



KEFRI GRADUATE RESEARCH SCHOOL (KGRS)

Call for Research Grant Applications

Masters and PhD Research Programmes in Forestry and Allied Natural Resources

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KENYA FORESTRY RESEARCH INSTITUTE (KEFRI)

GRADUATE RESEARCH GRANT

2021 - 2022

CLOSING DATE: 29th January 2021`

ABOUT KEFRI

Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI) is a State Corporation established in 1986 under the Science and Technology Act Chapter 250 of the Laws of Kenya to undertake research in forestry and allied natural resources. The Act was repealed through the Science, Technology and Innovation Act No. 28 of 2013 and operationalised by the Forest Conservation and Management Act 2016 in the Ministry of Environment and Forestry.

As a world class centre of excellence in forestry and allied natural resources research for sustainable development, KEFRI is well endowed with a professional human capital with an established well-coordinated institutional structure and networks that ensures strong linkage between scientists and stakeholders at national, regional and international levels.

The Institute is mandated to conduct research in forestry and allied natural resources; disseminate research findings to stakeholders; build capacity of stakeholders; and establish partnerships and cooperate with other research organisations and institutions of higher learning in joint research and training. KEFRI's research and development agenda is mainly funded by the Government of Kenya, internal funds and key development partners.

ABOUT KGRS

KGRS is a deliberate strategic, transformational, and skills-oriented policy intervention that KEFRI has embraced to unlock its research potential and efficiency by providing **shared space or platform** for scientists, scholars and young graduates **to translate ideas into actions and impact**. This initiative is expected **to link** research to practice and industry/ job market and provide evidence based solutions to sustainable forestry development in Kenya and beyond. KGRS is an equal opportunity initiative

To date, KGRS has a total of 40 on-going research students with an equal proportion of 20 each on PhD and MSc programmes. Of the 40 students, 90% are KEFRI scientists registered in different institutions of higher learning in Kenya (35) and Belgium (1) on either a PhD or MSc study programme. Four (4) non-KEFRI scientists are benefitting from the Research grant award after our first intake for the year 2020-2021, following a competitive application.

KGRS Vision

A centre of excellence in **delivering high-quality personnel** in forestry and allied natural resources for sustainable development.

KGRS Mission

To **provide a platform** for strategic, transformational and practical skills-oriented solutions through research in forestry and allied natural resources for socio-economic development.

KGRS Philosophy

Working effectively at the **interface** of Education, Training and Research.

Aim

KGRS has been embraced by KEFRI as a way of **enhancing the momentum** and **linking research** of strategic institutional and national importance **with appropriate scientific responses** that would **provide sustainable measures to address felt-needs** and emerging concerns in forestry and allied natural resources.

Broad Objective

To enhance institutional forestry research output through **building and linking practical experience and competency of stakeholders to industry**.

Specific Objectives

1. Support for research initiative.
2. Propel institutional transformation linking education, research, experience and industry.
3. Build capacity of the future and potential research scientists.
4. Promote scientific outreach.
5. Enhance collaboration with partner institutions.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

To be eligible, an applicant must provide evidence of:

1. Being a Kenyan Citizen.
2. Being under the age of 35 years for Masters and 45 years for PhD research programmes.
3. Being a holder of a Bachelor's Degree in forestry and allied natural resources, at the level of Upper Second Class Honours from a reputable institution of higher learning, to be considered for a Masters' Programme.
4. Being a holder of a Master's Degree in forestry and allied natural resources from a reputable institution of higher learning, in order to be considered for the PhD Programme.
5. Being presently fully registered as a post graduate student in an institution of higher learning.
6. Having completed any Course work as per the requirements of the institution of higher learning in which one is registered with, for which they can provide evidence of outstanding achievement.
7. Being ready to prepare and present a written research proposal as outlined in the attached format and within specified thematic areas in forestry and allied natural resources currently being; Forest productivity and improvement, Forest biodiversity and environmental management, Forest products development, Socio-economics, policy and governance.
8. A proposal developed within the context of KEFRI Strategic Plan 2018-2022, paying particular attention to the research gaps that are yet to be covered by the respective thematic area as **attached as Annex 1**.
9. Being willing and committed to completing their research work within a period of between 6-9 months under joint supervision of their institution of higher learning and qualified KEFRI scientists.

Accepted students will be required to sign a Letter of Commitment with KEFRI, governing their conduct while working and associated with the Institute.

FIELDS OF STUDY

MSc and PhD programmes will draw broadly from thematic areas in the current KEFRI Strategic Plan 2018 - 2022. Research areas will include studies in:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree breeding• Silviculture (soft and hardwoods)• Forest resources inventory• Climate change• Forest ecology• Forest management• Dryland forestry technologies• Forest pathology• Forest entomology• Forest economics, marketing and trade• Wood and non-wood forest products | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Forest hydrology• Forest certification• Tree seed science• Forest restoration• Forestry extension (adoption of technologies)• Forest socio-economic, policy and governance• Forest and woodland fires• Forest soil health |
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RESEARCH GRANT AWARD

The Research Grant **Award covers cost of:**

1. Research and academic resources as defined by the approved study requirements.

The Research Grant **Award WILL NOT cover**

1. Tuition fees.
2. Monthly allowance to support living expenses.
3. Book allowance, however any text books or software procured will remain KEFRI property.

Applicants must complete all research work within the Research Grant period as such provision cannot be extended other than under **exceptional** circumstances.

METHOD OF APPLICATION

The applicants should submit their duly completed formal application in soft and hard copies which should include the following:

1. Completed application form
2. Concise curriculum vitae with names and contacts of at least two referees.
3. Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts
4. Certified copies of national Identity Card
5. Copy of admission letter from the institution of higher learning one is registered.
6. Two (2) Reference Letters with contact addresses.
7. **Research Proposal Application Form** is as **attached (Annex 2)** in word format.

CONTACT ADDRESS

Applicants must scan and produce electronic copies of all the above documents (**converted to PDF format**) and send to the following e-mail address.

director@kefri.org copied to kgrs@kefri.org

In addition, a set of hard copies of the above documents and a recent passport-size photograph must be sent by post to the following address:

**Director/Chief Executive Officer
Kenya Forestry Research Institute (KEFRI)
P.O. Box 20412-- 00200
Nairobi, Kenya**

Closing date: 29th January 2021