



# MAKERERE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL RESEARCH (MISR)

## INTERDISCIPLINARY MPhil/PH.D. PROGRAM IN SOCIAL STUDIES



### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO THE 2026 CLASS

The Makerere Institute of Social Research launched its interdisciplinary Ph.D. in Social Studies program in January 2012. This five-year program comprises three years of coursework leading to the attainment of a Master of Philosophy in social studies, followed by two years dedicated to fieldwork and dissertation writing, culminating in the award of a Ph.D. in social studies. Four broad themes define the program's intellectual focus: **Political Studies, Political Economy, Historical Studies, and Cultural and Literary Studies**. While students specialize in one field, they engage in coursework across all four themes.

This allows students to be grounded theoretically while also giving them a broad foundation in historically informed debates in the humanities and social sciences. Additionally, students are required to complete core courses focusing on theory and historiography. The courses are taught by MISR faculty, faculty from other Makerere departments, and prominent visiting scholars through the MISR Global Scholars Program. As the fourteenth cohort progresses, applications are now open for the **fifteenth cohort**, which will commence in **January 2026**.

#### Admission Criteria

The MISR Interdisciplinary MPhil/PhD program is open to applicants who hold at **least a Bachelor's degree with a Second Class (Upper Division) or its equivalent**. Applicants with a Second Class (Lower Division) may be considered if they provide clear evidence of academic maturity, such as a postgraduate diploma or substantial research experience. All admitted candidates must complete the entire program, including two years of coursework, regardless of their previous academic qualifications.

#### Fees

The fee structure is as follows:

- Ugandans/East Africans: 4 million Uganda Shillings per

semester. East Africa includes Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, Comoros, Mauritius, and Madagascar.

- Students from outside East Africa: US\$4,000 per semester.

#### Scholarships and Financial Aid

Every applicant who is admitted will automatically be considered for financial aid. For scholarship applications visit <http://www.misr.mak.ac.ug/uploads/application.pdf>.

#### MAKERERE UNIVERSITY ONLINE APPLICATION PORTAL USERGUIDE

1. Visit the Makerere University's Admissions URL <https://apply.mak.ac.ug>
2. Sign up using full name, e-mail and Mobile No. Please note that your name must be similar to the one on your supporting academic documents for your application to be considered valid.
3. A password will be sent to both your e-mail and mobile number.
4. The system will prompt you to change the password to the one you can easily remember.
5. To fill a form (all form sections must be filled) the applicant clicks on the **APPLY NOW** button (for first time applicants) or **MY PORTAL** button (for renewal of application) displayed on the appropriate scheme i.e. Taught PhDs, Masters & Postgrad Diplomas **OR** PhD by Research.
6. All academic transcripts/certificates and passport photos should be scanned and uploaded on the system.

7. You can access the referees' letter by following the following link: <https://rgt.mak.ac.ug/sites/default/files/file-attachments/Referee-Letter-of-Recommendation-for-Admission-to-Graduate-Programme.pdf>. These should be filled, scanned and uploaded.
8. Obtain a payment ref no. by clicking on "Pay for Form" button
9. Make payments at any of the banks used by URA
  - i) Application fee = Ugx **50,000** (East African applicants) or Ugx **151,500** (International Applicants)
10. International students can make payments for admission via Visa.  
In order to make a payment via Visa/plastique, follow the detailed guidelines on the link below; <https://news.mak.ac.ug/2021/09/how-to-pay-tuition-other-fees-to-ura-using-visa-mastercard/>
11. Strictly observe the **closing date of Friday, May 30, 2025**. Responses to successful applicants will be sent out by **Friday, July 21, 2025**.

Please send an email notification to [applications.misr@gmail.com](mailto:applications.misr@gmail.com) once you have completed your application.

For more information about the MISR MPhil/Ph.D. program, or about MISR, please contact the Director of MISR at [director.misr@mak.ac.ug](mailto:director.misr@mak.ac.ug) or visit the MISR website at <http://www.misr.mak.ac.ug>.

**Prof. Buyinza Mukadasa**  
**ACADEMIC REGISTRAR**