



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: PhD SCHOLARSHIPS (RAMDDA PROJECT)

2 Full-Time PhD Positions

The RAMDDA project invites applications for two (2) full-time PhD scholarships tenable at the **University of the Free State (UFS)**, Bloemfontein, South Africa.

These scholarships are offered under an EU-supported Intra-Africa academic mobility initiative, aiming to enhance doctoral-level research training and regional research collaboration in chemistry and drug discovery. The duration of the scholarships is three years.

Fields of Study

Applicants may apply in the areas of Organic Chemistry (*Natural products chemistry, synthesis, and bioactive compound development*)

Scholarship Benefits

Each scholarship includes:

- Monthly living allowance: EUR 1,230
- Full tuition fee coverage at the University of the Free State
- Health insurance for the duration of the PhD programme

The scholarship is a full-time three-year study grant and does not imply an employment relationship. Concurrent EU-funded scholarships are not permitted.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be African nationals and residents of an African country
- Hold a Master's degree in Chemistry or a closely related field
- Satisfy the PhD admission requirements of the University of the Free State
- Demonstrate academic excellence and strong research motivation
- Be willing and able to relocate to UFS for the full duration of the PhD (three years)
- Fulfill EACEA / Intra-Africa Action mobility and eligibility conditions

As per the funder's requirements, applicants from South Africa are not eligible for these scholarships to strengthen academic mobility. Applicants from South Africa can apply for the same scholarship advertised by the University of Botswana. Applications from female candidates and under-represented groups are strongly encouraged in line with EU gender equality and inclusion policies.

Selection Procedure

Selection will be conducted in accordance with EACEA principles, ensuring:

- Transparency
- Equal opportunity
- Merit-based assessment



Application Documents

Applicants will be required to submit:

- Completed Application Form (fill in the online form or download from the website)
- Copy of Passport (only biodata pages)
- Academic Transcripts and Certificates, Diplomas or Degrees (certified)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Research/Study Plan (use the attached the template to write your research concept note and study plan)
- Motivation Letter (indicating UFS and preferred field)
- Proof of Residence (National ID)
- Language Test Results (if available)
- Certificate of Work Experience
- Recommendation Letters Requested (2)
- List of Publications and conference presentations (If there are any)
- Proof of belonging to disadvantaged group (if applicable)
- All other documents you consider useful to evaluate your profile

Application Deadline: February 28, 2026

Program Start Date: As soon as the completion of the overall process.

Application Submission

Applications can be submitted via the link provided at the RAMDDA website (www.ramdda.org) or via ramddaorg@gmail.com. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Submit all the documents in a single PDF file.

About RAMDDA

RAMDDA is a collaborative academic mobility and research capacity-building project involving the University of Botswana, University of the Free State, Addis Ababa University, University of Ghana, Adama Science and Technology University, Botswana International University of Science and Technology, and University College Cork, aimed at advancing drug discovery, postgraduate training, and sustainable research partnerships in Africa.