



In partnership with



Scholars Program

Call for Applications for Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa for the September (Fall) 2024 Intake

Scholarship Overview:

United States International University-Africa (USIU-Africa) has partnered with the Mastercard Foundation in its global Scholars Program. This initiative will offer academically talented youth from Africa facing financial, gender, displacement, or disability constraints an opportunity to access world class university education.

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa will provide full-cost scholarships to young Africans who are first-time undergraduate degree-seeking applicants. By completion of their studies, scholars will be required to lead changes in their communities and contribute to meaningful transformation across the continent, having been equipped with internationally recognized and locally applicable qualifications.

The scholarship targets African youth who are either, Young Women, Refugees/ displaced Youth, Persons with Disability and Young Men with the following qualities;

- Academic talent
- Commitment to giving back to their communities
- Leadership potential

*****Priority shall be given to registered Refugees/Displaced youth and Persons with Disability.***

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the scholarship applicants must;

1. Be 29 years and below at the time of application
2. Meet the minimum university entry grade of a C+ and above or its equivalent as set by the Kenya Commission for University Education. Applicants interested in courses in the school of Pharmacy and Health sciences must have a mean grade of B- or its equivalent and at least a C+ or B- in the cluster subjects of English, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry. International applicants must meet the equivalent.
3. Must be interested in any of the approved 13 undergraduate degree programs for the Scholars Program at USIU-Africa as follows:

School of Science and Technology (SST)

1. Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Technology
2. Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and Technology
3. Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering
4. Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Analytics

School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (SPHS)

1. Bachelor of Pharmacy
2. Bachelor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts (SCCCA)

1. Bachelor of Arts in Animation
2. Bachelor of Arts in Film Production and Directing

Chandaria School of Business (CSB)

1. Bachelor of Science in Finance
2. Bachelor of Science in International Business Administration
3. Bachelor of Science in Accounting

School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS)

1. Bachelor of Arts in International Relations
2. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology

3. Have proven record of leadership involvement and community give back engagement.
4. Demonstrate socio-economic disadvantage.

More information about the above highlighted degree programs can be found at the university website:
<https://www.usiu.ac.ke/undergraduate-programs/>

Application process:

- a. Interested applicants can fill in the application form attached in this call for applications. The same can also be downloaded from the website on this link:
<https://www.usiu.ac.ke/scholars-program>. Application forms can also be picked from the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program office at the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension, 2nd floor.
- b. Before filling in the application form, please read through all the instructions and required information.
- c. Submit complete application together with other supporting documents required by email ensuring that the scanned copy of the scholarship application form and all the required documents are scanned in PDF format. Clearly name while sending with your name and nationality as the email subject to: mcfsp-applications@usiu.ac.ke or drop your application at the Scholars Program Office, located in the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension building at USIU-Africa

APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO SEND ONLY ONE COMPLETE APPLICATION. DUPLICATE AND INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE REJECTED. PLEASE NOTE THAT CANVASING WILL LEAD TO AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

Important dates and deadlines:

- Release of call for applications - **Monday, September 25, 2023.**
- Application Deadline - **Friday, November 24, 2023 at 11:59pm (East Africa Time)**

***If you do not hear from us by this date; **Tuesday April 30, 2024**, please consider your application unsuccessful. Due to the large volumes of applications received, we are unable to give personalized feedback to all the applicants.*

Note;

- The Scholars program will communicate to applicants through email and phone contact. Applicants should ensure that the phone numbers and email addresses provided are accurate and active in order to receive important information and feedback.
- After the selection process, successful applicants will be invited for a virtual or in person interview conducted by independent panels.
- Applicants who will be discovered to have provided false information during any stage of the application and selection process will be disqualified. Any attempt to influence the selection process will lead to automatic disqualification.
- The Scholars program at USIU-Africa **does not work with any agents or intermediaries** in the application and selection process. **There are absolutely NO charges, fees or “facilitation” required** at any stage of the application and selection process.

Benefits of joining the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program:

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars at USIU-Africa will receive holistic support which includes:

- a. Tuition and functional fees;
- b. Laptop and library books;
- c. Reasonable accommodation and meals;
- d. Medical insurance;
- e. Stipend;
- f. Transport to and from home once a year;
- g. Access to leadership training;
- h. Access to entrepreneurial training;
- i. Psycho-social support, career counselling and mentorship;
- j. Disability needs will be reasonably catered for.

Any queries can be directed through e-mail to mcfsp-enquiries@usiu.ac.ke or phone no: **+254730116218; +254730116500; +254730116303; +254730116521; +254730116107; 254730116148; +254730116552; +254730116536** or in person.



