

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: MSc AND PhD SCHOLARSHIPS

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is a major global public health concern, contributing significantly to morbidity and mortality, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. In Rwanda, there is a notable lack of reliable data on the prevalence and resistance patterns of common pathogens. Additionally, there is increasing and often inappropriate use of second-line antibiotics at primary healthcare centers, even during initial patient encounters.

Surgical site infections (SSIs) are also a leading cause of postoperative complications and deaths. They account for approximately 20% of all hospital-acquired infections, prolong hospital stays, increase the risk of postoperative mortality by two to eleven times, and impose substantial financial burdens on both healthcare systems and patients.

Evidence from Rwanda indicates high levels of antimicrobial resistance among SSI pathogens, including 53.3% resistance to ceftriaxone and 92.6% resistance to gentamicin. Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) is an effective strategy for preventing SSIs; however, its implementation in Rwanda faces several challenges, including limited awareness of guidelines, poor adherence, insufficient inter-professional collaboration, limited availability of recommended antibiotics, and difficulties adapting international guidelines to the local context.

In response, the Government of Rwanda, through the Ministry of Health and the Rwanda Biomedical Centre (RBC), in collaboration with healthcare providers and academic institutions, is implementing an antimicrobial stewardship (AMS) program focused on surgical antibiotic prophylaxis.

A funded research project titled:

“Implementing an Antimicrobial Stewardship (AMS) Program for Surgical Antibiotic Prophylaxis (SAP) in Selected Public Hospitals in Rwanda”

has been awarded a three-year grant by IRCAS. As part of this initiative, RBC will support capacity building through MSc and PhD training opportunities aligned with the project.

Available Positions

- 1 MSc Scholarship
- 1 PhD Scholarship

Eligibility Criteria

A. MSc Candidates

Applicants must:

1. Be Rwandan nationals
2. Hold a First-Class Bachelor’s degree in Biomedical Sciences from a recognized institution
3. Be registered with the relevant professional council
4. Be willing to comply with project requirements
5. Demonstrate proficiency in English
6. Pass the entry examination (written and oral) with a minimum score of 70%
7. Be willing to enroll in a **local or regional university (preferred)**

B. PhD Candidates

Applicants must:

1. Be Rwandan nationals
2. Hold an MMed in Internal Medicine or an MSc in Biomedical Sciences, Masters in Public Health or Epidemiology, or a related field.
3. Be registered with the relevant professional council
4. Be willing to comply with project requirements
5. Demonstrate proficiency in English
6. Pass the entry examination (written and oral) with a minimum score of 70%
7. Submit a PhD research concept note
8. Be willing to enroll in a **local or regional university (preferred)**

Required Application Documents

Applicants must submit the following:

- Application letter specifying the desired position
- Copy of National ID
- Current telephone number and email address
- Certified copies of academic transcripts and degree certificates
- Certified copy of professional council registration certificate
- Certificate of good conduct from employer and relevant Medical Council
- Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Two (2) recent passport-sized photographs (colored)
- Two reference letters, including at least one from an academic referee

Application Deadline

All applications must be submitted no later than:
15 May 2026 at 18:00 (Central Africa Time)

Submission Details

Applications should be submitted via email to:
dg@rbc.gov.rw

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.