OWSD POSTGRADUATE TRAINING FELLOWSHIPS for Women Scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) at Centres of Excellence in the South

OWSD fellowships cover all the costs related to scientific training leading to a doctorate degree while at a host institute. The programme is administered with funds generously provided by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and is offered in partnership with host institutes throughout the developing world.

Women from Sub-Saharan Africa or Least Developed Countries (see list below) can apply for a PhD programme or for an MSc converting to a PhD programme. Applicants can choose either a full-time three year fellowship option, where the research is undertaken entirely at a host institute in another developing country, or a sandwich option, registering as PhD students in their home country but spending a minimum of six months at a time (for a maximum of 3 visits) at a host institute in another developing country. We particularly encourage applicants to consider the sandwich option, which allows them to earn the PhD in their home country while accessing specialist researchers and equipment at the host institute.

OWSD comes to an agreement with each host institute so that ALL expenses are covered including:
- Travel to and from the host institute, plus visa expenses;
- A monthly allowance to cover accommodation and meals while in the host country;
- Study fees (including tuition, registration, bench fees);
- A yearly medical insurance contribution;
- An annual allowance to attend international conferences during the period of the fellowship;
- The opportunity to attend regional science communications workshops.

SANDWICH OPTION
The fellowship scheme in general aims to provide mobility. Young women are encouraged to seek out research opportunities and expertise outside their home country. OWSD recognizes, however, that it is not always possible for applicants to commit to 3 years abroad. We thus offer and encourage applications for the sandwich option. This enables applicants to register for the PhD in their home country but undertake research abroad at times throughout their PhD to suit them. Applicants can, if they wish, spend 6 months of each year of the PhD at the host institute. The minimum length of each visit is 6 months and at least one visit must be undertaken.

FULL-TIME OPTION
Alternatively, an applicant can enrol as a full-time research student at an institution outside her country. In this case the fellowship will provide full support (travel, accommodation and living expenses) for 3 years.

HOST INSTITUTES:
This is a South-South fellowship scheme, promoting scientific exchange among young researchers from developing countries. While applicants must come from a more restricted list of least developed countries (see list below), host institutes can be located in any developing country.
Host institutes should be proven centres of scientific excellence in the applicants’ chosen field. The OWSD Secretariat can provide a list of recommendations but institutes not on the OWSD list will also be considered, if there are supporting letters and recommendations.

ELIGIBILITY
- Open to qualified women science graduates from countries in Sub-Saharan Africa and Least Developed Countries (see list below).
- If applicants are over 40 years of age, they should include a brief explanation of why their research career has been delayed.
- The minimum qualification is an MSc degree (or equivalent), or an outstanding BSc honours degree in the natural sciences, engineering or information technology disciplines (see list below).
• Host institutions must be located in a developing country. This must be a different country from the applicant's home country.
• Applicants must provide a preliminary acceptance letter from at least one host institute. The letter must be prepared based on the sample on page 10 and be signed by the head of department, potential host supervisor or postgraduate studies coordinator.
• Students from eligible countries already enrolled on a PhD programme in their home country can apply for the sandwich option. This gives them access to expertise and resources that might not be available at the home institute.
• Applicants already on site in the host country will not be considered eligible since this implies that they have already secured sufficient funding for their studies.
• The applicant must be willing to return to her own country after completion of the fellowship.
• Accompanying persons are not eligible for support.

ELIGIBLE SCIENTIFIC FIELDS:
Agricultural Sciences; Structural, Cell and Molecular Biology; Biological Systems and Organisms; Medical and Health Sciences; Neurosciences; Chemical Sciences; Engineering Sciences; Information Technology; Astronomy, Space and Earth Sciences; Mathematical Sciences; Physics.

Please note that applications from students in the Basic (or ‘pure’) Sciences, such as Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry are encouraged.

ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES*:

* The list is in alphabetical order and includes all Least Developed Countries (LDC) and ALL sub-Saharan African countries. The LDC countries are defined by The United Nations Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and the Small Island Developing States (UN-OHRLLS).

