

PNRR project

funded by Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR)

UNITAFRICA

"Empowering the Academic Cooperation between Italy and Africa for fostering the quality and effectiveness of the higher education systems in a mutual learning environment"

CUP: D81I24000280007

Summer School on LAND PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL HAZARDS

CALL FOR APPLICATION

I. GENERAL INFORMATION

The University of Parma, within the framework of the PNRR UNITAFRICA project "*Empowering the Academic Cooperation between Italy and Africa for fostering the quality and effectiveness of the higher education systems in a mutual learning environment*", funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MUR), - CUP: D81I24000280007 - at Centro Universitario per la Cooperazione Internazionale (CUCI), announces a call for applications for the selection of **No. 10 researchers and university lecturers** to participate in the **Summer School on "LAND PROTECTION AGAINST NATURAL HAZARDS"**.

Description of course content

The Summer School is an advanced training course. The main goals of the are:

- 1) training teaching staff in the field of civil engineering (learners) about methods for dealing with land protection problems such as landslides and floods;
- 2) increasing the knowledge of learners about the approaches, data and possible solutions to protect the territory against geo-hydrological natural hazards;
- 3) bringing up the capability of tackling and solving both slope stability and flood problems using innovative methods and specific software.

End-users of the Summer School will be teaching staff and researchers, who are responsible of higher education courses related to territory management and land protection. They will be provided with analysis tools, which are useful in territory planning, in decisions during emergency situations and in the planning of mitigation measures against geo-hydrological hazards.

Main contents:

- Different types of landslides and their interaction with infrastructures
- Landslide monitoring
- Early warning systems for landslides and floods
- Methods for landslide risk mitigation
- River basin management
- Hydrological-hydraulic modelling
- Climate change and climate models

Planned activities

The Summer School will include class sessions, workshops, roundtables, discussions, field visits. Lessons will be held by a team of Professors from the University of Parma, who have expertise in the field of landslides and floods.

Participation in the course includes **6 days of in-person attendance** at the **University of Parma** (www.unipr.it) and an **11-day stay**, including **arrival and departure days**.

The course will take place from **July 6 to July 16** with the following schedule:

July 06: arrival in Italy

July 07: free and community time

July 08, 09, 10, 14 and 15: Summer School in Parma University

July 11: field visit

Day schedule:

from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM: class activities

from 12:00 PM to 2:00 PM: lunch time

from 2:00 PM to 5:00 PM: class and group activities, workshops.

July 16: departure

Benefits of the Mobility Grant

Selected participants will benefit from:

- A fully funded teaching or training period at the University of Parma.
- Opportunities for academic exchanges and collaboration.
- Exposure to innovative teaching methodologies.
- Potential to establish long-term research and teaching collaborations.

Target Audience

This call is specifically addressed to researchers and lecturers from the following universities:

Country	University
Cameroon	University of Dschang
Cameroon	University Yaoundè I
Cabo Verde	Universidade de Cabo Verde
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa University
Ethiopia	Hawassa University
Ethiopia	Jimma University
Ethiopia	Madda Walabu University
Ethiopia	Mekelle University
Ethiopia	Wolaita Sodo University (WSO)
Ethiopia	University of Dire Dawa
Ghana	Cape Coast University
Kenya	University of Nairobi
Kenya	Kenyatta University
Kenya	Masinde Mulindo University of Science and Technology
Kenya	Meru University of Science and Technology
Kenya	Technical University of Kenya
Mozambique	Eduardo Mondlane
Mozambique	Universidade Catolica de Mozambique
Rwanda	Catholic University of Rwanda
Rwanda	Ines-Ruhengeri, Institute of Applied Sciences, Musanze
Rwanda	University of Rwanda

Rwanda	University of Technology and Art of Byumba
Rwanda	Rwanda Polytechnic - Musanze College

II. FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The financial support must be considered to cover the expenses related to the travel and the stay abroad. The amount is related to the days of actual stay in the host institution. In particular, the funding is as follows:

- 1) 1400€ for visa, health insurance, food and accommodation
- 2) 1200€ for ticket fly

III. REQUIREMENTS AND APPLICATION PROCEDURE

To be eligible, candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Be members of the academic staff of one of the listed universities (target audience section of this document)
- Pursue academic work in fields relevant to the course: Psychology, sociology, anthropology, economics and development, cooperation, education sciences
- Provide a self-certification of English language knowledge (at least B2 level)

Application Submission: Deadline: 9 March 2025

To submit an application for enrolment, candidates must complete the online application form available at: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1NwBsHrwn3gAPdi9d3SbtrCU5n4mh2hPsNiexIBMwKdk/edit>

The application must include:

- Proof of affiliation with one of the listed institutions.
- Complete application form.
- Curriculum Vitae (including a list of publications).
- Motivation letter.
- Self-certification of English language knowledge or official certification of English language knowledge (at least B2)

IV. SELECTION PROCEDURE

The selection of candidates will be carried out on a 100-point scale, distributed as specified in the evaluation criteria. A merit ranking will be established based on the scores obtained, and admission to the course will be granted to candidates with the highest scores until all available places are filled.

Selection Criteria

1. Relevance of CV to the course objectives: Max. 40 points.

- a. **Fully Relevant:** The item is directly and entirely aligned with the specified topic of the course
- b. **Mostly Relevant:** The item is significantly aligned with specified topic of the course with only minor deviations.

- c. **Partially Relevant:** The item is somewhat aligned with the specified topic of the course but with notable gaps or inconsistencies.
- d. **Not Relevant:** The item has no discernible alignment with specified topic of the course

2. Publications relevant to the course topic: 2 points per publication, Max. 20 points.

3. Teaching and leadership experience: Max. 10 points.

- a. Teaching hours per year
- b. Institutional assignments (coordinators, directors, etc.)

4. Motivation letter: Max. 10 points.

5. The career time perspective will be considered, with preference given to individuals who have a longer-term career trajectory. Max. 20 points.

Age of the candidate	Pts
25-35	20
36-45	15
46-55	10
More than 55	5

Gender will be taken into account during the selection process. In cases where two candidates have equal qualifications and scores, preference will be given to promote gender balance and to the younger applicants

Selection Committee

The Selection Committee will consist of:

- One official appointed by the University Centre for International Cooperation (CUCI) of the University of Parma.
- Two professors responsible for course organization.

The final ranking will be communicated to all applicants.

The Selection Committee will evaluate the submitted applications and compile a ranking list, which will be communicated to the participants in the competition by **March 24, 2025**.

V. POST-SELECTION REQUIREMENTS

Selected candidates must confirm their acceptance within 10 days of notification by sending the signed acceptance form to CUCI with a copy to their home university.

Upon acceptance, the following steps will be required:

1. Define and sign the Mobility and Financial Agreement.
2. Comply with the administrative requirements of the hosting institution.

Withdrawal from the mobility grant may be made provided it occurs prior to the purchase of the ticket fly and the disbursement of the planned funding. Any withdrawal after these steps will necessitate full reimbursement of the funds already allocated.

Grounds for Rejection

The host university reserves the right to refuse staff for the mobility grant on the basis of objective impediments that are inconsistent with its regulations. These may include:

- a) Failure to submit the required information of the selected staff within the stipulated deadline;
- b) Non-compliance with the application procedures set forth by the sending university;
- c) Failure to meet the language proficiency requirements specified by the partner institution;
- d) Incompatibility between the proposed teaching plan and the educational offerings of the host institution;
- e) Issues related to entry and stay regulations in the host country.

VI. FURTHER INFORMATION

For any additional information, clarifications or inquiry, please do not hesitate to contact:

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