

AFRICALICS VISITING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME 2026 CALL

**Virtual information meeting (Q&A session)
17 September 2026 at 4pm EAT**

AfricaLics Secretariat and AfricaLics RCS Team

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 (2012-2025)



11 PhD Academies

291 PhD students trained.
110 females and 181 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 conference participants' groups created



PhD Visiting Fellows (VFPs)

44 PhD students (19 female & 25 male).
25 VFPs have successfully completed their PhDs.
57 papers published with input from VFPs.



Communication

36 webinar series successfully hosted.
28 blogs and 4 briefing notes published.
1 flip book published.



PhD Supervision Training

6 PhD supervision courses.
11 experience sharing sessions held - 90 PhD supervisors and 8 mentors in 2025.
PhD supervision good practice paper published and shared.



Alumni and Mentoring

335 alumni members
8 Alumni events held
40 PhD students (22 female and 18 male) mentored.



I&D Teaching and Learning

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



Thematic Research Support

4 Research Coordination Areas (RCAs) established
Seed-funding for 6 research projects



National and sub-regional LICs

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

AfricaLics thematic focus 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.

Programme at a glance: AfricaLics PhD Visiting Fellowship

PHASE 1

- ✓ Online pre-visit events from 1st Feb – 31st August 2027, incl. PhD academy and first face-to-face meeting (with visiting fellows, mentors, supervisors & facilitators).

Phase 2

- ✓ Study visit to University of Johannesburg in South Africa, 6th September – 3rd December 2027 (Visiting Fellows only) + second F2F meeting in November 2027.

Phase 3

- ✓ Online follow-up activities from mid-December 2026 and into the following year (touch-base meetings, continued collaboration with mentors and home supervisors, alumni events).

VFP 2027 key events

- **Trilateral meetings with home supervisor(s) and mentors (online and 2 x F2F-meetings)**
- **Online courses: writing skills and online writing sessions + Academic Journal Writing + Systematic Literature Reviews.**
- **Paper Presentation seminars (online and face-to-face)**
- **PhD Academy 2027**
- **Three months study visit at UJ in South Africa including paper presentations**
- **Touch-base meetings with the VFP academic coordinator and the VFP project manager**
- **End of year Celebrations, AfricaLics Alumni**

Other options: Webinars by Globelics, AfricaLics and other regional/national LICs



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.

Eligibility for the AfricaLics VFP

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.*

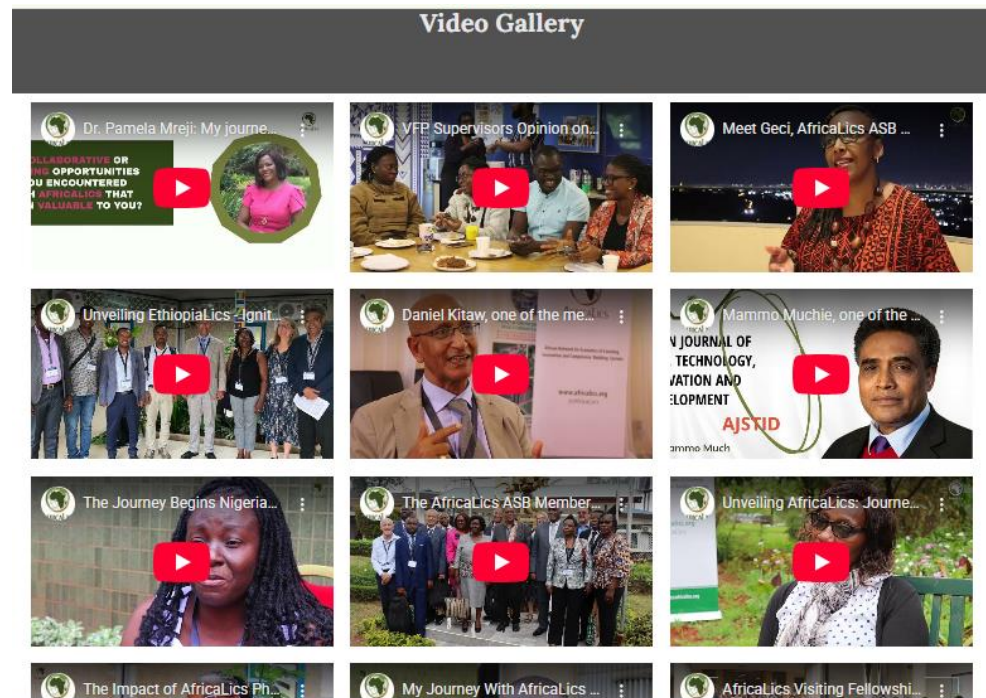


Online application form + required documents

- Fill out the **online application form** – key data about you and approval that your data and documents are shared for the assessment and selection process for the AfricaLics VFP.
- **Attach the following supporting documents:**
 - Brief letter, own background and motivation (1 page, 500 words)
 - Brief outline of your PhD project, incl. PhD training plan and research focus (max. 5 pages)
 - Curriculum Vitae (CV)- incl. PhD courses attended so far
 - Letter of Support from Main PhD Supervisor, incl. exp. upgrade
 - Letter of Support from University Administration, confirming enrollment and expected timing of upgrade
 - Copies of Academic Certificates (min. Bachelor and Masters)
 - One Writing Sample – Article or chapter from current PhD work.

Testimonials – from previous VFP fellows

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



Questions??

Now is your chance to pose questions re: process, eligibility or any other issue, you want clarification on! 😊

DATES TO NOTE

- **Applications Deadline** – 2nd October 2026, 23.00hrs East Africa
- **Interviews** – 27th and 30th November 2026
- **Notification of Results** - end-December 2026 or early January 2027.
- **Overall programme timeline:**
 - **Online on-boarding early Feb 2027**; first face-to-face trilateral meetings and workshop or PhD academy (April 2027, exact timing and venue to be confirmed)
 - Study Visit 6th Sept- 3rd December 2027 – including second face-to-face trilateral meetings between students, mentors and home supervisors in Johannesburg.

Additional questions?

- ❖ Write to visitingphd@africalics.org
- ❖ PPTs and summary of Q&A will be circulated to participants and made available online at www.africalics.org