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Scholars Program

APPLICATION FORM FOR SEPTEMBER (FALL) 2024 INTAKE FOR THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA (USIU-AFRICA)

Dear Applicant,

USIU-Africa appreciates your interest in the Scholars Program made possible by the partnership of Mastercard Foundation and USIU-Africa. By completing this application, you are taking the first step in a process that will allow us to learn more about you, your achievements, and your goals as a potential Scholar of this Program. We encourage you to read the application guidelines before filling the form. The application form is **NOT FOR SALE** and **NO PAYMENT IS REQUIRED**.

Completed application and supporting documents should be sent to mcfsp-applications@usiu.ac.ke by **Friday, November 24, 2023**. Our selection committee will review all applications carefully and nominate finalists for interviews. All finalists will be interviewed either in person or virtually. Communication to the selected Scholars will be done by **Tuesday April 30, 2024**.

A completed application should include the following:

1. Scholarship Application letter stating the following:
 - a) Personal Background including family financial position.
 - b) Why you chose USIU-Africa.
 - c) Where you see yourself after graduation.

NB: The application letter should be sent as an attachment alongside the other documents.
2. Copies of academic documents (final high school certificates);
3. Recommendation letter from your high school teacher, head teacher or sponsoring organization. The letter must be current, official, stamped and signed.
4. One recent Passport size photograph;
5. A copy of your Birth certificate, National Identity Card or Passport and/or refugee travel document;
6. A copy of refugee identity document (where applicable).
7. A copy of disability registration document/card (where applicable).

Applicants are advised to complete every section of the application form. INCOMPLETE applications will NOT be evaluated.

Complete applications should be delivered in person/emailed only ONCE. Duplicate applications or several emails from the same person will lead to disqualification of the applicant. Applications sent to another email address other than the one provided will not be evaluated

DEADLINE:

All applications must be received by **Friday, November 24, 2023 at 11:59pm (East Africa Time)**. We strongly encourage earlier submissions.

****Please read carefully all the instructions and gather all the necessary supporting documents before filling the application form. You must provide a valid email address and a phone number where you can be reached. Your handwriting must be legible in order for your application to be processed.**

A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please enter your name and all information as it appears on official documents such as an identification card, birth certificate, or passport.

Name; First: Telesphore Middle: _____ Last: Uwabera

Other name: _____

Gender: F ☐ M ☒ Nationality: Rwandan Birth: Date: 20 / 11 / 2002
Day Month Year

Marital status; Single: Single Married: _____ No of children(if any): _____

Age at the time of application: 21 years old

Country of Birth: Rwanda

Country of Citizenship: Rwanda

Country of residence at the time of application: Rwanda

County/Region: East African Community

Place of residence at the time of application: Urban ☐ Rural ☒ Peri-urban ☐

Do you have a passport? Yes ☐ No ☒ *Passport No: _____

*If you have a passport, please attach a copy of it to this application.

Passport Issued by (Country): _____

Your Email Address (write in captital letters): UWABERATELESPHORE@GMAIL.COM

Mobile Phone (Including Country Code): +250785043355

Permanent Physical Address: Musanze district

Primary language spoken: Kinyarwanda

Other Languages: English

B: CATEGORY OF SCHOLARSHIP

Please tick from the list below the category of scholarship you are applying for

- ☐ Young Woman
- ☒ Young Man
- ☐ Refugee/displaced youth
- ☐ Youth with disability

How did you learn about the scholarship? _____

- ☐ A virtual/physical information session by the Scholars Program team
- ☒ Friends/Relatives
- ☐ Former high school teacher
- ☐ Partner organization
- ☐ Website/social media page
- ☐ Mastercard Foundation Scholars
- ☐ Program beneficiary
- ☐ USIU-Africa staff

For refugees kindly provide the following information:

1. Refugee status: _____
2. UNHCR Number: _____
3. Do you live in a camp or as an integrated refugee: _____
4. If camp, please name the camp: _____
5. If integrated, please give details of residence and contact details of persons responsible for your integration. _____

For Internally Displaced Youth, Kindly provide the following:

1. Letter from relevant government authority stating reason and nature of displacement.

For persons with disability, kindly provide the following information:

1. Nature of disability (please describe briefly): _____
2. Are you registered with any disability organizations? Yes ☐ No ☒
If yes which one? _____
3. Please attach your disability registration form/card
4. Please indicate any special accommodation needs that you may require _____

C. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

State the degree program you are applying for Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Analytics

Your program of choice must be among the 13 sponsored programs (Refer to the Call for Applications)

Name of High/Secondary School: GSCIM Rwankuba

Physical Address:(Location): Gakenke district

Date of Graduation: 24th February 2024

High/Secondary school exam system (e.g. WAEC, GCE, KCSE, etc): REB

Grade (s) Obtained: 73/73(Grade A in each subject)

School Type (mark all that apply): Government/Public ☒ Independent/Private

Have you ever applied to, placed by the government or admitted to a tertiary institution? Yes ☐ No ☒

If you answered yes, please provide additional information in the table below:

| Name of the Institution | Date applied/ admitted | Duration of studies | Qualification Obtained |
|-------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

If you were admitted/placed by the government but did not attend or you attended but did not graduate, give reasons and attach evidence:

Who paid for your High/Secondary school education?

