

AFRICALICS VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2026 CALL

**Virtual information meeting
24th October 2025**

AfricaLics Secretariat



About AfricaLics

Our parent network:

- **Global** network on the
 - economics of
 - learning,
 - innovation and
 - competence building
 - **Systems** (Globelics)
- Worldwide research network of more than 2000 scholars: economists and other social scientists with a focus on how innovation and competence building may contribute to economic, sustainable and inclusive development
- Started in 2002 - more info at www.globelics.org
- Other regional LICs: Indialics, Asialics, Cicalics, Lalics, Eurolics, MEDALics.

AfricaLics

= the African chapter of Globelics - officially launched in 2012 in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

- Major objective: To promote the development of STI/Innovation and Development research capacity in Africa with strong links to policy makers and other users.
- AfricaLics goal: Enable African countries to develop the capacity to **study, monitor** and **evaluate** their innovation systems and to **develop evidence-based** policies for the betterment of society.
- National LICs established in Nigeria, Burkina Faso and Ethiopia.
- AfricaLics endeavours to become both a strong research capacity building and an active research network.

See: www.africalics.org



Activities & achievements (2012-2024)



10 PhD Academies

276 PhD students trained.
107 females and 169 male PhD students.
6 alumni groups created.



6 Research Conferences

606 paper presenters.
192 female and 414 male.
208 from LICs have presented papers.
3 alumni groups created.



PhD Visiting Fellows (VFPs)

39 PhD students (17 female & 22 male).
15 VFPs have successfully completed their PhDs.
Over 40 papers published with input from VFP.



Webinar Series

31 webinar series successfully hosted.
28 blogs and 4 briefing notes published.



PhD Supervision Training

5 PhD supervision courses.
11 experience sharing sessions held - 81 PhD supervisors.
PhD supervision good practice paper published and shared.



Alumni and Mentoring

314 alumni members
6 Alumni events held
35 PhD students (20 female and 15 male) mentored.



I&D Teaching and Learning

19 lecturers from 17 African countries developed action plans to create one or more courses or programmes.



6 Seed funded research projects.

(USD 10,000 – 35,000)
Over 3 collaborative proposals.
More than 3 journal papers published.
1 journal special issue published.
1 book published.



National and sub-regional LICs

3 national LICs (NigeriaLics, FasoLics and EthiopiaLics)
1 subregional LICs (North Africa LICs/MAGHTECH)

Programme at a glance: AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship

PHASE 1

- ✓ Online pre-visit events from 1st Feb – 31st August 2026, incl. a physical meeting in Nairobi (11th – 13th March 2026).

Phase 2

- ✓ Study visit to University of Johannesburg in South Africa, 1st September – 30th November 2026; incl. AfricaLics PhD Academy and potentially also participation in the 7th AfricaLics conference.

Phase 3

- ✓ Online follow-up activities from 1st December 2026 and in the following year (touch-base meeting and alumni events).



AFRICALICS

Key events

- **Trilateral meetings with home supervisor(s) and mentors (online and 2 x face to face)**
- **Touch-base meetings with the VFP academic coordinator and the VFP project manager**
- **Writing course and writing sessions**
- **Course on Academic Journal Writing**
- **Paper Presentation seminars- 2 physical and 3 online**
- **Three months study visit at UJ in South Africa, incl. PhD Academy (and conference)**
- **End of year Celebrations, AfricaLics Alumni**

Other online options: AfricaLics, Globelics and Chris Freeman webinars



In short - the AfricaLics VFP:

- Increases the mobility of African PhD students in I&D and provides them with improved access to literature and exposure to new research methods and an international research environment focused on I&D studies research (UJ).
- Provides students with dedicated writing time away from home to focus on PhD dissertations.
- Provides opportunities for students to present work and participate in seminars/meetings.
- Provides options for participation in various AfricaLics courses aimed at improving writing skills and academic writing - and hereby a better foundation for writing papers which may get accepted for AfricaLics and Globelics academies, conferences and/or publishing in internationally recognized journals.
- Increases students' networking and outreach abilities as well as network opportunities.

