

# Introduction

Makerere University has been in existence for over 90 years with a prime status of being the leading University in Uganda. In its Strategic Plan of 2007/08-2017/18 the University has committed to repositioning itself to meet emerging development challenges. One of the strategies identified in this commitment is that of being research-led in addition to being learner-centered and driven by Knowledge Transfer Partnerships & Networking.

Various benchmarks have been identified for the University's new focus of being research-led. Key of these include increasing the proportion of graduate students to at least 30% in the graduate mix; increasing the number students graduating with Doctorate each year to 10% of the Permanent Senior Academics; raising the proportion of Academic Staff with Doctorates to at least 50% of Permanent Academic Staff; raising the publication rate for Academic Staff to 0.5 or at least one peer reviewed article every two years.

The current data indicates that the University has started attaining some of the targets. The proportion of Academic Staff with Doctorates is about 67% of the Permanent Academic Staff. This is above the 60% required by the National Council for Higher Education (**NCHE**) the regional benchmark set by the Center for Higher Education Transformation (**CHET**). The proportion of graduate students in the student population is about 15% at institutional level. However, the College of Health Sciences has attained the 30% target for graduate students. The publication rate for the institution is still at 0.2. The Doctorate graduation numbers have reached a peak of 60, which is about 0.6% with a target of 100 per year. The current enrolment of Doctorate students is at 600. Since the duration of the Doctorate is 5 years, the University should be graduating 120 students per year with maximum efficiency.

The university has graduated over 300 Doctorates in the period 2000-2012 representing a tremendous progression from 23 Doctorates in the year 2000 to 61 Doctorates in 2012. This considerable improvement was heightened by the Sida intervention in building capacity for research and graduate training at the university. Other major contributions in research capacity building where from NUFU, Norad, USAID, European Union, IDRC, Nuffic, and the Carnegie Corporation of New York as well as the Government of Uganda.

## Purpose and Objectives of the Study

In the current Sida supported Research Program at the University, one of the activities is to conduct a tracer study of the University's Doctorate graduates over the period of 2000-2012. The purpose of the tracer study is to map the careers and productivity of Makerere University Doctorate graduates. This information will be useful in assessing the impact of the intervention of research support programmes with specific focus on Sida support.

The following were the objectives of the study:

- a) Establish the number and demographic physiognomies of Makerere Doctorate graduates for the period 2000-2012;
- b) Profile the Research impact of Sida supported Doctorate graduates;
- c) Analyse the employment situation, career development, international job mobility, scientific output and experience linked to the prospective career paths of Makerere Doctorate graduates for the period 2000-2012;
- d) Establish Specific Characteristics of doctorate holders, such as gender, field of study, sources of financial support and year of completion.

## Methodology

The OECD questionnaire developed for conducting surveys on Careers and Productivity of Holders of Doctorates (CDH) was adapted for this study. The respondents were contacted through their telephone and email contacts. Respondents completed the Questionnaire. Additional information was obtained through one on one discussions with key informants that had been supported by the Sida program.

## The CDH survey questionnaire

The questionnaire is divided into seven different modules dealing with different aspects of the careers of doctorate holders like Employment situation and International mobility.

## Data Presentation and Analysis

The data was analyzed in SPSS software as well as Microsoft Excel and presented in the format suggested in the OECD manual.

## Data Sources

The main source of names of respondents was Academic Records of graduates of Makerere University in the Academic Registrar's Office as well as the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training at Makerere University. The target population was all Makerere University doctoral graduates for the period of 2000-2012.

<sup>1</sup>Auriol, L., M. Schaaper and B. Felix (2012), "Mapping Careers and Mobility of Doctorate Holders: Draft Guidelines, Model Questionnaire and Indicators – Third Edition", OECD Science, Technology and Industry Working Papers, 2012/07, OECD Publishing. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/5k4dnq2h4n5c-en>

