



COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, DESIGN, ART AND TECHNOLOGY

BACKGROUND

SUMMER SCHOOL SERIES 2025-2027



By 2050, the population of Africa is projected to reach 2.5 billion, with a median age of 23.9. With its rapidly growing population and urbanisation, Africa is facing significant challenges related to food, energy, water, and housing. Compounded by the impacts of climate change on traditional production systems, these challenges threaten sustainable livelihoods, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa. On the other hand, Africa is abundantly endowed with renewable resources that, if harnessed effectively, can provide sustainable solutions for energy, food, water needs and product development. The continent also has immense potential for renewable materials and energy that can drive industrial growth and economic transformation.

The proposed summer school series (SSS) aim to equip selected young academics from Africa with new insights and knowledge for the development of renewable resources for sustainable development. The meetings at SSS will provide a platform for sharing knowledge and creation of professional networks beyond national borders and individual disciplines. This initiative will assist in building capacity in Africa's young generation, empowering them to mitigate energy poverty, environmental degradation, preserve natural resources, add value to their communities, ensure food security, and safeguard biodiversity within the region. Prioritising localised renewable resource solutions and sustainable practices can stimulate local economic development, generate job opportunities, promote equity, diversity and inclusion and cultivate entrepreneurship within African communities.

SUMMER SCHOOL I (2025): HARNESSING AFRICA'S POTENTIAL - ADVANCES AND APPLICATIONS OF RENEWABLE MATERIALS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Fields Of Focus

The 2025 Summer School will focus on exploring innovative uses of renewable materials in the following areas:

- Industrial applications of renewable materials
- Valorisation of renewable materials in agriculture and agro-processing
- Biodegradable and bio-based materials
- Green and sustainable building materials
- Renewable materials for food systems
- Bioplastics and bio-composites
- Life cycle assessment of renewable technologies
- Hydrogen as a renewable resource

2. Target Participants

The 2025 Summer School will host approximately 20 participants, based in Africa. A limited number of participants of African origin studying outside the continent may also be considered. The target group from the above fields of interest includes early-career researchers and young scientists, particularly PhD candidates and early career researchers within 1-3 years post PhD award.

Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

3. Program and Delivery Mode

This is the first in a three-part Summer School funded by the Volkswagen Foundation under the overarching theme: "Renewable Resources for Sustainable Development in Africa (ReSus-AFRICA)". The program will include:

- Lectures and workshops led by international and regional experts
- Collaborative group sessions
- Excursions to local sites in Uganda showcasing renewable energy and sustainable materials
- Social and networking opportunities to foster long-term research collaborations
- English language shall be the medium of communication at the summer school

4. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must be either:

- a PhD student registered at a University in Africa, or an African PhD student registered anywhere,
- or be an African early career researcher within 1-3 years post PhD award.
- Commit to attending the in-person program in Kampala, Uganda, in July 2025.
- Demonstrate motivation and interest in the theme: Advances and Applications of Renewable Materials for Sustainable Development by submitting a one-page motivation statement, stating how the theme relates to research
- Submit a letter of application, stating your motivation for participation and a brief CV (in English language, maximum 2 pages).
- Submit letter of support from your institution
- All documents must be submitted as a single PDF file
- Female applicants who have completed their MSc in related disciplines are encouraged to apply

5. Application Procedure

Deadline: 30 May 2025

Applications must be submitted via the official link provided. Successful candidates will be contacted through their registered email addresses.

Click here to submit application:

<https://forms.gle/PzXLwHsHyT8nGbVW7>



**AT MAKERERE UNIVERSITY,
KAMPALA, UGANDA**

6. Funding Support

The Summer School Series is fully funded by the Volkswagen Foundation. Funding covers:

- Visa fees
- Round-trip travel
- Accommodation
- Meals and local transportation during the program in Kampala, Uganda

CONTACT ORGANIZERS

For additional information, please send an inquiry to Medard.turyasingura@students.mak.ac.ug

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