



Global Minds Research Scholarships For a research stay @UAntwerp Call 2026

Deadline: 15 May 2025
Apply via [Mobility Online](#)

Background and Objectives

The Federal Government of Belgium, through the VLIRUOS office, provides funding to the University of Antwerp (UAntwerp) for its Global Minds project. This initiative drives global engagement within the university by fostering collaborative knowledge exchange through equal partnerships, with inclusion and diversity at the forefront to advance sustainable development goals.

Within this project, UAntwerp **invites researchers from eligible partner countries in the “Global South” to participate in a short- or medium-term research stay** at our institution.

This call is open to **researchers** affiliated with officially recognized higher education institutions or research organizations based in eligible countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America (*see list below*) and opting for a research stay (ranging from 2 to 9 months) at UAntwerp.

The objectives of the Small Research Projects Scholarships are:

- a. **Stimulating collaborative research:** Stimulating researchers from the “Global South” to conduct research on an SDG-related topic of their interest, while being integrated in a research group at UAntwerp, so as to ensure a mutual learning experience.
- b. **Advancing collaboration on equal terms:** Encouraging researchers from these institutions located in the “Global South” to explore and strengthen collaboration between their institution and UAntwerp, located in Belgium. The lead in these partnerships lies with the visiting researchers.
- c. Supporting the **professional development** of research scholars.

Selected candidates will receive a scholarship to cover **living expenses** during their stay at UAntwerp. The scholarship is not a salary and candidates will not be employed by UAntwerp. Visiting researchers must remain affiliated with their home institution (i.e. an officially recognized higher education institution or research organization in one of the eligible partner countries) during their mobility.

To maximize the impact of this opportunity, candidates must be physically present at UAntwerp throughout their mobility period and actively participate in academic activities.

Scholarship types and duration

The Global Minds Research Scholarships are designed for researchers from the “Global South”, affiliated with officially recognized higher education institutions or research organizations in eligible partner countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America (*see eligible country list below*).

The Global Minds Research Scholarships support researchers in spending a research term of 2 to 9 months at UAntwerp as **part of their ongoing academic research trajectory**. While retaining their employment and salary at their home institution, recipients will collaborate with a research group at UAntwerp during their stay. Candidates are encouraged to take ownership by defining and pursuing their own research agenda.

Candidates are invited to choose the duration of their research term at UAntwerp (between 2 and 9 months) based on what best fits their research needs. Please note that the proposed duration will also be evaluated in terms of the match with research needs and efficiency. Kindly note that candidates who will not register as a PhD student at UAntwerp can only stay a maximum of 6 months.

The primary goal of the stay is to advance and contribute to the scholar’s ongoing academic research, for which they are registered at their home institution (*see eligible country list below*).

Important: Research stays of more than 90 days

Scholars intending to stay at UAntwerp for more than 90 days must meet one of the following conditions:

1. be enrolled as a **PhD student at their home institution** during the academic year of their stay in Belgium¹
2. enroll as a **PhD student at UAntwerp**².

This requirement exists because scholars staying longer than 90 days must apply for a student visa. If the scholar cannot apply for a student visa, their stay will be limited to a maximum of 90 days³.

Joint PhD Candidates: To qualify for a [Joint PhD](#), a PhD candidate must conduct **at least six months of research at UAntwerp**. As this exceeds 90 days, candidates must enroll at UAntwerp and apply for a student visa. More information about the terms, processes and conditions for obtaining a PhD at UAntwerp can be obtained from the [Antwerp Doctoral School](#).

*Postdoctoral researchers and university staff without student registration*⁴: Postdoctoral researchers or university staff who are not registered as PhD students cannot stay in Belgium for more than 90 days under this scheme.

¹ These scholars **must** be registered as *visiting research students (VRS)* at UAntwerp during their stay. If these scholars will not register as a PhD student at UAntwerp, the stay is capped at 6 months. This VRS registration at UAntwerp is the responsibility of the academic host.

