



DIRECTORATE OF
GRADUATE TRAINING

MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026 - JUNE 2026



The First Lady and Minister of Education & Sports Hon. Janet K. Museveni laying the foundation stone for the new School of Graduate Studies Building on 18th December, 2024, at Makerere University.

Our Partners



About the Directorate of Graduate Training (DGT)

Our Mission

To coordinate, monitor and provide an enabling environment for quality graduate studies, in order to meet the changing needs of society and for sustained development.

Specific Functions and Responsibilities of DGT.

1. Coordinate and administer all matters related to postgraduate studies.
2. Advertise graduate programs to the public to create awareness and to meet demand.
3. Admission of students to graduate programs.
4. Develop and maintain a database of students' records and thus coordinate graduate training and document graduate records.
5. Assessment ensuring quality of graduate programs.
6. Streamline, review and reform, if necessary, regulations, procedures and practices in order to provide a conducive environment for graduate training and innovative research at Makerere.
7. Monitor quality and coordinate examinations and programs development from teaching units.
8. Provide both postgraduate students and supervisors a home that gives them sense of belonging to meaningful scholarly community.
9. Undertake any other relevant activity that is pertinent to graduate studies and research so as to promote and improve the quality of scholarship in Makerere University.

Highlights (January 2026 - June 2026)

1. Capacity Strengthening for Graduate Training

- Historic PhD Graduation numbers at 76th Ceremony
- Best Thesis/Dissertation Awards.
- Resilience Awards to Doctoral Students.
- PhD Cohort II Orientation
- Curriculum for Graduate Supervision & Mentorship
- PhD Cross Cutting Course Training of Trainers
- Advanced Research Methods Training
- The VC's visitation to colleges on graduate training and research
- Strengthening Research Ethics
- Makerere Skills Revolution
- Thesis Completion Grants
- Research and Supervision
- Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarship (QECS)
- EU Earmarks Shs19.8bn for 15 Joint PhD Scholarships

2. Building Efficient Management and Delivery of Graduate Research Training

- RIMS Implementation
- Graduate Supervision
- Hands-On RIMS Training
- Makerere's CHUSS Embraces Digital Future
- Scholarly Publishing
- CARTA's Inspiration of Makerere's Doctoral Training Reforms

Message from the Director – DGT

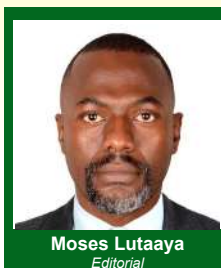


It is a pleasure to present the January – June 2026 edition of the MakGrad Newsletter by Makerere University Directorate of Graduate Training. At the Directorate of Graduate Training we are committed to building an enabling environment where our students can flourish and their academic journey is well-supported. Formerly one of the two main divisions that constituted the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training, the stand alone Directorate of Graduate Training is mandated to coordinate and administer all matters related to postgraduate studies.

At time when Makerere University is steadily transforming into a research led institution, we are on hand to review and initiate policies meant to provide a conducive environment for graduate training and innovative research. From redesigned PhD crosscutting courses, enhanced supervision structures, improved infrastructure, to stronger partnerships with global institutions — we are laying the foundation for increased success.

In this edition of our newsletter, we share with you highlights of some of the activities during the period January – June 2026. The 76th graduation ceremony in February 2026 recorded key important in roads in Makerere University's efforts to respond to the country's need for increased capacity in doctoral training. The 213 PhDs was a significant increase from the previous number of 144. It reflects an intentional progress towards increased completion rates. Beyond focusing on technical expertise, the Directorate coordinates efforts to cultivate critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, and interdisciplinary fluency of all our graduate students. Today's challenges rarely fit neatly into one discipline; they demand collaboration across disciplinary fields. In this edition of the Newsletter, we share some of the training of trainers and learners' trainings we have conducted to achieve this objective.

I thank all the staff of the Directorate and the university at large, the graduate students and all the stakeholder for the support and collaboration. You are part of a growing, supportive community committed to excellence and transformation that our country prides in.



Welcome to the inaugural issue of the Directorate of Graduate Studies training newsletter, a publication tracking our academic milestones from January to June 2026.

