



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

## Directorate of Quality Assurance

Becoming a Learner Centred  
Research Led University



**Mak-Sida  
Collaboration for  
a taught PhD.**



EMBASSY OF SWEDEN

Kampala

**Mak-SIDACollaboration for a taught PhD.**

## Supporting the process of the Development of Taught PhDs in the Partner Public Universities of Mbarara, Gulu, Busitema and Kyambogo and in selected Colleges within Makerere University.

### Introduction

Presently PhD training at Makerere University follows a combined path of research-only programmes and those that combine research and coursework. With support from Sida the Makerere University Quality Assurance Directorate is supporting and coordinating development of new taught PhDs programmes in Makerere University and four partner public universities ie Mbarara, Gulu, Busitema and Kyambogo. It is expected that at the end of the exercise, Makerere University shall have at least four new taught PhD programmes and each of the public University will have at least one new taught programme.

### Justification for the shift towards taught PhD:

Over the years it has been noted the Students who enrol on PhD programmes take long to complete. The reasons for the slow completion rates are varied but key among these are;

- a) Many students come with inadequate knowledge proficiency in their subject areas
- b) A good number of the students enrol immediately after their first and second degree without any working experience or very late in their career when they have been out of the higher education system for a long time.
- c) Some of the doctorates are aimed more at informing professional practice, policy development and implementation than primarily at creating new knowledge.
- d) In the era of liberalisation some of the students enrol to get a certificate for status at any cost and are not necessarily interested in the knowledge.

### **Mak-SIDACollaboration for a taught PhD.**

- e) In PhD by research, students generally lack the theoretical competencies that should enable them formulate research problems, and write and publish high quality proposals in reputable journals, as would a taught PhD do.
- f) In a research PhD, students work in isolation, unlike in a taught PhD, where there is a close interaction among candidates during the teaching phase. This interaction provides an opportunity for knowledge sharing. In collaboration learners find common ground or exchange shared thoughts, and in so doing readily negotiate their ideas, as well as build new knowledge or products (Prof.C.J. Bonk, Indiana University).

### **Methods**

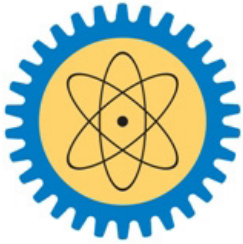
Developing taught PhD programmes will involve a number of activities.

These are;

- a) Carrying out a situational analysis/needs assessment of the current status of the PhD training in the public universities
- b) Establishing the capacity of these partner public Universities to teach taught PhDs.
- c) Conducting a needs assessment in four partner public Universities (Kyambogo, MUST, Gulu and Busitema).
- d) Holding a stakeholders' workshop in each of the public Universities
- e) Desk reviews of relevant documents such as current PhD. programmes, University procedures and NCHE guidelines on academic programme review and development.

### **Output**

A minimum of at least one approved taught PhD programme for each partner public University as well as each of the four beneficiary colleges within Makerere University.



**BUSITEMA  
UNIVERSITY**  
*Pursuing Excellence*

Established in 2007, the university's' vision is "to be a centre of academic and professional excellence in science, technology and innovation" and vision is "to provide high standard training, engage in quality research and outreach for societal transformation and sustainable development". Its niche is promote Practical Sciences, Relevant Technology, Productive Education, and Innovation for Sustainable Development.

## **Proposed PhD**

**PhD in Materials Engineering (Proposal attached).**

## **Overall Goal**

To produce highly educated and creative graduates capable of taking part in scientific research and professional applications development of materials for Engineering.

## **Justification**

This program is in response to the increasing growth of the global Knowledge economy in which universities are expected to establish strategic partnerships with industry and to anchor themselves as centres of excellence for socio-economic transformation.

### **Mak-SIDACollaboration for a taught PhD.**

This program is in fulfilment of the Uganda vision 2040, of transforming Uganda from a peasant to a modern and prosperous country within 30 years. Within this period, Uganda is expected to accelerate the cultivation and development of strategic emerging industries.