CHOOSING THE HOST INSTITUTE:
This is a South-South fellowship scheme, promoting scientific exchange among young researchers from developing countries. While applicants must come from a more restricted list of least developed countries (see list above), host institutes can be located in any developing country.

• Applicants should select up to three host institutes outside their home country that are centres of scientific excellence in the applicants’ chosen field. The three host choices must be located in different countries (e.g. three host choices all located in South Africa would not be eligible).
• A list of recommended institutes by scientific field is available on www.owsd.net or by email request to fellowships@owsd.net
• Institutes not on the OWSD list may also be considered if there are supporting letters and recommendations.
• To be eligible to apply, applicants must identify a prospective supervisor willing to work with them and apply for preliminary acceptance at the chosen host institute. See “guidelines for selecting a host institute” on page 9.
• To request preliminary acceptance at the chosen host institute(s), applicants should contact the chosen host institute(s) or prospective host supervisor with the following documents:
  - Updated CV;
  - Short research proposal (2-3 pages);
  - Sample preliminary acceptance letter (see sample on page 10), requesting admission at the host institute under the OWSD fellowship
  - For sandwich option only: No Objection certificate from the Head/Director of their home institute (see sample on page 11).
Acceptance could be facilitated by selecting from one of the institutions that has an agreement of collaboration with OWSD:

a) The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China. For a full list of CAS institutes see http://english.cas.cn/institutes/;
b) The Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GSCAAS), China, http://en.gscaas.net.cn/;
c) Xidian University, China http://en.xidian.edu.cn/
d) Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia, http://www.upm.edu.my/?LANG=en. Departments/schools of natural sciences are eligible;
e) Rhodes University, South Africa, www.ru.ac.za. Departments/schools of natural sciences are eligible;
f) University of Cape Town, www.uct.ac.za. Departments/schools of natural sciences are eligible;
g) Other institutes that will be added to the OWSD website when agreements are finalised.

Please note: applications cannot be accepted without the preliminary acceptance letter from a host institute.

SELECTION

The fellowships are highly competitive, and selection is based on scientific competence and merit. Candidates’ publications and the quality of their project proposals are given particular attention.

The applications will be reviewed by a panel of eminent scientists, appointed by the Executive Board of OWSD.

APPLICATION

Applicants should complete all parts of the attached application form and enclose the mandatory preliminary acceptance letter from a host institute, and copies of all university degree certificates and university-issued transcripts, which should include grades and courses taken.

If the applicant is registered for a doctorate degree at an institution in her home country and wishes to pursue part of her research at another institution under a “sandwich programme”, a letter of recommendation from the home institute supervisor must be enclosed.

Applicants must also submit a research outline for their proposed PhD programme (see sample on page 8). In the case of sandwich option applicants, the outline must make it clear which parts of the work will be carried out at the host institute.

Two SIGNED reference letters from senior scientists familiar with the applicant’s studies must be provided. Reference letters must be on letter-headed paper, SIGNED and sent as attachments via email by the applicant directly with the rest of the application or by the referee. In this case, the subject line of the email must contain: OWSD/PG/candidate’s surname. Only signed reference letters can be accepted. For sandwich applicants: the two referees must be different from the PhD home supervisor.

Incomplete, illegible or untidy applications will be evaluated poorly, therefore applicants are requested to make sure the application documents are well prepared and to include ALL the required enclosures (please see checklist on the last page of the application form).