This maiden edition marks a historic step forward in documenting our vibrant research

culture, graduate seminar highlights, and student-led innovations. By capturing these key activities, the newsletter serves as a vital archive of our commitment to academic excellence and a bridge connecting our scholarly community.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our Director, Prof. Julius Kikooma, whose unwavering support and visionary leadership made this first issue possible. His guidance throughout the production process has been instrumental in bringing this collective milestone to fruition.

As you browse through these pages, we hope the achievements of the past six months inspire continued dedication to pushing the boundaries of graduate training at Makerere University.



The research grants office of the Directorate of Graduate Training (DGT) is committed to strengthening graduate education by mobilizing and coordinating financial resources that support postgraduate training and research. The Office plays a

pivotal role in enhancing the quality and impact of graduate education by facilitating access to funding opportunities for graduate students, supervisors, academic units, and collaborative research initiatives.

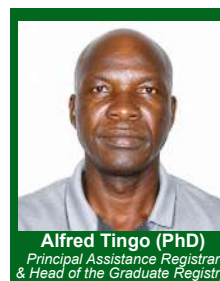
The Office identifies and disseminates scholarships, fellowships, research grants, travel grants, and capacity-building opportunities that arise from local and international funding agencies. To enhance the competitiveness of graduate research, the office coordinates the small PhD completion research grants supported by the Government of Uganda. In addition, the crosscutting courses and research supervision & mentorship programmes that equip master's and doctoral students with essential skills have been coordinated. Through these initiatives, there is a significant contribution to the University's strategic agenda of producing highly skilled graduates capable of generating knowledge, driving innovation, and addressing national, regional, and global development challenges. There is need to expand graduate funding opportunities and strengthening research capacity, for the office to remain an integral partner in advancing graduate training and publications in a research-led of the University.



I recognize that Makerere University's aspiration to be a research-led institution depends not only on academic excellence but also on sustainable and diversified funding for graduate training and research. While support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York,

the Makerere University Research and Innovation Fund (MAK-RIF), and partners such as the Mastercard Foundation and CARTA has significantly strengthened our research capacity, the growing demand for postgraduate education requires us to expand our portfolio of funding partners.

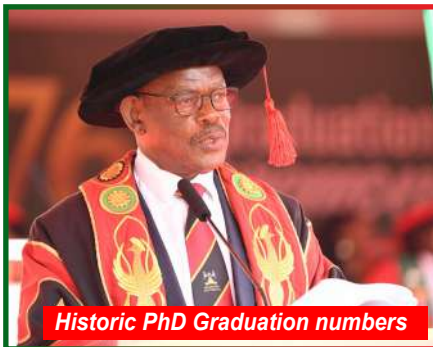
The Directorate of Graduate Training remains committed to promoting prudent financial management, transparency, and accountability to ensure that all resources entrusted to the University are effectively managed. I encourage academic staff, researchers, and project teams to actively pursue funding opportunities through international collaborations, competitive grants, government partnerships, and philanthropic organizations. By attracting and managing diverse sources of research funding, we can strengthen graduate training, enhance research and innovation, and further position Makerere University as a leading research university in Africa.



Although this is the inaugural edition of its kind, this newsletter marks an important milestone in the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training's commitment to keeping our stakeholders informed. Published quarterly, it will provide timely updates on

developments, achievements, opportunities, and initiatives in graduate training. As the University continues its transformation into a research-led institution, the Directorate is supported by a dedicated, responsive, and professional registry team committed to facilitating students' academic progress. Graduate students are encouraged to consult the registry staff whenever they require guidance or assistance. The team is always ready to provide the support needed to help students successfully navigate their graduate training journey. We look forward to sharing important developments through this quarterly publication and trust that the information it contains will inform, inspire, and engage all stakeholders in graduate training. We hope this newsletter will become an indispensable source of information and a must-read publication for our graduate community.

