



## MSc. SCHOLARSHIP IN WILDLIFE ECOLOGY/ZOOLOGY



### SCHOLARSHIP DESCRIPTION

The Department of Zoology and Wildlife Conservation, in collaboration with Re:Wild and the Natural History Museum in London, through the project 'Developing an Eastern Arc and Coastal Forest Biodiversity Centre for Research, Training, and Public Engagement, collectively known as HAZINA Project, which is funded by the Hempel Foundation, invites applications from outstanding candidates interested in exploring the dynamics of environmental change through the lens of vertebrate biodiversity in Tanzania. Anchored in the rich natural history collections housed at the University of Dar es Salaam (UDSM) (maintained since the 1960's) and partner research and museum institutions, this scholarship will support interdisciplinary research projects that aim to develop biodiversity expertise using cutting-edge scientific approaches. The successful candidates will investigate how past and present environmental shifts have influenced vertebrate species' distributions, morphology, and ecology, drawing on extensive specimen data housed in museum collections to inform contemporary conservation priorities. This opportunity not only emphasizes rigorous field- and collection-based research but also contributes to strengthening taxonomic capacity and biodiversity documentation in East Africa. Successful applicants will conduct their research within the UDSM wet collections, focusing on one of the five taxonomic groups: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds and mammals. This scholarship is ideal for candidates passionate about vertebrate systematics, ecology, and applying modern tools to address pressing environmental challenges. Applicants should demonstrate strong academic potential, a commitment to research excellence, and an eagerness to contribute to Tanzania's scientific and conservation communities. The Master's program serves as a strong stepping stone towards PhD studies.

### ELIGIBILITY

- (i) Be a Tanzanian national with a strong background in vertebrate biology (either in fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, or mammals).
- (ii) Qualify for admission into Msc Wildlife Ecology or MSc Zoology (by thesis) programs at UDSM (<https://admission.udsm.ac.tz>) and provide evidence of application for admission (the application window is currently open).
- (iii) Hold a Bachelor's degree in Wildlife Sciences and Conservation, Zoology, Fisheries or a closely related field.
- (iv) Demonstrate willingness and commitment to conduct research using wet collections.

**AREA OF STUDY :** Five (5) successful applicants will develop their research topics on fish/amphibians/ reptiles / birds or mammals held within collections.

### SCHOLARSHIP BENEFITS

The scholarship covers:

- (i) A two-year Msc contract, in accordance with the University of Dar es Salaam Postgraduate Regulations and Requirements. For further details, please visit: <https://udsm.ac.tz/directorate-postgraduate-studies/dpgs-application-instruction>
- (ii) Networking with a team of experts on the selected taxonomic groups from UDSM, the Natural History Museum – London, the Biological Station of Doñana – Spain, as well as other international experts.
- (iii) Regular training, workshops and seminars on wet collection management and broader biodiversity conservation themes.
- (iv) Hands-on experience in curating, digitizing, and analyzing collection data, while contributing to public biodiversity data repositories.
- (v) Field visits to some of the biologically richest regions within the country.
- (vi) Opportunities to travel and attend conferences within and outside the country.



## APPLICATION PACKAGE

The following documents should be emailed to the address below:

- (a) An up to date Curriculum Vitae (include contacts of two referees (name and email address, and state your relationship))
- (b) Certified copies of Academic certificates and transcripts (Bachelor's degree and any other related qualifications)
- (c) Proof of application to a relevant UDSM MSc. programme for 2025/2026 March intake.
- (d) A cover letter detailing your motivation for working with wet collections, the taxonomic group you wish to work on, and why you should be considered for this award (maximum 1 page). We value genuine personal motivation and interest over well-framed AI material.

*Please note that incomplete applications will not be considered.*

## SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION PACKAGES

Applications should be emailed to:  
[zoology@udsm.ac.tz](mailto:zoology@udsm.ac.tz) (cc to  
[johnlyakurwa@gmail.com](mailto:johnlyakurwa@gmail.com)).

## SELECTION OUTCOME

Selected applicants will be directly contacted for an interview not later than February 2026.

## DEADLINE

Applications must be submitted by 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026.