# AI4D Africa Scholarships Enhancing Doctoral Training in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in Sub Saharan Africa

The African Centre for Technology Studies has received a grant from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) to support the training of PhD students in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) as well as the research work of Early Career Academics or Scholars (Early Career and Post-Doc) in AI & ML. The research work within this program must be within AI and centred on STEM disciplines that attempt to address any of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The award of the scholarships shall strive to achieve uniform distribution of beneficiaries across Anglophone, Francophone and Lusophone sub-Saharan Africa. There will also be effort to achieve fair distribution in terms of gender and region. The supported studies MUST adhere to responsible AI.

The 2nd call of the AI4D Africa Scholarship Program has been designed to target the following 3 categories of beneficiaries;

Eligible Countries: **Angola, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo (Brazzaville), Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa) Ivory Coast, Gabon, Gambia, Liberia, Mali, Mozambique. Namibia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Zimbabwe**

**Please read detail of each category and click the link to the category of scholarship you wish to pursue and follow the subsequent application instructions.**

## 1. Registered PhD Students.

Invitation will target candidates who are already registered for PhD, have finished course work as well as research proposals. This will be open to all universities offering PhD in AI (or any of its derivatives). Eight in-country scholarships (4 female and 4 male) will be given for a period of two years. Selection will be based purely on the quality of the candidates and proposals. This call will be done twice, 4 admitted in Year 1 (Cohort 1) and 4 admitted in year 2 (Cohort 2).

Eligibility:

- All applicants must be already registered in an AI study (machine learning, expert system, natural language processing, intelligent robotics etc.) under a supervisor, have finished coursework as well as research proposal. The applicant must attach a letter of support by their supervisor, and a copy of the PhD study admission letter.

- All applicants should have competent academic credentials and demonstrate motivation and commitment to pursue an academic career.

- All applicants should have thorough knowledge of the language of instruction within their host university of choice (English, French or Portuguese).

- All applicants must be nationals or permanent residents of an eligible sub-Saharan country.

Each successful student will receive a partial scholarship of up to US $ 27,000 distributed as shown below

- Tuition fees for two years up to $ 4000

- Research activities up to $ 17,000

## 2. Early Career Academics

Under the ECA scholarship, 8 Early Career Academics will be supported. This will mainly target those ECA who have capacity to supervise PhD and MSc students.

Eligibility

- Each applicant must have held a PhD in AI and ML, for the last 3 – 5 years as at application.
- All applicants should have competent academic credentials and demonstrate motivation and commitment to pursue an academic career.
- All applicants must be nationals or permanent residents of an eligible sub-Saharan country.

Each successful ECA will receive a scholarship of up to US$ 68,000. This will cover:

- Tuition fees for one PhD student for two years up to $ 4000.
- Tuition fees for two MSc students up to $4000.
- Research costs up to $ 25,000.
- Research infrastructure up to $ 30,000.
- Traveling costs up to $ 5,000.

Funding would be for 2 years.

## 3. Post-doctoral Fellows.

It is assumed that there may be challenge getting suitable female ECA. Therefore, the programme will also support 4 post-doctoral positions for female candidates and those from disadvantaged countries to build capacities for AI research and training in their universities. The program will support each successful post-doctoral candidate with 4 MSc positions.

Eligibility

- Each applicant must have held a PhD in AI and ML, for not more than 2 years as at application.
- All applicants should have competent academic credentials and demonstrate motivation and commitment to pursue an academic career.
- All applicants must be nationals or permanent residents of an eligible sub-Saharan country.

Each successful candidate will receive a scholarship of up to US$ 63,000:

- Tuition fee for 4 MSc students up to $ 8,000.
- Research activities up to $ 20,000.
- Research infrastructure up to $ 30000.
- Traveling cost up to $ 5,000.

Funding would be for 2 years.

To view more information about the scholarship: https://www.acts-net.org/ai4d-africa
For questions, requests or further clarifications e-mail us: ai4d@acts-net.org
Connect on social media. We are on Facebook and Twitter

IDRC·CRDI
Canada

Sida