PART 1: CAPACITY STRENGTHENING FOR GRADUATE TRAINING



Historic PhD Graduation numbers



Resilience Awards



Fresh PhD Cohort II Orientation



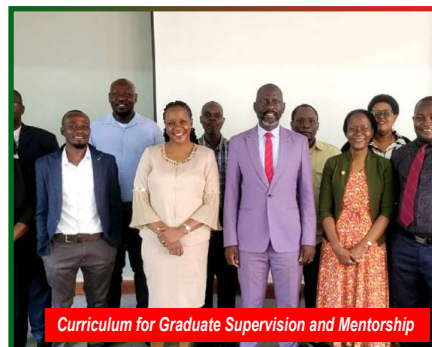
Thesis/Dissertation Awards



PhD Cross Cutting Course Training



PhD Training in Advanced Research Methods



Curriculum for Graduate Supervision and Mentorship



Strengthening Research Ethics



Makerere Bold Skills Revolution



The VC's visitation to colleges



Excellence in Research and Supervision



QECS



Thesis Completion Grants



Joint PhD Scholarships

Historic PhD Graduation numbers at 76th Ceremony

Makerere University registered a record achievement during its 76th Graduation Ceremony, conferring Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degrees upon 213 candidates, the highest number of doctoral graduates at a single graduation ceremony in the institution's history. The cohort comprised 87 women and 126 men, reflecting the university's continued inclusivity and investment in advanced research and doctoral training.

The four-day graduation ceremony also saw 2,503 students awarded Master's degrees, underscoring the growing demand for postgraduate education at Uganda's premier institution. Several colleges made notable contributions to the record doctoral output.

The University has made a notable milestone with regard to females graduating with PhDs in force of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) fields. Of the 26 PhD students that graduated in the College of Health Sciences, 15 were female (i.e 58%). Similarly, over 50% of the PhD students that graduated from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Institute of Gender and Development Studies were females.

The 76th Graduation Ceremony also recorded another milestone in Makerere University's mission in strengthening Interactions and partnerships with institutions in offering dual/double PhD Programmes such as **Philip Wandumu** who was on a split site PhD through a collaborative programme between Makerere University and the Department of Global Public Health, Karolinska Institute - Sweden.



THESIS TITLE:

Intrapartum-Related Adverse Perinatal Outcomes: Burden, Consequences, and Models of Care from Studies in Eastern Uganda

**PhD CANDIDATE:
PHILLIP WANDURU**



Procession at the 76th Graduation Ceremony



Vice Chancellor at the 76th Graduation Ceremony

Best Thesis/Dissertation Awards

Makerere University launched a historic new tradition during its 76th Graduation Ceremony by officially recognizing the best PhD theses and Masters Dissertations.

The top 10 Graduate Student researchers—including **Kawesi Paul** (SoL), **Katende Stephen** (CoBAMS), **Najjinda Shamirah** (CoBAMS), **Turyahabwe Irene** (CoVAB), **Tayebwa Dickson** (CoVAB), **Batte Herbert** (CoNAS), **Ssekago Arnold** (CoNAS), **Namiyingo Julian** (CHUSS), **Namata Brenda** (CHUSS) and **Tayebwa Asaph Kamau** (MUBS).

The graduates were urged to act as "global science citizens" and use their expertise to transform the continent.



Some of the best Graduate Student Researchers receive their awards at the 76th Graduation Ceremony

Resilience Awards to Doctoral Students

The Directorate of Graduate Training recognized seven (7) academic staff who completed their PhDs in time without study leave. The award aims at recognizing and motivating staff to study at home and counter the negative image of “Makerere PhDs take forever”. The staff that were recognized include: **Mugisha Arthur, Ainomugisha Safiki, Mbabazi Lillian, Mbabazi Pamela Byakwaga, Mutuzo Irene Esther, Tushabomwe Dennis** and **Tushemerirwe Abius**.



Academic staff who completed their PhDs in time receive their awards at the 76th Graduation Ceremony

Fresh PhD Cohort II Orientation

A strong message of transformation, resilience, and purpose defined the orientation of PhD Cohort 11 (2025/2026) held on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at the Makerere University School of Food Technology, Nutrition and Bioengineering Conference Hall, with academic leaders urging students to rethink what it means to pursue doctoral education in the 21st century.

Presiding over the function, the Academic Registrar, Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, delivered an expansive and deeply reflective message, challenging the new doctoral candidates to embrace a fundamentally different academic journey.

Welcoming the students, he reminded them that their admission followed a highly competitive process, placing them among a select group entrusted with shaping the future through research.

“You have come from a competitive pool of deserving Ugandans to embark on a journey that may turn out to be the most challenging in your life, but also the most transformative and rewarding intellectual experience,” he said.

Drawing a clear distinction between earlier academic stages and doctoral study, Prof. Buyinza emphasized that PhD candidates must now take full ownership of their learning journey. “The first time you were here, someone was driving you. This time, you are going to sit in your own seat and drive it.”