Thematic areas

- **Systems thinking** –Exploring innovation through frameworks such as national, sectoral, technological, agricultural, or health innovation systems, assessing enabling environments and identifying barriers to innovation.
- **Innovation management** –Examining the extent, status, and challenges of innovation, not only within formal firms but also across public institutions, informal sectors, and households.
- **Competencies and learning** –Understanding how innovation builds and requires skills, capabilities, and knowledge and how these can be developed and sustained.
- **Governance, policy and politics** –Focusing on power dynamics, institutions, and rules (formal and informal) that shape innovation processes and policy environments.

AfricaLics Research Coordination Areas

- **STI measurement in Africa**- led by the Human Sciences Research Council's, Centre for Science, Technology and Innovation Indicators (CeSTII) in South Africa, in collaboration with the National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM) in Nigeria.
- **Global Value Chains (GVCs), Innovation, and Industrialization** – led by Prof. Oluseye Jegede (Visiting Associate Professor, South African Research Chair in Entrepreneurship Education / Business Management, University of Johannesburg)
- **Innovating Resilience: Advancing Inclusive Agricultural Innovation for Climate Resilience in Sub-Saharan Africa**- Led by Dr Mercy F Salami (Senior Lecturer, Department of Agricultural Economics and Farm Management, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Ilorin, Ilorin, Nigeria).
- **Innovation and Sustainable Energy Transition in Africa (i-SET Africa)**- led by Dr. Maruf Sanni (Deputy Director at National Centre for Technology Management (NACETEM), a policy research institute of the Federal Ministry of Innovation, Science, and Technology (FMSTI) in Nigeria.

VFP Eligibility

Who Can Apply:

- *PhD students from African countries classified by OECD/DAC as from Low-income or Lower-middle-income countries and enrolled at an African University*

Research Focus:

- *Studies (across disciplines) that helps understand innovation processes and STI in social, and economic and sustainable development in Africa.*
- *Check journals listed in the Call, thematic areas, and Research Coordination Areas.*

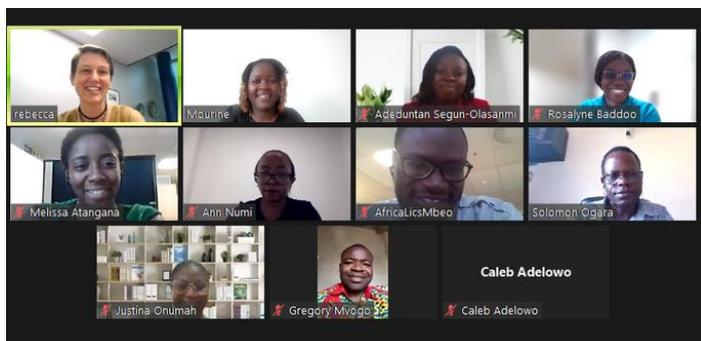
We encourage in particular:

- *Applications from female scholars and scholars from countries where I&D research is underrepresented.*



Required Documents (all in pdf)

- A **1-page application** outlining briefly your motivation and background for applying for the fellowship opportunity.
- **The following supporting documents must be included:**
 - Brief PhD Project Outline (*max. 5 pages*)-Include PhD training plan and research focus
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV)- Highlight courses attended and research achievements
 - Letter of Support from Main PhD Supervisor
 - Letter of Support from University Administration
 - Copies of Academic Certificates
 - One Writing Sample- *Article or chapter, pref.* from current PhD work.



DATES TO NOTE

- **Applications Deadline** -15th November 2025 23.00hrs East Africa
- **Interviews** - 12th & 15th December 2025
- **Notification of Results** - end-December 2025 or early January 2026.
- **Overall programme timeline:**
 - Online on-boarding 1st Feb 2026; first face-to-face trilateral meetings and introductory workshop 11th – 13th March 2026 in Nairobi
 - Study Visit 1st Sept- 30th November 2026 – including second face-to-face trilateral meetings in Johannesburg, PhD Academy and potentially also AfricaLics Conference 2027.



Testimonials

- AfricaLics Flipbook- <https://africalics.org/flipbook/>
- Testimonial Videos - <https://africalics.org/video-gallery/>
- AfricaLics Youtube- <https://www.youtube.com/@africalicsecretariat>

Additional questions?

Write to

visitingphd@africalics.org