- ☐ Guardian (s) (Related to the applicant)
- ☐ Guardian (s) not related to applicant
- ☐ Parent
- ☐ Scholarship (attach recommendation letter from sponsor/ proof)
- ☐ Sibling (s)
- ☒ Sponsor (s)
- ☐ Other

If other; state who paid fees: _____

Applicant Name: Telephore Uwabera

Phone/Email: +250785043355

D. FAMILY INFORMATION (Contact person in case of emergency)

Section 1: Parents or Guardians

Parent/Guardian #1

Surname: Ndayambaje First: Protais
Other names: _____ Relation to you: Father
Occupation (mandatory): Agriculture Estimated income per month: \$55
Highest Level of Education Attained: _____
Mobile Phone (include code): +250785043355 Email: _____
Country of Residence: Rwanda Physical Address: Musanze district

Parent/Guardian #2

Surname: Mukarubayiza First: Marceline
Other names: _____ Relation to you: Mother
Occupation: Agriculture Estimated income per month: \$30
Highest Level of Education Attained: Primary
Mobile Phone: +250739305120 Email: _____
Country of Residence: Rwanda Physical Address: Musanze district

Section 2: Siblings: Please list the Names, Level of Education, genders and ages of any brothers/ sisters you have, even if they don't live in your household. If you need more lines please attach a separate page at the end.

| Full Name | Gender (M/F) | Age | Highest level of education/ degree attained | Occupation/Employment/ Monthly income |
|----------------------|--------------|-----|---|---------------------------------------|
| Florence Iturinde | F | 19 | Ordinary level | Student |
| Straton Niyogisubizo | M | 17 | Ordinary level | Student |
| Vanessa Yubahwe | F | 7 | No degree | Student |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Applicant Name: Telephore Uwabera **Phone/Email:** _____

E. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

(Write your essays only within the spaces provided)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

1. Describe a previously held leadership position, activities, or experiences: (i.e. positions where you guided or led a group of people, a project, or a cause in which you were involved)

During my tenure as the English Club leader at GSCIM Rwankuba, I honed a myriad of invaluable leadership skills. I took on the responsibility of coordinating club members, ensuring that our activities ran smoothly, and fostering a sense of unity within the group. My role demanded effective communication as I regularly interacted with members to share ideas, discuss plans, and address concerns. One of my notable achievements was identifying new opportunities for the club, such as organizing public speaking workshops and participating in inter-school competitions, which allowed our members to showcase their talents and gain recognition. Furthermore, my organizational skills were put to the test as I orchestrated various events, including literary contests and book drives. These experiences not only enriched our club but also contributed to the broader school community. Perhaps most importantly, my time as a leader enabled me to refine my team management skills, ensuring that every member felt valued, motivated, and aligned with our common goals. This leadership experience at GSCIM Rwankuba has left an indelible mark on my personal and professional development.

2. State any Awards and Honors received: (i.e., academic award; Outstanding Leadership award, Community service award etc. (Attach evidence)

1. Recommendation letter
 2. Secondary school certificates in Music band and Journalism
 3. Young African leader initiative Effective Communication for Healthy Outcomes certificates
 4. Programming short-course certificates
 5. Baobab with Mastercard Leadership Courses certificates
 6. AHAIC 2023 Participation Certificate
 7. Google Cybersecurity Badge
 8. Lead Academy Participation Certificate
 9. ASEF Annual Camping Certificate
 10. Aspire Institute Online Leadership Courses Certification
 11. Rwanda Advanced Certificate of Education
-

3. What are you passionate about and how will your program of study contribute to your passion?

I am passionate about harnessing the power of data to uncover valuable insights and drive informed decisions. Pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Analytics is a natural extension of my passion. This program will provide me with the necessary knowledge and skills to explore, analyze, and interpret complex data sets effectively.

Through this course of study, I will gain a deep understanding of data collection, manipulation, and visualization techniques, as well as the ability to apply statistical and machine learning methods. This knowledge will empower me to tackle real-world problems across various domains, from business and healthcare to environ-

mental science.

Moreover, my program of study will enable me to work on hands-on projects and collaborate with experts in the field, further enhancing my proficiency and expertise in data analytics. Ultimately, this educational journey will not only fulfill my passion but also equip me with the tools to make a meaningful impact in the data-driven world we live in.

