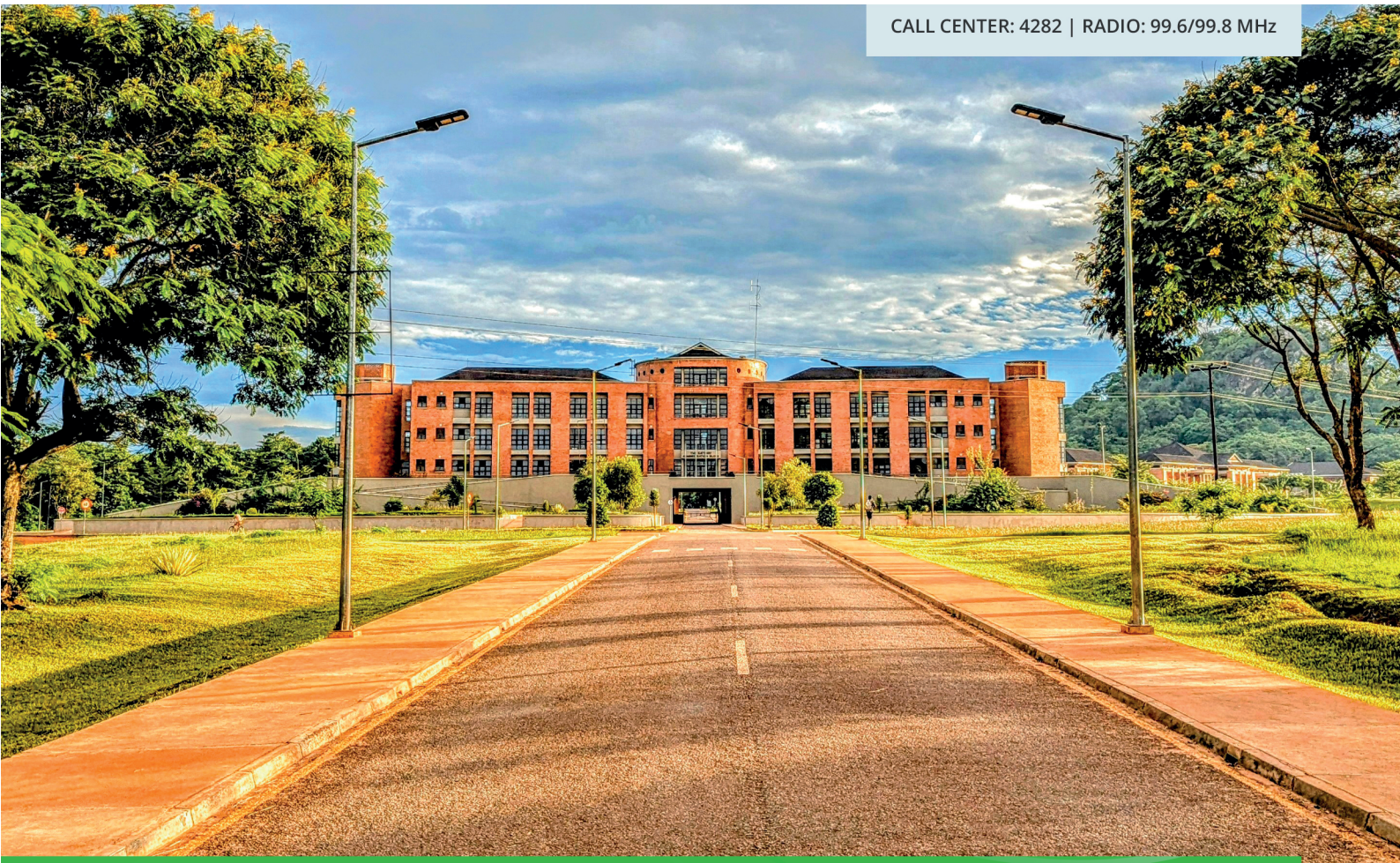
LILONGWE UNIVERSITY
OF AGRICULTURE & NATURAL
RESOURCES (LUANAR)

Knowledge | Innovation | Excellence

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

UCHI RESEARCH PROJECT MENTORSHIP OPPORTUNITY

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a University with endless possibilities

The LUANAR Way

BACKGROUND

The Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR) is one of the implementing partners for the *Greening and Growing Malawi Programme*, known in *Chichewa* as *Ulimi ndi Chilengedwe m'Malawi (UCHI)*. The *UCHI Programme* is co-funded by the European Union in partnership with the Government of Malawi.. The UCHI Programme comprises 16 UCHI Projects and aims to support evidence based and gender sensitive decision-making, as well as knowledge dissemination for food systems transformation and sustainable economic growth in Malawi.

