

31 JUL

2021

CLOSING DATE for applying into the MUS (UM) programme**30 SEP** 2021**CLOSING DATE** for scholarship application

WITS-TUB-UNILAG URBAN LAB CALL FOR MASTERS SCHOLARSHIPS

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INTRODUCTION

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement have highlighted the fundamental roles played by cities and local urban stakeholders in achieving sustainable development. The Habitat III process and the New Urban Agenda (NUA) provided an important enabling framework for these stakeholders to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDG). Yet, at the beginning of the current decade progress regarding their implementation is lagging behind, and thus requires a serious intensification of action to achieve the goals by 2030. Also, the COVID-19 crisis drastically exposes vulnerabilities and inequalities in urban areas, and it reveals the failures and the unjust outcomes of urban governance systems as well as obstacles to urban development. Under these circumstances, there is a pressing need for urban management to address the resilience of households, of societies, of economies and of systems of governance as well as to explore responses that enable truly transformative actions.

The Wits-TUB-UNILAG Urban Lab programme supported by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) seeks to improve graduate education in urban fields across sub-Saharan Africa.

The lead partners, the Habitat Unit at Technische Universität Berlin and the School of Architecture and Planning at Wits University in Johannesburg and the University of Lagos, collaborate in the offering of an urban-oriented graduate training and capacity building programme at Wits University that seeks to effectively address the challenges and needs outlined above.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE MASTERS PROGRAMME

This project seeks to contribute to capacity building and empowerment, which it considers key in enabling policy change and action across three areas. It summarizes these as (1) a critically reflected understanding of urban resilience, (2) engagement with inequality and informality in ways that facilitate greater justice in access to housing and urban infrastructure and (3) building on decolonial understanding in line with local realities, and thereby advancing a critical edge towards normative ways to engaging cities.

One of the fundamentals that underpins this programme is the importance of integrating the efforts of policy makers, local urban stakeholders and researchers when aiming at fostering modes of development that are just and adapted to context.

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The urban lab has three main areas for research exploration that will inform postgraduate teaching content over the five years from 2021 to 2025

- **Resilience:** there is a clear need to critically reflect, improve, but also rethink resilience, not only of technical urban systems of risk containment but also in terms of rights frameworks, governance, cultural and religious systems, and societies as a whole. This presents an opportunity to explore different notions of resilience under varied geographies of urban citizenship.
- **Urban justice:** The SDG commitment to leave no one behind has placed the spotlight on the scale of urban inequality and informality, raising renewed questions about humanity's response to this global condition. This opens the space to examine the relationship between forms of human co-existence and the right to the city, with different forms of socio-spatial segmentation. It also allows us to interrogate urban and peri-urban spaces and how various scales of urbanisation enable and/or impedes access to urban goods.
- **Solidarity:** There have been renewed calls for fairer global rules governing trade as well as development assistance. This includes recognizing and valuing plural forms of knowledge production and knowledge systems,

promoted through decolonial initiatives as well as through initiatives advancing transformative, transdisciplinary and co-productive approaches.

It is crucial that the development of a context specific understanding of urban inequalities, power structures and urban planning responses is enabled.

The master's scholarships apply to the 1 year full time degree programme "Master of Urban Studies in the field of Urban Management - MUS (UM)" at Wits University in Johannesburg. This programme focuses on four innovation areas which address SDG implementation in urban areas:

- Politics and policy of the urban
- Understanding complex urban systems
- Managing change processes
- Co-producing knowledge between theory and practice.



Please note that once completed, the degree certificates are issued by Wits University. They are not joint degrees as such.

VALUE, PERIOD AND CONDITIONS OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The master's scholarship covers the duration of one academic year. Successful candidates will be expected to sign a contract stipulating the conditions of the scholarship. The scholarship includes:

- Full tuition fee,
- Monthly stipend (living expenses covering: subsistence expenses and accommodation expenses),
- Travel from home country/place of origin,
- Student medical aid (12 months),
- Visa fees and related costs.

