



LILONGWE UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE AND NATURAL RESOURCES (LUANAR)

Excel@LUANAR

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: RESEARCH FELLOW

Employment Type: Fixed Term Contract

Duration: 2 years (Renewable)

Background

The Center for Agricultural Research and Development (CARD) is a public policy research institute of the Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR), formerly Bunda College of Agriculture, under the University of Malawi. The Center was funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) as a Centre of Excellence for undertaking high-quality and timely policy research in agriculture, rural development, environment, and natural resource management. The Center has four (4) pillars, namely, policy research, training, consultancy, and outreach, in which LUANAR, Government, Development Partners, Civil Society Organizations, and Communities are co-explorers in search of innovative policies and strategies for transforming socioeconomic development of the country. The CARD takes leadership in policy research through championing relevant, high-quality, and impactful policy research and capacity building in agriculture, rural development, environment, and natural resource management, with large-standing human expertise within the LUANAR.

The CARD's policy research work revolves around five themes: (i) Agricultural Productivity, Diversification, and Mechanization; (ii) Agricultural Trade, Commercialization, and Value Chain Development; (iii) Resilient Agri-food Systems and Partnership, iv) Environment, life under Water, Energy, Climate Change and Sustainable Development; (v) Research Translation and Policy Influence. In line with the Malawi Vision 2063 and the National Research Agenda, the CARD is committed to generating and transferring knowledge products needed to design technologies and innovations for inclusive wealth creation and self-reliant households, communities, and the nation. These CARD's activities are undertaken by highly motivated, dedicated, and committed staff, with support from the multidisciplinary expertise of the broad University.

Therefore, LUANAR seeks to recruit additional self-motivated Research Fellows to join its vibrant and seasoned researchers' team at CARD. Under the supervision of the CARD Director, the successful candidates shall be required to conduct quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-methods policy-relevant and impactful development research. They shall be required to contribute to CARD's research agenda and the other core CARD activities.

Duties and Responsibilities:

The successful candidates shall be required to perform the following duties and carry following responsibilities:

- Develop collaborative research concept notes and proposals for funding, working with teams of researchers from LUANAR, other institutions within Malawi, regional institutions, and international collaborators;
- Develop Expressions of Interest and consultancy proposals for local, regional, and international clients;
- Contribute towards research designs for CARD collaborative research and commissioned research and consultancies;
- Manage quantitative and qualitative data collection activities, working closely with senior researchers, local collaborators, and research support staff and liaising with program implementing partners and donors;
- Develop training materials and conduct capacity strengthening activities with partners and other stakeholders;
- Oversee and mentor junior research staff in data collection, data analysis, and other research activities;
- Assist in authoring technical working papers, research reports, briefing notes, policy papers, and other materials as required;
- Communicate research findings to policymakers, donors, implementing partners, and the academic community at national, regional, and international levels;
- Maintain relationships with research programs' implementing partners, donors, and other stakeholders
- Develop promotional materials (policy briefs, brochures, leaflets, etc) to enhance the visibility of CARD;
- Represent CARD in coordination meetings, staff meetings, workshops, and meetings with stakeholders;
- Publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals; and
- Perform any other duties as assigned from time to time by relevant Authorities.

Required Qualifications:

Applicants for this position should possess the following:

- At least a Masters degree in Economics, Agricultural Economics, Applied Economics, Environmental Economics, Development Studies, Public Policy, or any related field.
- Those with a PhD in related fields will have an added advantage.

Required Experience, Skills, Knowledge and Abilities:

- Demonstrated training in and experience conducting quantitative research, with specific skills that may include study design, fieldwork, training of enumerators, data analysis, and writing and publication of results;
- A record of – or good prospects for – publication of high-quality original research in peer-reviewed journals;
- Ability and experience in managing internal and external relationships with project teams, donors, and collaborators;
- Experience working on interdisciplinary teams and significant coursework outside their primary discipline of study;
- Experience working in multicultural teams and working on impact evaluations;
- Excellent communication skills in written and spoken English and Chichewa and willingness to travel and work in rural Malawi;
- Demonstrated ability to effectively design and implement survey data collection and qualitative studies with multiple modes of data collection in Malawi;
- Excellent knowledge of Stata, R, Python, and Matlab. Excellent competence in applied data science and computer programming will have an added advantage;
- Excellent knowledge of a qualitative data analysis package (e.g., NVivo, MAXQDA, ATLAS.ti); and
- Excellent knowledge in computer assisted personal interview platforms like Survey Solutions, Open Data Kit, CSPro, SurveyB, SurveyCTO, Survey Monkey.

Terms and Conditions of Engagement:

The successful candidates shall be engaged on a 2-year fixed term contract renewable annually subject to satisfactory performance. The successful candidates will be subjected to LUANAR Regulation and Conditions of Service for staff on fixed term contract and will therefore be appropriately remunerated in line with applicable LUANAR guidelines and conditions of engagement.

Mode of Application:

Hard copy application package should include an up-to-date Curriculum Vitae (CV), names and contact details of three traceable referees one of which should be current employer where applicable plus copies of **certified** academic and professional qualifications which must include **transcript of results**. The title of the position **MUST** be indicated on the envelope and sent to:

**The University Registrar
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources (LUANAR)
P.O. Box 219
Lilongwe**

All applications should reach the UNIVERSITY not later than **Friday, 8th March, 2024**. Only shortlisted candidates will be acknowledged.

***LUANAR is an equal opportunity employer hence
females are encouraged to apply.***