Within this Action, LUANAR's primary roles include capacity building, facilitating Participatory Action Research (PAR), and supporting Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of UCHI interventions focused on Natural Resources Management, Agricultural Commercialization (Value Chains), and Nutrition. The detailed research themes can be found at the following link: UCHI Research Themes. It is against the background that LUANAR is rolling out a **Mentorship Program,** targeting LUANAR's postgraduate students and early-career academic staff.

ABOUT UCHI MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Postgraduate students mentorship: postgraduate students will be mentored in PAR and M&E by experienced researchers and M&E specialists for a period of 2 to 3 years

Early Career Mentorship: Early career faculty members at LUANAR will receive mentorship and support to conduct PAR studies in beneficiary districts (Karonga, Mzimba, Kasungu, Nkhotakota, Salima, Ntcheu, Zomba, Chikwawa and Thyolo).

ELIGIBILITY

A. Mentor (Senior Academics/Researchers)

Applicants must:

1. **Be an active academic or research staff member employed at LUANAR.**
2. **Have previously served as a Principal Investigator or Co-Investigator** on a research project.
3. **Have strong knowledge and experience in Participatory Action Research (PAR) and/or Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E).**
4. **Demonstrate commitment to mentorship and capacity building,** including willingness to devote dedicated time to mentor meetings, reviews, and field guidance.
5. **Be willing to undergo a short mentorship orientation/training** provided by the UCHI Project (mandatory for selected mentors).
6. **Be willing to collaborate with the UCHI Project team.**
7. **Maintain confidentiality and observe professional mentoring boundaries guided by LUANAR policies on safeguarding.**
8. **Be committed to supporting mentees to achieve specific outputs,** such as PAR fieldwork, reports, and publication

B. Early-Career Mentees (Early Career Academic/Research Staff)

Applicants must:

1. **Be an active faculty or research staff member employed at LUANAR.**
2. **Have never served as a Principal Investigator.**
3. **Have been affiliated with LUANAR for at least two (2) years.**
4. **Demonstrate willingness to conduct Participatory Action Research** within the UCHI thematic areas (Natural Resources Management, Commercialisation-Value Chains, Nutrition).

5. **Be willing to participate fully in structured mentorship,** including regular meetings, progress reviews, and development of an individual mentorship plan.
6. **Be ready to commit time to complete a PAR study** in a designated beneficiary district.
7. **Demonstrate openness to feedback, learning, and collaboration with the UCHI Project team.**

C. Postgraduate Student Mentees

Applicants must:

1. **Be registered postgraduate students at LUANAR.**
2. **Have no existing research topic or research grant,** to ensure program support is directed to students in need of mentorship.
3. **Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above.**
4. **Demonstrate strong motivation to conduct high-quality research,** including willingness to produce publishable work.
5. **Be willing to work under structured mentorship,** develop a research plan, and participate in progress meetings.
6. **Commit to conducting their research within UCHI's thematic focus areas.**

Additional Notes for All Applicants (Mentors and Mentees)

- A **mentorship compact/plan** will be signed to outline roles, expectations, and meeting schedules.
- Participation in **review sessions, capacity-building workshops, and program evaluations** is mandatory.
- LUANAR encourages **gender balance and diversity** in all categories of applicants.

Mode of Application

Interested applicants should complete the application form and indicate the mentorship category for which they are applying for by close of business on **Saturday 28th March 2026.**

Application Forms

For Mentor (Senior Academics/Researchers):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSes_z0Xef37sjxSGHVcK6_5KrlHBjRuXpBsU04e0nFa9QsaVA/viewform?usp=header

For Postgraduate Student Mentees:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfz5Ojx0NWwNNhnu36jLIa31bSt7V8AGv5jeukHzuv1Udd21Q/viewform?usp=publish-editor

For Early-Career Mentees (Early Career Academic/Research Staff):

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSec10in9bJpSg8vH94S5sYYD8U4LGI5nrZstlbXm4nULOr8cg/viewform?usp=publish-editor