Selected students will be required to be self-sufficient from February to April 2022, as their living allowance will be paid in the month of May. They will be responsible for organizing their own travel to Johannesburg, their accommodation in Johannesburg as well as for applying for their visa and for covering the related costs. Travel and visa costs will be refunded in the first half of the academic year. Students applying for the scholarship are required to pay for their South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) fee costs. SAQA fee costs will not be refunded (the SAQA process is explained below).



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ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- The programme is interdisciplinary, but we place a special emphasis on a portfolio that is inter- and transdisciplinary, cutting across the fields of development planning, housing, sustainable urban development, urban management, and urban design. Candidates in architecture and urban planning as well as in the humanities, cultural studies, urban geography, or social sciences with a focus on urban studies and planning as well as candidates in related fields such as landscape architecture are also welcome to apply.
- Citizens from countries in sub-Saharan Africa other than South Africa (a separate call will be issued for South African citizens and permanent residents).
- Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree that is equivalent to a honours degree (NQF level 8) in the South African Qualification System (SAQA).
- Applicants must possess the requisite qualifications for admission into the MUS (UM).
For admission requirements, please log onto:
<https://www.wits.ac.za/urban-management/>
- The programme language is English. Proficiency in any other language necessary for their proposed geographic location of their fieldwork is recommended.

- There is no age limit applying to the scholarships for study purposes. However, at the time of the application, no more than 6 years should have passed since an applicant graduated from his/her previous studies.
- Award of the scholarships is based on a combination of merit, distribution across the continent and, gender balance.

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME? APPLICATION FOR THE MUS

Applications for admission in the Master of Urban Studies in the field of Urban Management - MUS (UM) at Wits University for international students for study in 2022 close 31 July 2021. The whole application process (including online access to the application form) is found at: www.wits.ac.za/applications/. Wits University is an English medium university. International students from non-English speaking countries must provide proof of English proficiency. Please refer to the URL above for further information.

Applicants whose masters degree was obtained at a university outside South Africa must have their qualifications evaluated by the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

The procedure for degree evaluation by SAQA is set out at www.saqa.org.za. All applicants must submit their SAQA certificates together with the application for the scholarship.

Note that there is an application fee that an applicant must pay for SAQA to evaluate a qualification. This fee will not be refunded by the scholarship regardless of the evaluation outcome.



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APPLICATION FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP

This is a separate application process from the one described above. The scholarship application form is either attached or can be downloaded from www.wits.ac.za/archplan/bursariesand-awards/. The 'person number' provided upon application for admission must be included in the scholarship application form. Applications not using this form, or not adhering to its instructions will not be considered.

In order for the scholarship application to be complete, it must include the following documents:

1. The Wits-TUB-Unilag Scholarship Application Form
2. A cover letter explaining why you qualify for the scholarship. Additionally, this letter should speak to the qualification criteria, and should also provide a connection between the project themes and your envisaged topic.
3. A CV
4. A copy of all degree certificates and official academic transcripts indicating marks for all degrees. Also attach the description of your marks.
5. For a bachelor's degree obtained outside of South Africa, a South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) certificate ranking the applicant's bachelor's degree at NQF level 8.

All the above documents must be submitted by e-mail to **Ms Taki Sithagu**, taki.sithagu@wits.ac.za by 30 September 2021.



TIMELINE LEADING TO START OF THE MASTERS' PROGRAMME

31 July 2021

The closing date for applying into the MUS (UM) programme

30 September 2021

Closing date for scholarship application

October/November 2021

Scholarship selection process

Visa applications for non-South African candidates – as soon as the admission letter is issued (October/November 2021)

February 2022

Registration for masters at Wits

CONTACTS

If more information is needed, please contact: Ms. Taki Sithagu taki.sithagu@wits.ac.za.

However, before making an enquiry, please exhaust the information available at:

[www.wits.ac.za/archplan/
bursaries-and-awards/](http://www.wits.ac.za/archplan/bursaries-and-awards/)

[www.wits.ac.za/wits-tub-
urbanlab/](http://www.wits.ac.za/wits-tub-urbanlab/)

www.wits.ac.za/archplan/
www.habitat-unit.de
<http://chsunilag.com/>



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