Applications must be clearly typewritten in English, and completed in all parts; regrettably the OWSD office cannot process incomplete and/or illegible applications. Applications will only be acknowledged once processed.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATIONS

Deadline for receipt of applications is 31 July 2015. Please send applications by email only to: fellowships@owsd.net
Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)

Postgraduate Training Fellowships for Women Scientists from Sub-Saharan Africa and LDCs at Centres of Excellence in the South

### Please indicate your scientific field. (Please tick one box only)

- Agricultural Sciences
- Structural, Cell & Molecular Biology
- Biological Systems & Organisms
- Medical and Health Sciences including Neurosciences
- Chemical Sciences
- Engineering Sciences
- Astronomy, Space & Earth Sciences
- Mathematical Sciences
- Physics
- Computing and Information Technology

### A: GENERAL INFORMATION

Please send a passport-size photo of yourself as a separate JPEG file AND a copy of your passport, even if expired. Only the page with personal details is required. **In completing this form, please provide your surname and name exactly as they are indicated in your passport.**

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<tr>
<th>Surname (family name)</th>
<th>First name(s)</th>
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<th>Date of birth</th>
<th>Place of birth (country)</th>
<th>Nationality</th>
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**Current institute (in home country)**

Title, name & surname of head/director of home institute

Name and postal address of current home institute

Phone:  
Fax:  
Email:  

Mailing address of applicant (only if different from above)

Emergency Phone:  
Phone:  
Fax:  
Email:  

### B: ACADEMIC/PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

#### Higher education (enclose copies of all degrees awarded and university-issued transcripts)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree(s) awarded</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Field/discipline</th>
<th>University</th>
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#### Academic/professional employment

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<th>Name and address of employer(s)</th>
<th>Position</th>
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#### Awards/scholarships received
List of most recent and important publications (up to 10)

Language skills Written and spoken language skills (please tick)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Language</th>
<th>ENGLISH</th>
<th>FRENCH</th>
<th>SPANISH</th>
<th>ARABIC</th>
<th>OTHER: ..........</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
<td>Poor</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Referees
Names and addresses of two senior scientists who are familiar with the applicant’s work. Only signed reference letters can be accepted.

Referee 1
Name: 
Surname: 
Address: 
Tel: 
Fax: 
E-Mail: 

Referee 2
Name: 
Surname: 
Address: 
Tel: 
Fax: 
E-Mail: 

C: POSTGRADUATE TRAINING INFORMATION
Degree the applicant wishes to pursue: ☐ MSc (one year, converting to PhD) ☐ MPhil ☐ PhD

Modality of study at the host institute: ☐ Sandwich ☐ Full-Time

SANDWICH study option (only SANDWICH applicants MUST complete this section):

Is the applicant registered at a home country institute? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Address of the home institute where the applicant is a registered PhD student (include department, faculty and postal address)

Starting and finishing dates of study/course at home institute. The OWSD fellowship does not cover expenses for the home institute

Start: 
Finish: 

Name of home supervisor, if the applicant is a registered PhD student at the home institute (please enclose a letter of support from current home supervisor) N.B.: The home PhD supervisor cannot be enlisted as one of your referees and s/he must submit a separate supporting letter in addition to the two required reference letters.

Name of Home PhD supervisor: 
Email of Home supervisor: 

SANDWICH applicants ONLY are required to provide a “no objection certificate” based on the sample provided on page 11

RESEARCH PROJECT DETAILS (to be completed by ALL applicants, both sandwich and full-time)

Field/area of proposed research/study

Provide a detailed description of the proposed postgraduate study/research plan (see sample on page 8). The postgraduate study/research plan must be maximum 2-3 pages long. In the case of sandwich applicants, please do not include the whole PhD proposal, but instead focus on the work to be carried out during the visit at the host institute. Please note that proposals should lay out a scientific hypothesis and seek to address the problem. Thus, for example, projects that merely seek to sample, screen or assay such things as medicinal plants for bioactive substances, or to monitor an environment for pollutants will be marked down. The relatively limited experience of MSc candidates will be taken into account when reviewing MSc proposals.

How does your proposed research address issues of sustainable development in your home country/region?
CHOICE OF HOST INSTITUTE (in order of preference)

ALL applicants (sandwich and full time) MUST complete this section. This section refers to the HOST institute (which must be in a developing country and in the case of sandwich applications, in a different developing country from the home institute).