A group photo of participants at the PhD Cohort II Orientation.



*Academic Registrar,
Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi*



Prof. Kikooma at the function



Part of the audience

Curriculum for Graduate Supervision and Mentorship



Prof. Julius Kikooma (Centre) with stakeholders at the Workshop

Makerere University is set to develop a curriculum for a specialized Certificate Course in Supervision and Mentoring for Graduate Training and Higher Education Management, in a move aimed at professionalizing graduate supervision and strengthening the capacity of academic staff to deliver quality postgraduate education.

The proposed programme will equip academic staff with advanced competencies in graduate-level teaching, research supervision, mentorship, and higher education management, while supporting the University's agenda of improving the quality and relevance of graduate training.

The curriculum development process was discussed during a Stakeholders' Curriculum Development Consultation Workshop held on Thursday, 18th June 2026 at the Senate Building Telepresence Hall, Makerere University.



Prof. Julius Kikooma



Dr. Patrice Ssembirige,
Deputy Executive Director in charge of
Curriculum Review and Instructional
Materials Development - NCDC



Dr. Dorothy Ssebowa, Director of the
Centre for Teaching and Learning Support
at Makerere University

PhD Cross Cutting Course Training of Trainers



Prof. Julius Kikooma and Dr. Robert Kakuru with facilitators and participants from accross a range of disciplines in SoL, CEDAT, CoNAS, CoVAB and CHUSS.

Makerere University intensified efforts to strengthen graduate supervision and research excellence through a three-day Training of Trainers (ToT) workshop for facilitators of the PhD cross cutting course in Advanced Research Methods held from April 28 to 30, 2026 at the Senate Building Telepresence Hall.

The training, organized by the Directorate of Graduate Training with support from iCARTA and funding from the NORHED Project, drew participants from across colleges including the School of Law, College of Engineering, Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT), College of Natural Sciences (CONAS), College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Bio-security (COVAB), and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. Opening the workshop, Prof. Julius Kikooma

underscored the strategic importance of continuous staff development in responding to evolving academic demands.

“This particular training is one of the routine tools that we use as the Directorate of Graduate Training to continuously re-tool and re-engage with staff in response to the requirements of the new policy of teaching and learning,” he said.



*Prof. Julius Kikooma,
Director of Graduate Training.*

PhD Training in Advanced Research Methods

The 10-day training in Advanced Research Methods for Doctoral Students was organized by the Directorate of Graduate Training and supported by iCARTA as part of Makerere's efforts to strengthen doctoral education and research capacity.

The Director of Graduate Training at Makerere University, Prof. Julius Kikooma, has challenged PhD students to ensure that their research directly contributes to solving Uganda's pressing societal challenges, saying postgraduate research must move beyond academic theory to real-world transformation.

Speaking after the training, Prof. Stella Neema, an Associate Professor of Medical Anthropology in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Makerere University's College of Humanities and Social Sciences, described the course as highly transformative for participants from different academic traditions.



Prof. Julius Kikooma and Prof. Stella Neema pose for a group photo outside the Main Library with facilitators and PhD students after the training on 25th May 2025.



Prof. Julius Kikooma puts his challenge across to PhD students.



Prof. Stella Neema.

The VC's visitation to colleges to rally faculty and stakeholders on vision for graduate training and research

During the second week of June 2026, the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe conducted an intensive seven day's working visitation to colleges and standalone schools and institutes to discuss the management and administration of graduate training in their units. The Vice Chancellor, accompanied by members of the university's central management in charge of graduate training and research units, used the occasion of the visitation to reflect on achievements, challenges and strategic intervention to drive excellence in graduate training and research.

To advance the vision for graduate education, the Professor Nawangwe underscored the need to harness power of graduate training to change Africa's research trajectory. He said, "Africa cannot achieve sustainable development without significantly increasing its capacity for research, innovation and graduate training".



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe visiting different colleges including CHUSS, CoBAMS, CoCIS, etc

Strengthening Research Ethics

Leaders at Makerere University renewed calls to strengthen research ethics, governance, and integrity systems, as the institution positions itself as a leading research-driven university in Uganda and the region.

The call was made during a high-level workshop that brought together regulators, academic leaders, and research ethics committees, with a shared focus on improving coordination, efficiency, and accountability in research oversight.