² For registration as a PhD student at UAntwerp, kindly check the UAntwerp [PhD regulations](#).

³ This requirement means that, at the time of starting the research stay at UAntwerp, the scholar must be able to provide valid proof of registration as a PhD student. This proof of student status is not required at the time of application, but it is the responsibility of the scholar and their academic host to ensure that it is formalized before the start of the mobility (i.e. before departure to Belgium). If this is not the case, the scholarship will be revoked or limited to the maximum duration allowed for a stay without a student visa (a maximum of 90 days).

⁴ These scholars **must** be registered as *unremunerated staff*. This registration is the responsibility of the academic host.

Eligibility criteria

1. The candidate is a **national and resident** of one of the following countries:

Africa	<input type="checkbox"/> Benin	<input type="checkbox"/> Guinee	<input type="checkbox"/> Senegal
	<input type="checkbox"/> Burkina Faso	<input type="checkbox"/> Kenya	<input type="checkbox"/> South Africa
	<input type="checkbox"/> Burundi	<input type="checkbox"/> Madagascar	<input type="checkbox"/> Tanzania
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cameroun	<input type="checkbox"/> Morocco	<input type="checkbox"/> Uganda
	<input type="checkbox"/> DR Congo	<input type="checkbox"/> Mozambique	<input type="checkbox"/> Zambia
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethiopia	<input type="checkbox"/> Niger	<input type="checkbox"/> Zimbabwe
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ghana		
Asia	<input type="checkbox"/> Bangladesh	<input type="checkbox"/> Philippines	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cambodia	<input type="checkbox"/> Palestina	
	<input type="checkbox"/> India	<input type="checkbox"/> Sri Lanka	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Indonesia	<input type="checkbox"/> Vietnam	
Latin America	<input type="checkbox"/> Bolivia	<input type="checkbox"/> Haiti	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Brazil	<input type="checkbox"/> Nicaragua	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Colombia	<input type="checkbox"/> Peru	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Cuba	<input type="checkbox"/> Suriname	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ecuador		

2. The candidate must be **affiliated** with an officially recognized higher education institution or research organization in one of the eligible listed countries (*see above*) and must **maintain** this affiliation throughout the research stay. A **valid proof of affiliation**, such as a doctoral contract or an official employment agreement, is required. This document must **confirm the ongoing affiliation during the proposed research stay** and must be **issued within the last three months** at the time of application.
3. If the candidate is applying for a stay of more than 90 days, they must be able to apply for a student visa and, therefore, must be able to provide **proof of student registration**, either at their home institution or at UAntwerp. This registration must be valid for the academic year in which the research stay will take place. If proof of student registration cannot be provided at the time of application, a letter of intent (signed by the academic host) needs to be uploaded and candidates may be selected on a conditional basis. However, the proof must be submitted before the start of the mobility, otherwise, the scholarship may be revoked. (cfr. footnote 3).
4. The proposed research activities and outputs need to fit within the principles and ideas of **Global Engagement** (cfr. [Global Engagement framework of UAntwerp](#)) but there are no restrictions in terms of research themes.
5. During their stay at UAntwerp, candidates will enjoy the support of an academic host. It is required to submit the **“agreement of host – academic host”** document, duly signed by the

academic host, at the time of application. The academic host must be a member of senior academic staff (ZAP – ‘Zelfstandig Academisch Personeel’) at UAntwerp.

6. The Global Minds Research Scholarship can only be awarded once to a candidate/scholar.
7. Candidates must provide a concise curriculum vitae that encapsulates their academic journey and achievements.

