

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA
PRESIDENT'S OFFICE
PUBLIC SERVICE MANAGEMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



**ANNOUNCEMENT FOR 4 PHD SCHOLARSHIPS IN MARINE BIOACOUSTICS AT
CMST- CURTIN UNIVERSITY MAURITIUS**

Applications are hereby invited from qualified Tanzania Government Officials to apply for the PhD Scholarship on Marine Bioacoustics at the Centre for Marine Sciences and Technology (CMST) at Curtin University –Curtin Mauritius.

SCHOLARSHIP COVERAGE

The entire cost of training under this Program, including tuition fee for 3.5 years and annual living cost stipend EUR 9,000 for 3.5 years are covered by Australian Government.

APPLICATION ELIGIBILITY

As a preference of the funder, students would ideally be citizens of one of the Nairobi Convention signatory States: Comoros, France, Kenya, and Madagascar. The Republic of Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Somalia. Tanzania or the Republic of South Africa. However applicants from broader Indian Ocean will be considered.

Student must obtain a student Visa for Mauritius.

PROJECT:

These scholarship are part of a 4 year research project entitled “The Quieter Western Indian Ocean” (QWIO), funded by the Fonds Français pour l’ Environment Mondial (FFEM). The project is a partnership of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the African Aquatic Conservation Fund, Curtin University, Globice, Quite Oceans and others. The aim of QWIO project are two fold: 1. To study and assess underwater noise from shipping and maritime services and its potential effects on targeted species among large cetaceans (baleen whales and sperm whales), sharks and sea turtles in the South – Western Indian Ocean and 2 in consultation with Regional governments, ships owners, ports and relevant international authorities, to identify and initiate concrete and practical measures to reduce the risk of noise impacts and collisions.

The 4 Phd thesis will comprise (depends on students interest and skills) any of the following: underwater ship noise (measurement, modelling, mapping, management, minimisation, mitigation), marine sound scapes (characterisation, quantification, sources, sounds budget and temporal variability ,trends, modelling, prediction) and large whale bioacoustics (species diversity, vocal behaviour of hump back whales, and/or sperm whales ,passive acoustic monitoring ,sound production, song structure, song variability dialects, spatial and temporal distribution, migration, relative abundance, acoustic ecology ,risk of ship strike ,effect of noise) .The intention is to fill two of the four Phd stipends with a project focused more on physical acoustics and oceans noise/sound scapes and the other two focused more on organismal biology and bioacoustics, looking at the possible impacts of noise on species ecology. The composition of the above topics in the thesis will vary among the students. There will be the need to fulfil specific QWIO objectives during the course of the Phd program (as guided by the supervisors), but the thesis will not necessary be restricted to those objectives.

LOCATION

Students will be enrolled at Curtin University Australia. However they will be based at Curtin Mauritius (Moka, Mauritius) Opportunities for field work exist from Mauritius to Reunion, Madagascar and Eastern Africa.

ESSENTIAL CRITERIA:

- i. Given the focus on underwater acoustics and bioacoustics and depending on the chosen thesis project, students would ideally have a degree (honours or Masters) in Physics, Engineering, Computer science, Data Science or related field or a degree in Biological Sciences with experience in Organismal Biology, Bioacoustics, Acoustic Ecology or a related field. Students with experience in both disciplines may be strongly favoured.
- ii. Strong command of English is required. Students will have to pass an IELTS prior to enrolment with a minimum grade of 6.5 overall and minimum of 6 for any of its components (i.e speaking, writing, reading and Listening)
- iii. Experience programming in MATLAB or R

DESIRABLE CRITERIA:

Prior experience in acoustics, marine sciences and off shore field works is valuable

MODE OF APPLICATION:

- Please email your expression of interest, including CV, Summary of research skills and experience, reason you are interested in this project, and choice (focus) of project (e.g ship noise, sound scape, ecology) to Christine Erbe: info@cmst.curtin.edu.au
- Subject: QWIO Scholarship

CLOSING DATES FOR APPLICATION:

Applications should be submitted to the above email not later than 31st January, 2023