Participants in the high-level workshop that deliberated on improving coordination, efficiency, and accountability in research oversight pose for a group photo.



Some of the stakeholders pose for a group photo.

Makerere Bold Skills Revolution

Over 100 graduates were unveiled as job creators during the 6th certificate award ceremony of the College of Veterinary Medicine, Animal Resources and Biosecurity (COVAB) at Makerere University.

The graduates, trained under the Africa Institute for Strategic Animal Resources Services and Development (AFRISA) through the Skills, Production, Enterprise Development and Accreditation (SPEDA) programme, were urged to lead Uganda's transformation through enterprise, innovation and hands-on expertise in the livestock sector



Dignitaries pose for a group photo with the graduates



Prof. Julius Kikooma



L-R: Prof. Buyinza Mukadasi, Prof. Julius Kikooma, Dr. Anna Rose Okurut Ademun, Prof. Frank Mwiine, Prof. Robert Tweyongyere and Mr. Richard Byarugaba

Makerere University Graduate Programmes for Academic Year 2026-2027

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THE OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC REGISTRAR
ANNOUNCEMENT

The Academic Registrar, Makerere University invites applications for admission to Graduate Programmes (Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and Doctoral Degree Programmes) for the 2026/2027 Academic Year. Applicants should have obtained at least a first or second class degree (or its equivalent) from a Chartered University at the time of completion. Applicants should also possess a Uganda Certificate of Education (or its equivalent) and a Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (or its equivalent).

Sponsorships:
All Graduate Programmes are PRIVATELY-SPONSORED. Therefore, applicants seeking sponsorship should have their applications endorsed by their respective sponsors where applicable. Applicants should also possess a Uganda Certificate of Education (or its equivalent) and a Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (or its equivalent).

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES	TUITION FEES PER ANNUM (SHILLINGS/USD)	
	Ugandan & EA Students	International Students
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES		
1. MSc. in Crop Science	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
2. MSc. in Animal Science	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
3. MSc. in Soil Science and Agronomy	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
4. Master of Agricultural Management	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
5. MSc. in Integrated Watershed Management	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
6. MSc. in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
7. MSc. Applied Human Nutrition	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-

Official Advert for Graduate Programmes 2026-2027

Makerere University invited applications for admission to 182 Graduate Programmes (15 Postgraduate Diplomas, 148 Masters and 19 Doctoral Degree Programmes) for the 2026/2027 Academic Year.

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THE OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC REGISTRAR
ANNOUNCEMENT

RE-ADVERT FOR GRADUATE ADMISSIONS 2026/2027 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Academic Registrar, Makerere University invites additional applications for admission to Graduate Programmes (Postgraduate Diploma, Masters and Doctoral Degree Programmes) for the 2026/2027 Academic Year. Applicants should have obtained at least a first or second class degree (or its equivalent) from a Chartered University at the time of completion. Applicants should also possess a Uganda Certificate of Education (or its equivalent) and a Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (or its equivalent).

Sponsorships:
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4. Master of Agricultural Management	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
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6. MSc. in Plant Breeding and Seed Systems	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-
7. MSc. Applied Human Nutrition	Shs 5,000,000 /-	Shs 8,000,000 /-

Re-Advert for Graduate Programmes 2026-2027

Thesis Completion Grants



The Directorate of Graduate Training at Makerere University launched a thesis completion grant aimed at supporting PhD students to complete their research, improve completion rates, and align academic work with Uganda's national development priorities.

The initiative was introduced in response to funding gaps that emerged after development partner support for doctoral training declined around 2020. Designed to complement existing university efforts, the grant provides targeted support for critical research activities such as fieldwork, data collection, and publication, with the aim of improving PhD completion rates and strengthening research capacity. To date, about 100 members of staff have benefitted from this support.



Prof. Julius Kikooma and DGT Staff with PhD Thesis Completion Grants beneficiaries

Leaders Call for Excellence in Research and Supervision as Academic Staff and PhD Students Receive Certificates

Makerere University held a reflective and inspiring Certificate Award Ceremony to award academic staff who completed the Graduate Supervision and Mentorship Course and PhD Students who successfully undertook the University's compulsory cross-cutting doctoral courses.