Please indicate the name and address of at least one (and preferably three) HOST research institutes where you would like to carry out the OWSD fellowship if awarded.

Please note, you MUST provide at least one preliminary acceptance letter from a chosen host institute. To increase your chances of a positive evaluation, submitting two or more preliminary letters of acceptance is strongly recommended. The letter(s) must be prepared based on the sample on page 10 and signed by the head of department, prospective host supervisor or postgraduate studies coordinator.

**FIRST HOST INSTITUTE CHOICE (OBLIGATORY):**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host institute, Name and Address:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Tel.:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
<th>Name and Surname of Host supervisor:</th>
<th>Position:</th>
<th>Email of supervisor:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Reasons for selecting this institution and supervisor:

**SECOND HOST INSTITUTE CHOICE: (in a country different from host 1)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Host institute, Name and Address:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Tel.:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
<th>Name and Surname of Host supervisor:</th>
<th>Position:</th>
<th>Email of supervisor:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Reasons for selecting this institution and supervisor:

**THIRD HOST INSTITUTE CHOICE: (in a country different from host 1 and 2)**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Host institute, Name and Address:</th>
<th>Email:</th>
<th>Tel.:</th>
<th>Fax:</th>
<th>Name and Surname of Host supervisor:</th>
<th>Position:</th>
<th>Email of supervisor:</th>
</tr>
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</table>

Reasons for selecting this institution and supervisor:

Specify from which of the above institutes you have obtained a preliminary acceptance letter:

Proposed starting and finishing dates of study/course at host institute: Start Finish

**OWSD MEMBERSHIP**

Please be informed that if your application is successful you will automatically become an OWSD member. This gives you access to the OWSD network of more than 4,000 women scientists. You can unsubscribe any time.

Supporting statement from the director/head of the applicant's institute (to be provided by ALL applicants):

(attach a separate letter if necessary).

**Head/director of home institute**

Surname Name

Signature Date
Applicant
I herewith declare to accept the terms and conditions governing the OWSD Postgraduate Fellowship. Moreover, I confirm that I shall return to my home country upon termination of the fellowship.

Applicant's signature  Date

N.B. Please note that unsigned applications cannot be accepted. If you are unable to add your electronic signature or to send a scanned version via e-mail, please send the page with the signatures by fax.

Enclosures (Please ensure that all relevant documentation is enclosed with the completed application form).
- Photo of yourself as a separate JPEG file
- University degree certificate(s)
- University-issued transcript(s) of advanced course(s) for ALL academic degrees
- Postgraduate study/research plan (see enclosed sample). The postgraduate study/research plan must be maximum 2-3 pages long. In the case of sandwich applicants, please do not include the whole PhD proposal, but instead focus on the work to be carried out during the visit at the host institute.
- Curriculum vitae including list of publications
- Preliminary acceptance letter(s) from chosen host institute(s) (see sample on page 10)
- Two SIGNED reference letters from referees familiar with the applicant's academic background. Only signed reference letters can be accepted.
- For sandwich applicants only: Letter of support from current supervisor if already registered for a postgraduate programme at home. The home PhD supervisor cannot be enlisted as one of your referees and s/he must submit a separate supporting letter in addition to the two required reference letters.
- For sandwich applicants only: 'No objection certificate' (see sample on page 11)
- Supporting statement from the director/head of the home institute
- A copy of passport, even if expired. Only the page with personal details is required

OTHER INFORMATION
How did you find out about the OWSD Fellowship?
- Direct mailing [via institution]
- OWSD website
- Word of mouth/email from colleague
- Other (please specify):
**SAMPLE - Proposed Postgraduate Study/Research Plan**

*Please note that proposals should lay out a scientific hypothesis and seek to address the problem. Thus, for example, projects that merely seek to sample, screen or assay such things as medicinal plants for bioactive substances, or to monitor an environment for pollutants should be marked down. In the case of applications for MSc programmes, in the light of the limited experience of candidates, please use your discretion.*