## **Coordinating Dept.**

Department of Textile and Ginning Engineering.



## **Road map for Curriculum implementation in Busitema University:**

- 1) March, 30th, 2017; letter to the Vice Chancellor, Busitema University requesting her to nominate staff to participate in a joint academic activity of developing a taught PhD. This is part of the

Makerere-Sida collaborative program with partnering public Universities.

- 2) July, 12th, 2017; an inception meeting is held in Busitema University between a team from Makerere and the hosts Busitema. The purpose of which was to develop a situational and a capacity analysis of Busitema University to conduct this taught PhD. This will enable the participants identify the department that would host this program.
- 3) January, 17th-18th, 2018, a stakeholder's workshop is held in Hotel Paradise in Jinja between the two universities. The purpose of the workshop was specifically to integrate all that had been identified during the needs assessment and the views from the various stakeholders gathered into a curriculum document to be referred to, a PhD in Materials Engineering.
- 4) February, 2018, a departmental meeting held in the department Physics, Busitema University. The purpose was to polish the document and recommend it to the faculty board for consideration by the senate of Busitema University.
- 5) April, 2018, faculty academic board, Busitema University considers the PhD in Materials Engineering for approval by the University Senate of Busitema University.
- 6) It is hoped that when considered by senate the program shall be forwarded to the National Council for Higher Education for final accreditation.



## Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST)

Established in 1988, it is the second oldest public university in Uganda. Its vision is “to be a centre of academic and professional excellence in Science and Technology”. Whereas the mission is “to provide quality and relevant education at national and international level with particular emphasis on Science and Technology and its application to community development”.

### Proposed taught PhD

**PhD in Biomedical Engineering. (Proposal attached).**

### Overall goal

To train a new breed of creative investigators who are able to translate basic science discoveries into technology developments for the needs of society.

### Justification

i. Uganda lacks highly skilled Biomedical Engineers and Physicists able to administer the state of the art diagnostic and therapeutic medical technology. Moreover there are increasing cases of cancer in the country and yet there is no University particularly training in this field.

ii. This program is in response to the National Development Plan (2015/2016-2019/2020), which calls for the need for Uganda to move towards nuclear energy. The ministry of health sector development plan (2015/2016-2019/2020) that



wishes to have radiationphysists in all its regional referrals.

iii. There is already an NIH grant in the faculty that will be used in the PhD training in Biomedical Engineering. Additional support is also Available from the African Biomedical Engineering Project (ABEM),of which MUST is a member.

## Coordinating Dept.

Department of Biomedical Engineering, MUST.

## Roadmap for curriculum implementation in MUST:

- 1) March,29th 2017, a letter written to the Director Graduate School, MUST, giving the background of the intended collaboration between Sida through Makerere University and the partnering public universities in Uganda. The Director was requested to convene a meeting in order to identify a department that would coordinate this activity.



**Mak-SIDACollaboration for a taught PhD.**

- 2) April, 5th 2017, inception meeting is held in MUST between staff from the two Universities. The purpose is to map out the curriculum for the taught PhD and to identify the discipline and the department to coordinate it.
- 3) February, 7th -8th convened stakeholders meeting in Tropic Inn, Masaka. The purpose was to; agree on the title of the new taught PhD, to discuss the mechanisms for curriculum development as well as to present to the members the draft taught PhD in Biomedical Engineering.
- 4) April 5th, 2018, department of Biomedical Engineering; MUST, convenes to consider and incorporate suggestions from the stakeholders into the curriculum text. The process of curriculum approval accreditation is thus kicked on.



# GULU UNIVERSITY

*For community Transformation*

Established in 2002, it is the third oldest Public University in Uganda. Its vision is “to be a pillar for academic, professional and sustainable development” and the mission is “to provide access to higher education, research and conduct quality professional training for the delivery of appropriate services directed towards community transformation”. Its strategic focus is “to undertake well recognised teaching and research that engages local communities for transformation”.