The ceremony honored the efforts and achievements of 58 academic staff members, 39 men and 19 women from various colleges including CEDAT, CAES, CEES, COVAB and COBAMS, who completed a rigorous three-week Graduate Supervision and Mentorship programme. Additionally, PhD students were recognized for completing cross-cutting courses in Philosophy of Methods, Scholarly Writing and Communication, and Advanced Research Methods.

The event was presided over by the Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs, Prof. Sarah Ssali.

In her keynote remarks, Prof. Sarah Ssali, the Deputy Vice Chancellor–Academic Affairs, delivered a message of encouragement and renewed commitment to research excellence at Makerere University.



Left to Right: Prof. Julius Kikooma, Prof. Sarah Ssali and Dr. Dorothy Sebbowa Kyagaba follow proceedings.



Prof. Sarah Ssali, the Deputy Vice Chancellor – Academic Affairs.

Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Scholarship (QECS)

Makerere is one of over 500 Universities across the globe that subscribe to the Association of Commonwealth Universities (ACU) in the 50 countries. The Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth scholarship (QECS) offered an opportunity to Makerere University to host their master sponsored students on this prestigious scholarship. The scholarship is for a two-year master's degree. The QECS scholarship awardees receive: fully funded tuition fees, living expenses allowance, return economy flights to their country, arrival allowance and research support grant. Beneficiaries of QECS awards come from any commonwealth member university other than the host country of the scholarship.

Each year there are two opportunities to apply for QECS – cycle 1 opens in November/December and cycle 2 opens in March/April. These are advertised through the Association of Commonwealth universities (ACU) website (<https://www.acu.ac.uk/>). Beneficiaries of QECS awards come from any commonwealth member university other than the host country of the scholarship.

Since 2022, each year, Makerere admits one student to offer a master in the science discipline including Msc Civil Engineering, Msc MSc Renewable Energy, MSc Civil Engineering, MSc Food Safety and Quality Management, MSc Plant Breeding and feed systems and Msc Climate Change and Development.

For year 2026/2027 academic year, Makerere received over 400 applications from over 10 countries competing for this scholarship.