**Applicant:** Name, SURNAME  
**Title:** Studies on the properties of colossal magnetoresistance (CMR) in magnetic ceramics and thin films  
**Duration:** 3 years

### 1.0 Statement of Purpose

Perovskite manganites are a class of materials that have attracted enormous attention recently because they exhibit the so called colossal magnetoresistance (CMR) effect. These materials display dramatic change in their electrical resistance in an applied magnetic field. The changes are so large that the material can in fact change from an insulator to a metal. At high temperature these materials are paramagnetic insulators, while at low temperatures, they exhibit a number of phases including ferromagnetic metallic and anti ferromagnetic insulating.

The physics of CMR effect is focused on the mechanism of double exchange of carriers between the Mn$^{3+}$ and Mn$^{4+}$ ions. However double exchange alone is not able to explain the change of resistivity as exerted by many workers such as Millis *et al.* who suggested that strong electron-phonon coupling arising from Jahn-Teller effect plays a crucial role. The typical CMR material is derived from perovskite manganites with the chemical formula $\text{Ln}_{1-x}\text{A}_x\text{MnO}_3$ where $\text{Ln}$ is the rare earth ($\text{Ln} = \text{La, Pr, Nd, Sm}$) and $\text{A}$ is the divalent metal ($\text{A} = \text{Ca, Ba, Sr}$).

In general, magnetoresistance is a measure of the change in electrical resistance as function of the magnetic field $H$ and is usually calculated as: $\text{MR}\% = \frac{R(H) - R(0)}{R(0)} \times 100$

where $R(H)$ denotes the field dependent resistance and $R(0)$ the resistance at zero magnetic field.

### 2.0 Objectives

#### 2.1 General Objective

To produce high quality homogenous dense bulk and thin films of $\text{La}_{0.67}\text{Ca}_{0.33}\text{MnO}_3$ and $\text{La}_{0.67}\text{Sr}_{0.33}\text{MnO}_3$ and $\text{La}_{0.67}\text{Er}_{0.33}\text{MnO}_3$ using coprecipitation method that offers enhancement in CMR properties.

#### 2.2. Specific Objectives (for sandwich option candidates, please clarify which objectives are proposed to be carried out during the visit(s) to the host institution)

- To produce high quality homogenous dense bulk of LCMO, LSMO and LErMO via coprecipitation method.  
- To fabricate the thin film, using Pulsed Laser Ablation Deposition (PLAD) on various substrates.  
- To investigate the magnetic properties and $T_c$ determination using AC susceptibility in a temperature range of 25 K-300 K.  
- To measure magnetoresistance (MR) effect.

### 3.0 Methodology

#### (i) Fabrication of ceramic component using coprecipitation method

In this project, the polycrystalline samples of magnetoresistive LMCO, LSMO and LErMO will be prepared in bulk form via coprecipitation method.

#### (ii) Thin Film Preparation by Pulsed Laser Ablation Deposition (PLAD)

Today, PLAD is widely used for producing thin film. Conceptually and experimentally, PLAD is relatively simple. PLAD consists of a target holder and a substrate holder housed in a vacuum chamber. A high-power laser is used as an external energy source to vaporize the target material and to deposit the thin film. A set of optical components is used to focus the laser beam on the target surface. The chamber is pumped to high vacuum using a molecular pump.

Polycrystalline LCMO, LSMO and LErMO thin films, will be fabricated on polished GaAs(100) and Si(100) substrates by pulsed laser ablation deposition (PLAD) using a single LMCO polycrystal target.

UV radiation from an ND: YAG laser (wavelength 532nm) is focused onto a split target at an angle of incident of 45°. The laser is set to produce energy per pulse of 100 mJ and the beam is focused to spot size 3 mm$^2$ at target, as measured from the total area of a stationary target affected by the laser beam. The target and substrate is 4 cm and the plume stopped just short of the substrate.

