application file in a single PDF sent electronically to: phd-applications@greentechmobility.org

Subject line: PhD Application - [Your Full Name] - [Preferred Host University]

Required documents:

- Duly completed GreenTech Mobility PhD application form (download from www.greentechmobility.org/apply);
- Certified copies of all academic transcripts and degree certificates (Bachelor's and Master's);
- Letter of motivation (maximum two pages) explaining:
 - Why you wish to pursue doctoral studies in your chosen research domain
 - How your research interests align with GreenTech Mobility objectives
 - Your career goals and commitment to contribute to sustainable development
 - Why you have chosen the specific host university
- Detailed curriculum vitae (CV) including:
 - Educational background
 - Research experience (projects, thesis, publications)
 - Professional experience (if applicable)
 - Technical skills and competencies
 - Language proficiencies
 - References (contact details)
- Two academic reference letters from professors or supervisors familiar with your academic work and research potential (letters should be sent directly by referees to phd-references@greentechmobility.org);
- Proof of nationality (copy of valid passport or national identity card);
- Preliminary research concept (4 pages maximum, 1.5 line spacing, 12-point font) including:
 - Research problem and justification
 - Research questions and objectives
 - Proposed methodology
 - Expected contribution to knowledge and practice
 - Alignment with Global Gateway priorities
- Proof of language proficiency (if applicable): TOEFL, IELTS, DELF, or university attestation;
- Any additional documents required by the chosen host university.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

All applications must be submitted no later than 7th July 2026. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview by 21 July 2026. Details of the selection process, timelines, and research topics are available on the project website: <http://greentechmobility.org>.

CONTACT INFORMATION

For programme information and application inquiries:

Kenyatta University GreenTech Mobility Focal Point

Dr. Mary Baaru, Senior Lecturer | Dryland Resource Management

Email: baaru.mary@ku.ac.ke

Phone: +254 722267824

For specific questions about institutional expertise and supervisory availability, contact the focal points:

UNA (Côte d'Ivoire): Prof. Theodore N. DJENI – tdjeni@gmail.com

Kenyatta University (Kenya): Dr. Mary Baaru - baaru.mary@ku.ac.ke

UENR (Ghana): Prof Samuel Gyamfi samuel.gyamfi@uenr.edu.gh

UNSTIM (Bénin): Farid ADAMON - adamon.farid16@gmail.com

CUR (Rwanda): Prof. Fr. Lucien HAKIZIMANA abelucienhak@gmail.com and Dr. Celine Byukusenge celinebyukusenge@gmail.com

Detailed information on research domains, selection process, and host university requirements is available on the project website.

This project is funded by the European Union under the Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme (NDICI-MOBAF), Grant Agreement No. 101234583. Coordinated by Université Nangui ABROGOUA, Côte d'Ivoire.

Table 1 : Ph.D programmes and positions per partner universities

Degree	Host university	Country	Programme	Research areas	PhD positions	Start Date
Doctorate	University Nangui Abrogoua https://www.univ-na.ci/	Côte d'Ivoire	PhD Microbiology and biotechnology PhD Science and environment management	1. RENEWABLE ENERGY & SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY (Biogas, biohydrogen, biofuels) 2. CIRCULAR ECONOMY & WASTE VALORIZATION (Waste-to-energy, bioconversion processes, Community-based circular economy models, Organic waste management for urban sustainability) 3. URBAN TRANSPORT & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH (Antimicrobial resistance, Urban environmental quality and public health), Food microbiology <u>and biotechnology.</u>	2	September 2026
Doctorate	Kenyatta University	Kenya	PhD Environmental Studies and Community Development PhD Renewable Energy Technology	Climate adaptation technologies: Eco-friendly approaches for sustainable ecosystems, circular economy in agriculture Climate smart technologies: Resilient agricultural in practices in changing climate, advancing climate change adaptive capacity through knowledge management Solar PV, Geothermal, Hydrogen energy, energy policy	2	September 2026

Doctorate	University of Energy and Natural Resources https://uenr.edu.gh/	Ghana	PhD Sustainable Energy Engineering and Management	Energy Transitions: Pathways from fossil fuels to renewable energy systems, including policy frameworks, technology adoption, and socio-economic dimensions of clean energy shifts. Energy Storage: Battery technologies, pumped hydro, thermal storage, and hybrid systems for grid stability and off-grid reliability across sub-Saharan Africa. Energy, Society and Environment: Social dimensions of energy access, community energy models, energy poverty, gender and equity in energy systems, and environmental trade-offs. Environment and Climate: Climate change impacts, adaptation strategies, resilience building, carbon accounting, and mitigation pathways for vulnerable ecosystems and communities.	2	September 2026
Doctorate	Catholic University of Rwanda https://www.cur.ac.rw/	Rwanda	PhD Community and Environmental Health	Community-centered sustainable development and participatory governance; decentralized natural resource management and ecosystem resilience; circular economy, resource efficiency, and social	1	September 2026

				entrepreneurship; integrated waste and water management in urbanizing regions; environmental health risks in informal settlements; community-based disaster risk reduction and climate-sensitive health; environmental policy, governance, and health equity.		
Doctorate	National University of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics https://nust.edu.pk/admissions/phd/eligibility-criteria/	Benin	PhD Energy Systems Modeling	1. Renewable energies 2. Biofuels: solid (fuel briquettes/coal briquettes), liquid/gaseous biofuels (bioethanol, biodiesel, biogas, etc.) 3. Energy efficiency 4. Environmental and social impact study 5. Instrumentation and measurement 6. Modeling of energy systems	2	September 2026