

Partnership SU-CRSES and TUM-SEED Center

Call for Applications: PhD Scholarship in Sustainable Energy Entrepreneurship

The Centre for Renewable and Sustainable Energy Studies (CRSES) at Stellenbosch University is one of the collaborating partners of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) SEED Center, which is a Centre of Excellence for Exchange, Research and Collaboration in Sustainable Energies Entrepreneurship and Development in the Global South (SEED), funded by DAAD and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development from 2020 to 2029.

The SEED Center consists of the Technical University of Munich (TUM) and ten leading technical universities across the Global South, including Bahir Dar University (Ethiopia), Bandung Institute of Technology (Indonesia), Burkina Institute of Technology (Burkina Faso), Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (Ghana), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (India), Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (Kenya), Makerere University (Uganda), Namibia University of Science and Technology (Namibia), Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú (Peru), and Stellenbosch University (South Africa). Through its international and interdisciplinary doctoral program, the SEED Center fosters academic exchange and facilitates excellent research.

This announcement invites master's graduates from the Global South with excellent academic track records and strong motivation to apply for a doctoral scholarship in **"Sustainable Energy Entrepreneurship"**. We seek to engage a student from the Global South, who has a high interest in sustainable development and making a difference in the world. The students should focus on scaling and impact of sustainable enterprises in the context of the mini-grid sector, contributing to SDG 7 "Clean and Affordable Energy for all by 2030". The research is connected to the Living Labs established across the SEED Centers and collaborating partners.

The selected and awarded doctoral scholars will be enrolled at **Stellenbosch University** under the CRSES, with the possibility of co-supervision by Prof. Dr. Frank-Martin Belz, Director of the TUM SEED Center at TUM.

The SEED doctoral scholarship includes a monthly stipend, international mobility grants to TUM and other SEED partner universities, research expenses, as well as covering participation in conferences. The **duration of the scholarship program is 4 years, starting from 1st February 2026 to 31st January 2030.**

SEED doctoral scholars are expected to:

- Demonstrate a strong commitment to the work as a doctoral student.
- Participate and contribute to the activities of the SEED Center (e.g., annual symposia).

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- Engage in academic exchange (i.e., visit and collaborate with partner universities).
- Support the student initiative activities at the partner university.
- Submit progress reports as required by the TUM SEED Center and by Makerere University.
- Complete studies within stipulated scholarship period; failure to do so without sound reasons may result in a demand for a refund.

Application requirements:

- Master's degree in sustainable energies, business management (with a focus on entrepreneurship) or related fields. The master's should have been obtained no more than six (6) years ago.
- Research or work experience at the intersection of management and sustainable energies.
- Excellent academic track record.
- Proficiency in English language
- Strong motivation, extracurricular skills, and social engagement.
- Nationality from one of the eligible countries in the Global South.

How to apply:

To apply, please complete your application on the Stellenbosch University website and fill in the attached link. Please note that both steps are compulsory. Failure to complete either of the two will result in disqualification. Applications close on the **31 October 2025**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1tKksYBtZwgZpYBJPm_rvtD0V4qF3uSbgsu6th5kuY9Q

Qualified women and individuals with disabilities are encouraged to apply. The Selection Commission of the TUM SEED Center will make the final decision in line with DAAD criteria.

If you have any questions regarding the announcement, feel free to contact: crses@sun.ac.za

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