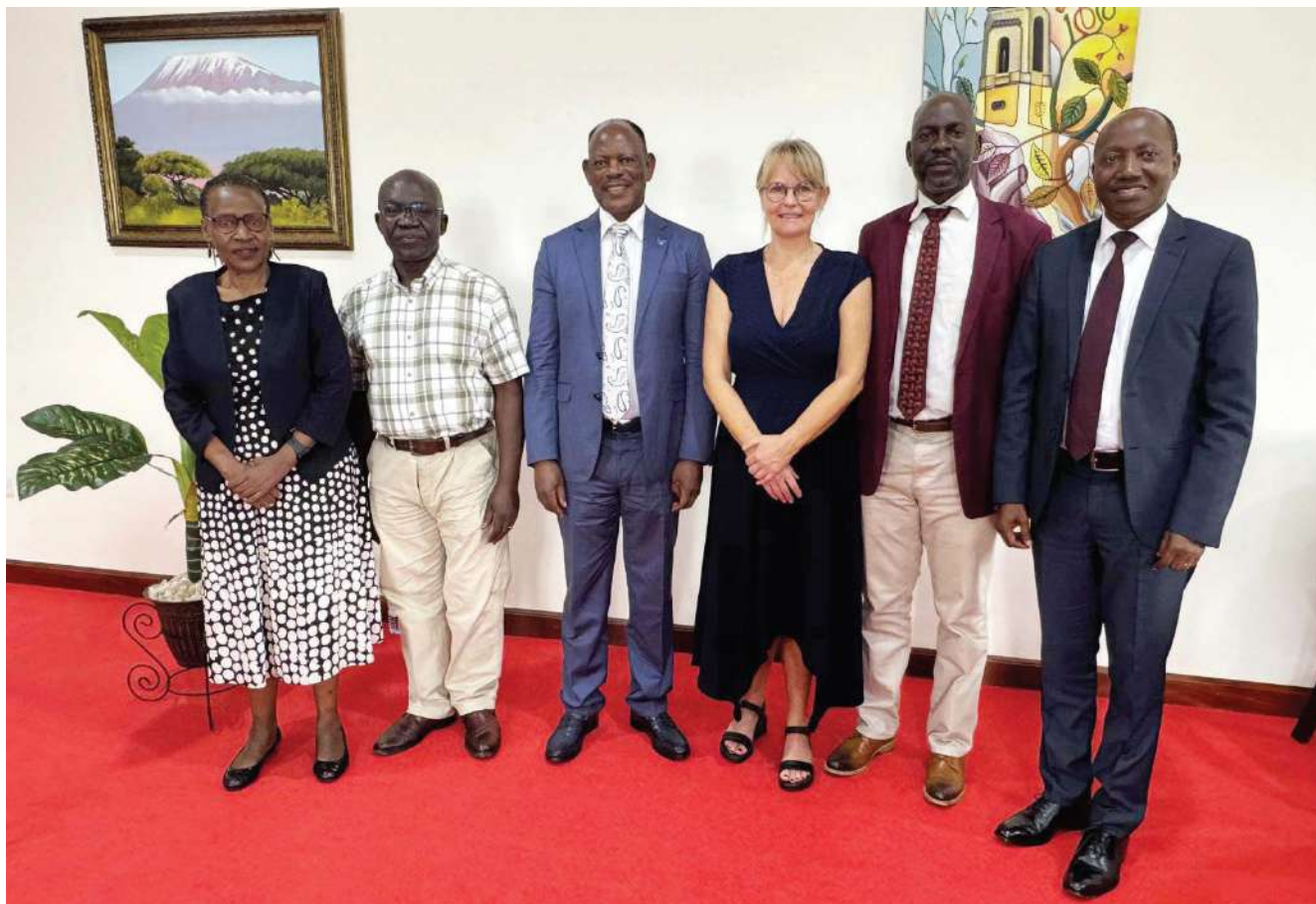


QECS 2024-2026 scholar: **Ms. Iqra Liaqat**,
Master of Science in Food Science
and Safety Quality Management (FSSQM)



QECS 2025-2027 scholar:
Mr. Mwangi Kelvin Kuria,
Master of Science in Renewable Energy (MRET)

15 Joint PhD Scholarships under the HEALENAE Doctoral Network



Prof. Stella Neema, Dr Herbert Muyinda, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Barnabas Nawangwe, Prof. Lotte Meinert, Prof. Julius Kikooma, and Dr. Godfrey Siu take a photo moment at Makerere University.

HEALENAE is a consortium of seven leading research universities in Aarhus (Denmark), Cape Town (South Africa), Edinburgh (UK), Leuven (Belgium), Makerere (Uganda), Nairobi (Kenya), and Oslo (Norway), with the overall goal of fostering talent and examining current challenges and opportunities in and between Africa and Europe.

The **HEALENAE Doctoral Network** is a four-year project funded by the EU HORIZON-MSCA programme. Under the project, the consortium partner universities will offer 15 double (dual) degrees for Doctoral students, all of them between African and European universities.

The European Union earmarked Euros 4,658,684 approximately (Shs19.8 billion) to fully fund 15 PhD scholarships under a new international collaborative research programme that brings together seven universities across Africa and Europe, including Makerere University.

The project, dubbed **HEALENAE** (Health and Environment in Africa and Europe), will support doctoral research examining the complex links between environmental change, climate crises and health outcomes, with a strong focus on Africa Europe comparative perspectives.

PART 2:

BUILDING EFFICIENT MANAGEMENT AND DELIVERY OF GRADUATE RESEARCH TRAINING



RIMS Implementation

The implementation of the Research Information Management System (RIMS), is expected to track supervision delays, enhance transparency, close long-standing gaps, and boost research excellence.



Prof. Julius Kikooma and Prof. Ruth Nsibirano during the visit to IGDS on 27th March 2026

“Our visit to the Institute of Gender and Development Studies is part of continuous engagement to strengthen graduate training,” Prof. Kikooma said. “RIMS is not just about technology—it is about improving how students and supervisors work together, how progress is tracked, and how the university ensures quality and timely completion.”

The university is already making strides in graduate output, citing a recent milestone of over 200 PhD graduates, with 40 percent female representation—an indicator of progress toward gender equity.

CHS Registrars, Heads of Departments undergo hands-on training on RIMS



Participants pose for a group photo after the hands-on training in the Research Information Management System (RIMS) at the College of Health Sciences (CHS).

The Directorate of Graduate Training (DGT) at Makerere University held a hands-on training in the Research Information Management System (RIMS) on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, at the CHS premises.