Budget

A scholarship will be awarded for the total duration of the period of one stay (min. 2 months - max. 9 months) and includes the following:

- Allowance of 1.500 euro⁵ / 1.900 euro⁶ (*depending on profile*) per month, calculated on a monthly basis (pro rata for incomplete months⁷)
- One return ticket in economy class
- Research fee of max. 1.400 euro (invoice based) for scholarships with a minimum of 6 months.
- Indirect travel costs for visa processes that require an overnight stay or travel to another country (as described in the VLIRUOS Framework for Scholarships)

The allowance covers living expenses, personal transportation, and accommodation costs in Belgium. Insurance and visa fees (insofar as these are not waived as a result of the DGD-procedure) are covered by the allowance as well. Additional fees for acquiring a visa or legalizing papers can be reimbursed under the conditions outlined in the VLIRUOS Framework for Scholarships.

A research fee of maximum 1.400 euro per stay is included in research scholarships with a minimum duration of 6 months. The research fee is intended to cover material necessities linked to specific research by the scholar. The scholar defines the use of the allowance in dialogue with the promotor. This allowance is invoice-based: all supporting documents (invoices, expense notes, receipts, etc.) are to be gathered by the scholar/local research unit, in order to obtain reimbursement. Possible use cases include: purchase of a laptop, conference participation⁸, subscription fees, ... If the scholar enrolls as a Joint PhD, the research fee may be used to cover the tuition fee.

Extra conditions

- The research stay must be started between 1 January 2026 and 31 August 2026.
- A final report on the outcomes of the research stay will have to be submitted at the end of the mobility.

Application

Interested candidates have to submit their proposal by **15 May 2025** via the Mobility Online database.

Applications must be submitted through the [online application form](#) and must contain:

⁵ Candidates who will not be registered as PhD students at UAntwerp, with a maximum stay of 6 months.

⁶ Candidates registered as PhD students at UAntwerp.

⁷ If the stay does not begin on the first day of the month, or does not end on the last day of the month, the allowance for that month should be calculated by dividing the allowance by 31, and multiplying by the actual number of days of the stay in that month.

⁸ Conference participation can never give right to a per diem, since the scholar already receives an allowance, which covers living expenses, transportation and personal costs.

- Completed **application form** (template will be available for download when following the application process via Mobility Online)
- **Agreement letter of the academic host** at UAntwerp (template will be available for download when following the application process via Mobility Online)
- **CV**
- Copy of **passport**
- Official **proof of affiliation**, signed by a relevant authority, with an officially recognized higher education institution or research organization in one of the eligible partner countries (*see list above*). This document must confirm the candidate's ongoing affiliation during the proposed research stay and must be issued within three months prior to the application submission.
- For stays of more than 90 days: Proof of **student status** valid at the time of the research stay at UAntwerp is required. If this cannot be provided at the time of application, a letter of intent, signed by the academic host, must be submitted, confirming that the scholar will have student registration status by the start of the mobility. If student registration status cannot be proven by the start of the mobility, the scholarship can be revoked or limited to the maximum number of days without a student visa (90 days).

Evaluation

All project proposals that pass the eligibility check will be reviewed on content by a selection commission composed of members of the UAntwerp Working Group on Global Engagement.

Table: Criteria Global Minds Research Scholarships

Global Minds Research Scholarships	
Admissibility (reviewed by relevant central department)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employed staff member or registered (pre/post)doctoral student affiliated with an institution based in a country on the VLIRUOS Global Minds country list • Nationality from VLIRUOS Global Minds country list • Fit with call (duration & types of charges) • Agreement of academic host • Complete application form (including required documents)
Evaluation Criteria (reviewed by GM evaluation commission)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scientific quality of research proposal and implementation strategy • Research profile of the candidate • Added value of the research stay to the scholar's individual line of research • Link with Sustainable Development Goals • Impact and continuity of research proposal • Timetable of research proposal

Timing

Call launch: 1 April 2025

Deadline of submissions: 15 May 2025

Start research stay: as soon as 1 January 2026 or before 31 August 2026 at the latest

This action was made possible by Global Minds funding from VLIRUOS.





