

# THE MO-KERRY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

A Strategic Partnership for Advancing Food Science and Technology in Africa

## Background

The African continent stands at a pivotal moment in redefining its food systems to ensure sustainable nutrition, industrial growth, and economic resilience. Central to this transformation is the development of a skilled workforce in food science and technology—individuals capable of innovating across the agricultural and industrial value chains.

In recognition of this imperative, the Mo Dewji Foundation, a philanthropic organization committed to advancing access to education and economic opportunity in Africa, has partnered with Kerry Group, a global leader in taste and nutrition, to establish the Mo-Kerry Scholarship Program—a structured, one-year professional training and scholarship initiative designed to build the next generation of African food technologists and industry leaders.

## Rationale for the Partnership

The collaboration is rooted in the aligned values and long-term goals of both institutions:

- The Mo Dewji Foundation is committed to developing African talent through strategic investments in education, with a particular focus on programs that lead to employability, innovation, and sustainable economic development.
- Kerry Group brings decades of global expertise in sustainable nutrition, food safety, and technological innovation, and is seeking to invest in local talent pipelines to support the evolving needs of food systems across the continent.

This partnership represents a synergistic approach that bridges academic training with industry application, thereby responding directly to the growing demand for professionally trained individuals who can lead Africa's food processing, safety, and innovation sectors.

## Program Overview

The Mo-Kerry Scholarship Program is a 12-month, structured scholarship and training program aimed at recent graduates from fields aligned with food science and industrial processing. The program is delivered in four integrated phases:

### 1. Academic Core (4 months)

Scholars will undertake intensive coursework at the University of Dar es Salaam and Sokoine University of Agriculture in the following subjects:

- Food Chemistry and Analysis
- Food Microbiology
- Nutrition and Sensory Evaluation

### 2. Industry-Aligned Training Modules (2 months)

Developed in collaboration with technical experts from Kerry Group, scholars will be introduced to:

- Clean Label and Plant-Based Technologies
- Food Preservation Techniques
- Regulatory Compliance and Quality Systems
- Industrial Processing and Product Innovation

### 3. Laboratory and Technical Skills Development (2 months)

Scholars will gain hands-on training in:

- Laboratory Equipment Calibration
- Packaging and Traceability Systems
- Technical Tools for Process Innovation

### 4. Industry Project Placement (4 months)

Scholars will undertake supervised placements in real-time environments with Kerry Group or other participating industrial partners. These placements will focus on solving context-specific challenges in food production, quality control, or product development

## Strategic Goals and Long-Term Vision

The Mo-Kerry Scholarship Program is envisioned as the first phase of a broader five-year strategy to:

- Train 300 skilled food technologists across five African countries by 2029
- Establish permanent Centers of Excellence in Food Innovation and Safety
- Foster a sustainable pipeline of locally trained professionals who are equipped to contribute meaningfully to Africa's food industry transformation

This initiative will not only support employment pathways for young graduates but also strengthen university-industry collaboration, innovation ecosystems, and the development of local expertise aligned with global standards

### **Eligibility Criteria (Phase 1: 2025/2026 Cohort)**

- Hold a Bachelor's degree in one of the following or related fields: Food Science, Food Technology, Biotechnology, Laboratory Sciences, BSc. Chemistry, or Chemical Processing Engineering
- Have attained a GPA of 3.5 or above
- Demonstrate interest in pursuing a professional career in food processing, nutrition, product development, or related fields
- Be a Tanzanian citizen for the inaugural intake

### **Expected Outcomes**

Upon successful completion, scholars will:

- Receive academic certification from participating universities
- Obtain industry-recognized certification and work experience
- Be equipped with market-relevant skills for entry-level and supervisory roles, including:
  - R&D Technologist
  - Quality Control Specialist
  - Production Supervisor
  - Application Scientist
  - Technical Sales Representative

In addition, scholars will be inducted into a growing alumni network that will serve as a knowledge-sharing and employment facilitation platform across East and Sub-Saharan Africa.

### **Call for Applications: 2025/2026 Academic Year**

**Mo-Kerry Scholarship Program**

The Mo Dewji Foundation, in partnership with Kerry Group, invites applications for the inaugural cohort of the Mo-Kerry Scholarship Program, a fully sponsored, one-year professional training initiative in food science and technology.

This highly competitive program is designed to equip recent graduates with both academic knowledge and industry-specific skills through a structured curriculum and practical placement in leading food industry institutions.

## **Program Components**

- Academic Training (University of Dar es Salaam & Sokoine University of Agriculture)
- Industry Training Modules (Led by experts from MeTL Group of Companies and Kerry Group)
- Technical Laboratory Work and Tools Application
- Four-Month Industry Internship Placement

## **Eligibility Requirements**

### **Applicant Must**

- Hold a Bachelor's degree in Food Science, Food Technology, Biotechnology, Laboratory Sciences, Chemistry, or Chemical Processing Engineering
- Have graduated with a minimum GPA of 3.5
- Be a citizen of Tanzania
- Be committed to completing the full 12-month program

## **Application Procedure**

Application submissions must include:

- Completed application form (available at [Insert Link])
- Certified academic transcripts and degree certificate
- Personal statement (maximum 500 words) detailing motivation and career aspirations
- Two academic or professional reference letters

### **Key Dates**

- Applications Open: 21st July 2025
- Deadline for Submissions: 15th August 2025
- Program Commencement: September 2025

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview and final selection process.

## **Contact Information**

**For further details, please contact:**

**Program Secretariat - Mo-Kerry Scholarship Program**

**Email: [mksp@modewjifoundation.org](mailto:mksp@modewjifoundation.org)**

**Phone: +255 742 184 053**

**Website: <http://modewjifoundation.org>**