### 4.0 Expected Output

Production of CMR materials with improved properties as sensing elements.

### 5.0 References

### 6.0 Timeline/Budget (only if applicable)
GUIDELINES FOR SELECTING A HOST INSTITUTE

Applicants must obtain preliminary acceptance by a host institution in order to be eligible for an OWSD Postgraduate Fellowship.

How to obtain the preliminary acceptance letter:

1) Identify up to three a suitable host institution. If you have difficulty in finding one, lists of suggested host institutes (centres of excellence) by field can be requested from the Secretariat at fellowships@owsd.net

2) OWSD has agreements in place with several host institutes and, whenever possible and appropriate for your research needs, we recommend applying to one of these centres below:

   a) The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), China. For a full list of CAS institutes see english.cas.ac.cn/CASI;
   b) The Graduate School of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (GSCAAS), China, www.gscaas.net.cn/vacancy/index.htm;
   c) Xidian University, China http://old.xidian.edu.cn/English/
   d) Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM), Malaysia, www.upm.edu.my. Departments/schools of natural sciences are eligible;
   e) Rhodes University, South Africa, www.ru.ac.za. Departments/schools of natural sciences are eligible;
   f) University of Cape Town, www.uct.ac.za. Departments/schools of natural sciences are eligible;

3) Contact your selected host institution(s) or a potential host supervisor, providing your CV, research proposal and a copy of the sample acceptance letter (see next page).
SAMPLE - ACCEPTANCE LETTER FROM THE HOST INSTITUTE

Signed preliminary acceptance letters must be sent to OWSD with the other required application documents. The head of department or the prospective host supervisor at the HOST institution can sign the letter.

HOST INSTITUTION’S LETTERHEAD
Department’s name
Institutional address
Tel and fax numbers
E-mail address

[Place and Date]

Dear [candidate’s name and surname],

This is to inform you that, as a candidate for a postgraduate fellowship, you have been accepted for a [FULL-TIME or SANDWICH, please specify*] postgraduate programme of the duration of [length of time, months/years, please specify] in [field of specialization/academic programme] at this department/institution [field].

If subsequently selected for an OWSD Fellowship, you should begin your studies/research in the [first or second] academic semester of [year] and expect to conclude by [month and year]. While undertaking research at this institution, you will be under the supervision of Professor [name, and surname of supervisor] to be contacted at [email address].

If awarded an OWSD fellowship, our University will explore the possibility of providing you with: (tick all that may apply):

- Bench fees (research costs, consumables etc)
- Tuition fees Supervision/tuition fees waiver or bursary
- Registration fees waiver of bursary
- Exam fees waiver or bursary
- Other:

Yours sincerely,

____________________________________
Signature and name of head of department or prospective host supervisor

N.B. The letter cannot be accepted without a signature.
SAMPLE - REGISTRATION & NO OBJECTION CERTIFICATE FOR SANDWICH POSTGRADUATE FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

FOR APPLICANTS ALREADY REGISTERED FOR A PHD IN THEIR HOME COUNTRY

[Institution’s Letterhead]
[Institution’s address and contact details]

Registration & No Objection Certificate

This is to certify that Ms [Name and Surname]……………………..., born on [Date]…………………… , has been accepted as a student at the University of …………………… in the Department of ………………… for a PhD in the area of …………………… starting on ……………………

We have No Objection towards his/her study/work in …………………… [indicate host institution, city and country], and we also accept Host Supervisor, ……………………. [indicate title, name and surname of host supervisor] as a Co-Supervisor in the final assessment of the applicant’s PhD thesis/dissertation.

In addition, we confirm that all the expenses directly related to her Ph.D. research programme at this institute will be covered.

Title…………………… Name………………………… Surname………………………………………

Position…………………………………… Email………………………………………………………..

Signature……………………………………………… Date………………………………………………

NOTE: This certificate should be signed by the Director/Head of the home institute where the candidate is registered for her PhD