

Call for a PhD Scholarship focused on digital higher education as part of the Building Stronger Universities Project (BSU-IV) at the State University of Zanzibar.

Project Outline

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has granted full support to the fourth phase of the Building Stronger Universities project (**BSU-IV**) at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA). The project is a partnership between SUZA and a consortium of Danish Universities led by University of Copenhagen. The aim of BSUIV is to strengthen SUZA's capacity to co-create and conduct participatory intervention studies that can identify effective and context-specific solutions to societal challenges of Zanzibar within environmental public health (EPH) and marine ecosystems health (MACES). The support includes funding for a total of five PhD Scholarships with a focus on participatory school/community-based mosquito control interventions (2 positions), participatory approaches to marine ecosystem restoration (2 positions), and application of educational technologies in research-based teaching and learning (1 position). Successful candidates will be offered a full-time academic position at SUZA following completion of the PhD.

PhD Research

In this call, we offer one (1) PhD position focused on digital higher education. The candidate will explore potential models for integration of research-based modalities and digital technologies within the existing MSc study programs at SUZA that relate to the prioritised areas of BSU-IV (i.e., EPH and MACES). As an example, the PhD may conduct small-scale interventions to assess if and how proposed models of integration can reinforce the teaching environment and academic performance within the selected areas of study. A participatory research process engaging academic staff, students and other relevant stakeholders is encouraged. If warranted by his/her research findings, the candidate may also develop strategies and instructional tools for integration of research-based modalities and digital technologies across SUZA's postgraduate curricula. The PhD fellow will conduct all research activities in close collaboration with institutional stakeholders, BSU project staff from SUZA, and Danish consortium partners.

Eligibility Criteria

- Candidates must be citizens of Tanzania not exceeding 40 years of age at the time of application
- Candidates must hold a relevant Master of Arts or Science degree within the field of education or educational technology with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- Willingness to commit **full-time** effort to the PhD program is a requirement, including staying in Zanzibar for the study period
- Candidates must have strong communication skills in English, both oral and written
- Experience with digital education and teaching approaches such as Problem Based Learning (PBL) is considered an advantage
- Experience with qualitative methodologies and in particular participatory research processes is considered an advantage
- Additional skills working with LMS or other online learning platforms are considered a merit
- Willingness to work in a multi-disciplinary and multicultural team is expected
- Experience from an international research environment is considered an advantage
- Author or co-authorship on publications related to the relevant research theme is considered an advantage
- Female candidates are encouraged to apply.



PhD enrolment, duration, supervision, and evaluation

Successful candidates will be enrolled at an institution recognized by the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) within Tanzania or alternatively, the African region. The PhD program is scheduled to commence during the academic year of 2023/24. The duration of the PhD scholarship is full-time for three (3) to four (4) years, subject to the requirement of the enrolling university. The PhD supervision will be a joint effort between faculty at the University of enrolment, SUZA, and UCPH. Evaluation of the progress of the PhD activities will be done according to current regulations at the University of enrolment.

PhD scholarship

Available funding for the scholarship covers the following:

- Monthly stipend aligned with local tariffs
- Tuition fees, publication fees and dissertation costs
- Conference participation (w. oral/poster presentation)
- Air tickets, visa and other travel costs related to the PhD project.
- Overseas travel allowance, as may be deemed appropriate.

Application procedure

Applications must include the following documents:

- Cover letter describing your research interests and motivation for applying for the PhD position (max. 1 page)
- Concept note addressing the subject of the PhD call (max. 2 pages, excluding references)
- Recent CV including brief educational background, previous and/or current employer(s) and position(s) held, as well as a list of peer reviewed publications - if any (max. 2 pages, excluding publication list)
- Copies of academic transcripts and relevant certificates issued by accredited educational institutions and authenticated by credible educational bodies
- Letters of recommendation from two academic referees including phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

All application documents must be submitted electronically to project leads Aziza Siba (aziza.siba@suza.ac.tz) and Anne-Marie Mosbech (anne-marie@sund.ku.dk) with cc. to SUZA Vice Chancellor (vc@suza.ac.tz), and Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Abdalla Sendaro (abdallahally@suza.ac.tz).

Application deadline

The closing date for this call is **29.09.2023**. Applications received later than this date will not be considered.

Selection interview

Please note that all shortlisted candidates are required to attend a selection interview and to give a 10 min. presentation of their concept notes as part of this interview. If necessary, the interview may be conducted online via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Skype. The date of the interview will be communicated within three (3) weeks of the application deadline. The final selection of the candidate will be determined by the interview committee and communicated to candidates directly via email. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