Global Minds Research Scholarships – Call 2026

Deadline: 15 May 2025 (12AM CEST)

APPLICATION FORM

Research Project	
Project title	
Project abstract	<i>Please provide a short summary of your ongoing research.</i>
Objectives of your research stay at UAntwerp	<i>Please briefly describe the objectives of a research stay at UAntwerp.</i>

Research stay	
Duration of your stay	<i>How long will you stay at UAntwerp (in months)? Please take note of the limitations for research stays of more than 90 days, and of the minimum requirements for a Joint PhD.</i>
Status at your local institution	<i>How are you registered/employed at your home institution?</i>
Status at UAntwerp	<i>Will you enroll at UAntwerp as a PhD student?</i>

UAntwerp academic host	
First name	
Last name	
Research group/department	
Faculty	
Position	

Description of Research Project

1. Research Context and Implementation Strategy

(please write a cohesive text targeting the bullet points below – max. 1000 words)

- Provide a concise overview of your research area and expertise. Highlight how this expertise aligns with and contributes to tackling **sustainable development issues**.
- Detail the **specific research tasks and activities** planned during your research stay at UAntwerp. Explain how these activities will facilitate the achievement of the stay's objectives.
- Explain **why you chose this research topic** and why you are well-placed to work on this topic.
- Present a tentative **timeline** for the proposed research activities.
- If you will make use of the research fee⁹, describe and motivate the foreseen costs, taking into account that only operational costs are eligible.

2. Impact and Continuity

(please write a cohesive text targeting the bullet points below – max. 1000 words)

- Explain your **reasons** for choosing UAntwerp and, in particular, a specific research department. Describe the added value for your research by staying in Antwerp in particular.
- Contribution of research stay at UAntwerp to individual line of research: outline the primary goals and anticipated research outcomes of your research stay at UAntwerp.
 - Describe the **specific research outputs** (i.e. project proposal, research paper, book chapter, article,...)
 - If applicable, demonstrate how the research stay at UAntwerp fits within and will **contribute to the development of your ongoing research (programme)** at your home institution
- Describe how your **home institution** gains from this exchange.
- Describe potential **follow-up actions** after having completed the research stay.

⁹ A research fee of maximum 1.400 euro per stay is included for scholarships of 6 months or more. The research fee maximum is fixed regardless of the length of the scholar's stay. The research fee is intended to cover material necessities linked to specific research by the scholar. The scholar defines the use of the allowance in dialogue with the promotor. This allowance is invoice-based: all supporting documents (invoices, expense notes, receipts, etc.) are to be gathered by the scholar/local research unit, in order to obtain reimbursement. Possible use cases include: purchase of a laptop, conference participation, subscription fees, etc.



Statement of Agreement - Academic Host

I, **[Professor's Full Name]**, as a member of senior academic staff (ZAP) at the University of Antwerp (UAntwerp), hereby express my full support for the above application for a **Global Minds Research Scholarship** (in the framework of the 2026 Call for scholarships).

I affirm that this scholarship application and the ensuing research activities of the visiting researcher are in full alignment with the strategic framework for [Global Engagement](#) of UAntwerp and uphold its core ideas and principles.

Following this endorsement, I agree to act as an academic host for the visiting researcher. In this role, I am committed to providing the necessary support, which includes ensuring correct registration of the visiting researcher at the University of Antwerp, and offering office space and ensuring access to the required facilities at the university to facilitate their research activities.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

TEMPLATE

MANUAL FOR THE APPLICATION WORKFLOW FOR A GLOBAL MINDS RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP VIA “MOBILITY ONLINE”

Please click the link provided in the Global Minds Research Scholarship Call document. You will see the following page. Through this web form, you will register in “Mobility Online”. After registration, you will be able to apply for the Global Minds Research Scholarship.