Applicant Name: Telesphore Uwabera **Phone/Email:** +250785043355

F. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program vision is that Scholars will use their education to create change and improve the lives of others.

Describe the voluntary/community activities and experiences you have engaged in the past

I have been actively involved in voluntary and community activities for the past two years, serving as an IHRC Volunteer since August 21, 2021. During this time, my dedication and commitment to making a positive impact in my community have grown significantly.

Through my volunteer work, I have had the privilege of participating in various initiatives aimed at supporting vulnerable individuals and communities. This includes assisting in organizing charity events, distributing essential supplies to those in need, and contributing to awareness campaigns on important social issues.

My experiences as an IHRC Volunteer have allowed me to develop a strong sense of empathy and a greater understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized populations. These experiences have also honed my teamwork and communication skills, as collaboration and effective interaction are essential in the context of community service.

Overall, my voluntary and community activities have not only enriched my life but have also reinforced my commitment to continue making a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Describe your aspirations for social change and how you plan to achieve social change through your program of study

My aspirations for social change through my Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Analytics program are deeply rooted in my desire to leverage data-driven insights and advanced analytics to address critical societal challenges. I aim to harness the power of data to drive positive transformations in various domains.

First and foremost, I intend to utilize my education to contribute to the fields of healthcare and public health. By analyzing healthcare data, I hope to identify patterns and trends that can lead to more efficient healthcare delivery

and improved patient outcomes. Additionally, I plan to work on projects that tackle public health issues, such as disease prevention and healthcare accessibility. Furthermore, I am passionate about environmental sustainability. I aspire to use data analytics to support efforts in reducing carbon emissions, conserving resources, and promoting eco-friendly practices. In the realm of education, I aim to develop data-driven solutions that enhance learning outcomes and educational equity. This includes using data analytics to identify areas where intervention is needed and creating personalized learning experiences. To achieve these aspirations, I plan to actively engage in research, internships, and collaborations with organizations and experts in these fields. By applying my knowledge and skills in data science and analytics, I aim to make a meaningful impact on society, contributing to positive social change.

Applicant Name: Telesphore Uwabera **Phone/Email:** +250785043355

G. ACTIVITIES

Please list up to three of the most important activities in each category (in order of importance to you) that you have participated in during the past three years, either through your secondary school or independently/in your community. Complete only the sections relevant to you. (Attach evidence)

Leadership at School Level:

| Activity | Role | Number of years |
|-----------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Example: Student Government | | |
| 1. English Club | President | 1 |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |

Community/ Volunteer Experience:

| Activity | Role | Number of years |
|--------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| Example: Poultry farming | | |
| 1. IHRC Volunteer | Volunteer | 2 |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |

Business and Entrepreneurship workshops:

| Activity | Role | Number of years |
|---------------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Example: Science Congress | | |
| 1. AHAIC 2023 | Rapporteur | 1 |
| 2. Annual camping | Participant | 1 |
| 3. | | |

Athletic, Artistic and Musical Competitions:

| Activity | Role | Number of years |
|-------------------------|--------|-----------------|
| Example: Music festival | | |
| 1. DISMOS Music band | Singer | 3 |
| 2. | | |
| 3. | | |

Is there any additional information you would want to share with us to support your application?

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper has a slight shadow on its right side, suggesting it's resting on a surface.

H. CERTIFICATION PAGE

I, Telesphore Uwabera hereby certify that all information contained in this application is truthfully and accurately presented and is my work alone and give my permission to USIU-Africa to obtain any verification deemed necessary to process my application. Finally, I acknowledge that completing this application form does not guarantee scholarship.

Signature:  Date: 21/11/2023

Application submission guidelines

1. Read carefully through the application guidelines on the Call for Applications document before submitting your application.
2. Go through your application and review to make sure you have all the required documents and your form is completely filled before submission. Incomplete forms will not be evaluated.
3. Submit only 1 application. Multiple submissions will lead to automatic disqualification.
4. When submitting your application, all documents must be scanned in PDF format and named accordingly then sent as an attachment(s) on email.
5. Do not convert your application form to word document when you download. Print the form, fill it and then scan into pdf format. PDF editor is acceptable.
6. The subject of the application email should be your name and nationality.
7. Use the provided email address to send your application; mcfsp-applications@usiu.ac.ke. Any application sent to a different email address will NOT be evaluated.
8. If your sibling or immediate family member is a beneficiary of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa, you are NOT eligible to apply.

Note:

Submitting a complete application does not guarantee award of scholarship

CONTACT DETAILS

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program
United States International University-Africa
P.O. Box 14634 00800
Nairobi

Tel: +254 730 116 218 /500 /303 /107 /521 /148 / 552 /536