Proposed taught PhD: PhD in Applied Tropical Entomology and Parasitology.

## Proposed taught PhD

**PhD in Applied Tropical Entomology and Parasitology.  
(Proposal attached).**

## Overall goal

To prepare students as professionals and practitioners with sound theoretical and practical knowledge in aspects of tropical entomology and parasitology.

## Justification

It is expected that:

- i. The program will address the challenge of pests and diseases that are emerging as threats to crop and livestock production.
- ii. That it help address the problems of poverty and food security,
- iii. The program fits well within the mission and the NDP2 which aims at enhancing human capital development.

## Coordinating Department

Department of Biology, Gulu University.

## Roadmap for curriculum implementation in Gulu University:

- 1) April 4th, 2017 wrote a letter to the Vice chancellor Gulu University. The purpose was to initiate Mak-sida collaboration on the development of a taught PhD.
- 2) April 25th, 2017 an inception meeting was held in Gulu University, between the team from Makerere and Gulu Universities. This was to chart the way forward for the development of a taught PhD.
- 3) Tuesday, 27th, February 2018, a letter was written



to the Institute of research and graduate studies (IRGS) Gulu University to convene a meeting. The purpose of this meeting was to lay strategies on initiating a taught PhD which will be supported by sida.

- 4) Meetings were consecutively held on Friday 9th and Wednesday 14th March which the following outputs:
  - i. A joint stakeholder's workshop be convened to brainstorm the mechanisms and the principles that guide the development of a taught PhD. This would be facilitated by Makerere University.
  - ii. That the coordinating person and the department be agreed upon as a matter of urgency.
  - iii. The name of the programme as well as the draft copy of the curriculum be availed to members in that workshop.
  - iv. The department identifies the potential academic staff to teach as well as those to supervise that program.
5. On Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd March 2017, this workshop was held in Bijja Hotel, Masindi. It was agreed that the title of the program shall be A PhD in applied entomology and parasitology. The draft document was also presented and critiqued.
6. The draft curriculum is currently being beefed up by the views and contributions from other stakeholders before it is dully subjected to the approval processes.





# MAKERERE UNIVERSITY

Within Makerere University the following taught PhDs have and are being developed through sida bilateral support:

PhD. Title	College	Status
1. PhD in Maths	CONAS	Running
2. PhD in inf. Systems	COCIS	In QA for councils approval.
3. PhD in Management	COBAMS	To senate.
4. PhD in Public Health	CHS	under stakeholder consultation.

**N.B:** This activity is expected to be concluded in the year 2018/2019, according to the mak-Sida activity plan. Given what has already been accomplished it is hoped that we shall be on schedule to have this PhD programs mounted by the start of 2019/2020



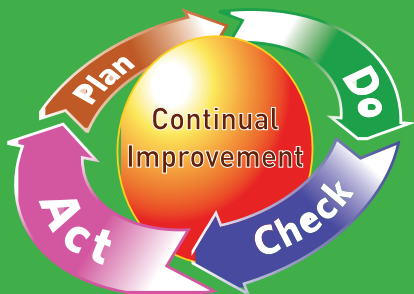


## Our Core Values:

1. A global outlook and outreach
2. Breath of vision, creativity and openness to change
3. Collaboration and team work.
4. Excellence and continuous improvement
5. Transparent and courteous internal and external communication in the organization
6. The highest intellectual and ethical standards and;
7. The values of humane and just society; and in realizing Makerere University as an internationally recognized and globally focused, research-intensive institution, with a vigorous learning and teaching environment; the University commits an unequivocal commitment to high quality permeating all dimensions of academic activities and support services.

## Our mission:

To promote confidence in the quality provision (teaching, research and outreach services) that the quality and the standards of awards of Makerere University are safeguarded, enhanced and effectively managed.



**Gilbert Arikosi**  
Academic Affairs Division

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