The screenshot shows the 'Application form of the University of Antwerp' for the 'Short programme'. The form is titled 'Application details' and includes a sidebar with seven numbered steps: 1. Application details, 2. Personal details, 3. Programme information, 4. Contact person in case of emergencies, 5. Educational and professional background, 6. Language competence, and 7. Declaration. The main content area shows the 'Application details' section with the following fields: 'Type of applicant *' (radio buttons for Incoming and Outgoing), 'Type of person *' (radio buttons for Students and Teacher), 'Exchange Programme *' (dropdown menu showing 'Short programme'), and 'Academic year *' (dropdown menu showing '2025/2026'). A yellow banner at the top states 'All fields marked with (*) must be completed.' At the bottom, there are 'Cancel application' and 'Continue' buttons. The University of Antwerp logo is in the top right corner, and the 'MOBILITY-ONLINE' logo is in the bottom left corner.

1. The first section “Application details” cannot be changed. Please disregard the information here and click “Continue”. You will fill in your current status in section 5: *Educational and professional background*.
2. Please fill in your personal details and click “Continue”.
3. Please fill in the programme information. You can’t change the host institution. Please make sure “Global Minds Research Scholarship” is selected as the programme.
Fill in the details of your academic host. Double check to make sure the name and e-mail address are filled in correctly, as the system will use this information in your application flow!
4. Please fill in the details of your contact person in case of emergencies.
5. Please fill in the information about your current status as a student or employee **at your local institution**. Please note that these fields are not marked as mandatory in the form, but your application will be considered incomplete if this information is not filled in!
6. Please give the necessary information about your language competence.
7. Complete the declaration and indicate whether you have registered as a student at UAntwerp before. Click “Send application”.

You will receive an email with instructions to complete your registration in Mobility Online. Click the link or copy it into your browser, fill in your birth date to confirm your identity, and choose a login and password. You can now log in to Mobility Online and complete your application. You will also receive an e-mail with a link to log in later.

When you login to Mobility Online, you will be directed to your application workflow, which contains multiple steps. You can complete each step separately, and proceed through the workflow at your own pace.

Please note that although you will still have access to the workflow beyond the deadline, **applications that are submitted (see step 6 below) after 15 May will not be considered eligible!**

Necessary steps	Done	Done on	Done by	Direct access via following link
Start online application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27.03.2025		Display/Edit application data
Confirmation e-mail about start online application	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27.03.2025	Automatically generated	
Online registration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27.03.2025		
Additional application details completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Complete additional application details
Personal data completed	<input type="checkbox"/>			Complete personal data
Profile picture for the application uploaded	<input type="checkbox"/>			

1. Click the button to complete your personal data.
2. Fill in your legal address and correspondence address, click “Save” and return to the application workflow.
3. Click the new button to upload your profile picture. Add a picture and click “Crop”. If the action was successful, return to the workflow.

Additional application details completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Complete additional application details
Personal data completed	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	27.03.2025	GMRS Test	Complete personal data
Profile picture for the application uploaded	<input type="checkbox"/>			Upload your picture to create your profile

4. Upload a copy or photo of your passport. Click “Save” and return to the workflow.
5. The next step is called “print document”. If you click this button, an application template (Word document) will be generated. Please fill in the application form, in which you will describe your research. The final page should be filled in and signed (physically or electronically) by your academic host.
6. You can now proceed to the final questions in the application workflow. Click the button to “Complete extra questions”. Here you will have to upload the filled in application template and signed letter of support (in one doc), your CV (max 3 pages), and your official proof of affiliation (cfr. Eligibility criteria). If you are applying for a stay of more than 90 days, you will have to submit proof of student status or a letter of intent (cfr. Eligibility criteria). Click “Save”. The fields will be greyed out. Click “back” to return to the workflow.

You will receive an e-mail confirming the submission of your application form. You will receive another e-mail through Mobility online after the eligibility of your application has been checked. Please note that as part of the eligibility check, an automatic email will be sent to the e-mail address of the academic host, which you provided during the workflow.