The training brought together over 25 Heads of Departments and College Registrars from the School of Medicine, School of Biomedical Sciences, School of Health Sciences, School of Dentistry, and School of Public Health, in a strategic push to digitize and streamline graduate supervision.



Arthur Moses Opio from DICTS was the lead trainer on RIMS.



The training in session



Prof. Annetee Olivia Nakimuli, the Dean School of Medicine (L) and Mr. Herbert Batamye, the Registrar of CHS (R).

Hands-On RIMS Training to equip College Registrars to Power Graduate Success and Research Excellence



Participants pose for a group photo after the training on 10th April 2026.

College Registrars and Senior IT Technicians at Makerere University underwent intensive, hands-on training in the Research Information Management System (RIMS), in a move aimed at strengthening graduate training, improving completion rates, and advancing the university's research agenda.



*Prof. Julius Kikooma,
Director of Graduate Training.*



Juma Katongole, the Manager Information Systems



*Eleanor Nandutu, Senior Assistant Registrar
from MISR*

Makerere's CHUSS Embraces Digital Future to foster Graduation Completion through RIMS Training

The College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS) at Makerere University renewed its commitment to strengthen graduate training and accountability following a comprehensive hands-on Research Information Management System (RIMS) training by a team from the Directorate of Graduate Training (DGT) and Directorate for ICT Support (DICTS) held on April 16, in the CHUSS Smart Room.



Participants in the hands-on RIMS training for CHUSS follow proceedings



*Prof. Julius Kikooma,
Director of Graduate Training.*



*Assoc. Prof. Eric Awich Ochen,
Deputy Principal of CHUSS*



Some of the CHUSS Staff that attended the training with Prof. Julius Kikooma (L) during the training

Scholarly Publishing

Makerere University stepped up efforts to strengthen its scholarly publishing ecosystem following a Journal Editors' Workshop organised by Makerere University press (MAK Press) held on April 23, 2026, in the Smart Room, College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUSS), aimed at improving journal quality, increasing research visibility, and enhancing the university's global rankings.

Speaking at the event on behalf of the Deputy Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Prof. Julius Kikooma, Director of Graduate Training (DGT) and Chairperson of the Technical and Quality Assurance Committee of Mak Press, said the workshop forms part of the university's deliberate strategy to restore Makerere's historic place as a continental hub of intellectual production.



Prof. Kikooma Julius addresses participants at the workshop



Participants included CHUSS Deputy Principal-Prof. Eric Awich Ochen (5th R) and CHUSS Fmr. Principal-Prof. Josephine Ahikire (2nd R).



Prof. William Tayeebwa, the Chief Managing Editor of Makerere University Press



Some of the journal editors from colleges, schools, and institutes in attendance at the workshop.

CARTA's Inspiration of Makerere's Doctoral Training Reforms



Kikooma Julius, Director - Directorate of Graduate Training Makerere University



John Bosco Isunju - Senior Lecturer in the Department of Disease Control and Environmental Health, Makerere University; CARTA Co-Focal Person

Makerere University has strengthened its PhD by research programme as part of its transition to a research-led institution. Recognizing inconsistencies in doctoral student preparedness, progress, and completion, the university drew inspiration from the Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA), whose structured doctoral training model provided a framework for reform.

Following a CARTA-supported Training of Trainers workshop in 2023, Makerere introduced two major reforms. First, it replaced rolling PhD admissions with a cohort-based system aligned to semester intakes, improving planning, monitoring, and administrative efficiency. Second, it developed a structured three-year PhD by research framework with defined milestones and compulsory modules in Philosophy of Methods, Advanced Research Methods, Scholarly Writing and Communication Skills, and Manuscript Writing and Journal Clubs. These changes maintain the independence of doctoral research while ensuring all candidates acquire essential research and academic writing skills.

In 2024, Makerere University Senate approved both the revised admission policy and the new curriculum, which were implemented in the 2024/2025 academic year. Early results show improved coherence and predictability in doctoral training, supported by a Research Information Management System for tracking student progress. PhD enrolment rose to 586 students, while 144 candidates graduated with PhDs in 2025. A historic number of 213 graduated in January 2026.

The reforms are designed for long-term sustainability, with approximately 15 CARTA-trained faculty members leading implementation and continuous improvement of the structured PhD training framework.



Prof. Julius Kikooma with other delegates at Moi University for CARTA training for APAS

Pictorial





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