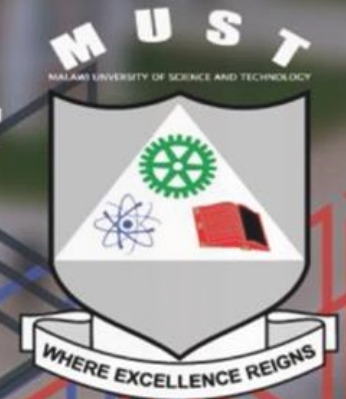


# MALAWI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



## RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY FOR MASTERS STUDENTS

The Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) in collaboration with the Environmental Affairs Department (EAD) under Ministry of Natural Resources and Climate Change is implementing the 'Building Biodiversity Knowledge for Action in Southern Africa: Spatial Biodiversity Assessment, Prioritization and Planning (SBAPP) project. The SBAPP project at MUST is now inviting applications from suitable Master of Science (MSc) students from any NCHE accredited institution in Malawi to apply for a research opportunity within the project.

The SBAPP project is implemented with funding from the French Development Agency (AFD) and the French Global Environment Facility (FFEM). The successful candidates will conduct their research on Mapping the Lake Malawi Ecological Condition. The MSc research falls within the project's fourth objective, which aims to identify ecosystem change and degradation processes (biotic and abiotic), pressures and threats in freshwater ecosystem types. A key knowledge gap identified in Malawi's 2021 Spatial Biodiversity Assessment was improved data on defining ecosystem types and ecological condition for Lake Malawi. These data will inform Red List assessments for ecosystems, systematic biodiversity plans, and a wide range of management and restoration efforts. This is a non-salaried research post, however, the project will support research costs.

### Requirements

- Enrolment or admission into a full-time Master of Science programme in a relevant field at any NCHE accredited institution.
- Bachelor's degree in a field such as Geography, Environmental Science, Biology, GIS or a related field.
- Strong analytical and problem-solving skills, with experience in remote sensing, GIS, and other relevant tools and techniques.
- Familiarity with the ecology and conservation of freshwater ecosystems.
- Strong skills in remote sensing and GIS software such as ArcMap, ArcGIS Pro, Google Earth Engine, and QGIS.

- Proficiency in statistical analysis software such as R.
- Knowledge and understanding of biodiversity conservation and management issues in Malawi.
- Experience in conducting fieldwork, including data collection and analysis.
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills, with the ability to work independently and as part of a team.

### Research Areas

- Conduct research on the ecological condition of Lake Malawi using remote sensing, GIS, statistical analysis, and other relevant tools and techniques.
- Analyse spatial and temporal data on water quality, land use, and other relevant variables to assess the ecological condition of the lake and identify drivers of change.
- Conduct field visits and collect primary data to validate and supplement remote sensing and GIS data.
- Work closely with project management team and partners to integrate research findings into project activities and outputs.
- Prepare at least one research report and one academic publication based on the findings.

### Application Procedure

Applications are to include a full CV, certified copies of (i) identity card or passport, (ii) academic records, (iii) official admission letter, and (iv) a motivation letter (no longer than a page) describing the applicant's suitability for the project in terms of their interests, skills and experience. Send all documents to [registrar@must.ac.mw](mailto:registrar@must.ac.mw) with a copy to [biodiversity@must.ac.mw](mailto:biodiversity@must.ac.mw) with "MUST SBAPP MSc Research Opportunity" in the subject line. The deadline for receiving applications is **Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 2023**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

### Information Meeting

Join us for an information meeting to learn more about this research opportunity. During this session, we will discuss the objectives of the SBAPP project, as well as the expectations and timelines for students participating in the research. We will also provide an overview of the application process and answer any questions you may have. This session will be held on **Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023** from **13:00 GMT+2**. This is a virtual session and is open to anyone interested in learning more about this exciting opportunity. To join the session, you need to register using the following Zoom link: [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsc-CprTIpGtPhDbiIDXBN-MRdvUIe\\_hKs](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcsc-CprTIpGtPhDbiIDXBN-MRdvUIe_hKs). #