

INTERNAL ADVERTISEMENT FOR POSITIONS UNDER THE TRICHOS PROJECT

Busitema University received funding from the **Science, Technology and Innovation Secretariat – Office of the President (STI-OP)** under the National Research and Innovation Programme to implement the project “**TRICHOS Microbicide and Biofertilizer: From Lab Bench to Field Application Towards Commercialization.**”

The project seeks to optimize production and formulation, validate agronomic and biocontrol efficacy, standardize application protocols, assess environmental safety, and generate evidence to support regulatory evaluation and commercialization.

Applications are invited from suitably qualified **Busitema University staff and eligible postgraduate students**, as applicable, for the following project-specific positions.

1. Project Administrator – Master's Student

The position combines **project administrative responsibilities with postgraduate research training**. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake Master's-level research aligned with an appropriate component of the TRICHOS project, subject to admission and applicable University postgraduate regulations.

Key responsibilities: The Project Administrator will support day-to-day administrative coordination of the project; maintain project records, correspondence and activity documentation; coordinate meetings, workshops, field visits and stakeholder engagements; support procurement, logistics and accountability documentation in liaison with relevant University offices; track project activities, milestones and reporting schedules; assist in preparation of administrative and technical reports; maintain appropriate records of project materials and activities; support communication with participating farmers and other stakeholders; and undertake Master's research aligned with the objectives of the project.

Minimum requirements: Applicants should possess a good Bachelor's degree from a recognized university, **preferably in an agricultural or related discipline**, such as Agriculture, Agribusiness, Agricultural Extension, Crop Science, Agricultural Economics, Agricultural Education, Environmental Science or another relevant discipline.

The applicant should be **registered for, admitted to, or eligible for admission to an appropriate Master's programme at Busitema University** and demonstrate good organizational, communication, record-management and computer skills.

Added advantage: Previous involvement in the conceptualization, development or implementation planning of the TRICHOS project, or demonstrated experience in related agricultural research and innovation activities, will be an added advantage. Experience in project administration, agricultural research, farmer engagement,

fieldwork, data management or research-project coordination will also be advantageous.

2. Microbiologist – PhD Student

The position provides an opportunity for a suitably qualified candidate to undertake **doctoral research embedded within the scientific activities of the TRICHOS project**, subject to admission and applicable University postgraduate regulations.

Key responsibilities: The successful candidate will undertake PhD research aligned with the TRICHOS project; participate in culture, characterization and maintenance of *Trichoderma* strains; contribute to optimization of microbial production, formulation and quality-control procedures; undertake microbiological analysis of TRICHOS formulations and relevant field samples; participate in assessment of *Trichoderma* colonization and soil/rhizosphere microbial communities; maintain high-quality laboratory records and research datasets; contribute to analysis and interpretation of project findings; and prepare scientific publications, conference outputs and a PhD thesis arising from the research.

Minimum requirements: Applicants should possess a Master's degree in **Microbiology, Biotechnology, Molecular Biology, Plant Pathology or a closely related discipline** from a recognized university and should be registered for, admitted to, or eligible for admission to an appropriate PhD programme at Busitema University.

Applicants should demonstrate competence in microbiological laboratory techniques and potential to undertake independent doctoral research.

Added advantage: Previous involvement in the development or technical planning of the TRICHOS project, or demonstrated research experience directly relevant to its scientific objectives, will be an added advantage. Experience in fungal microbiology, *Trichoderma*, microbial bioinputs, fermentation, molecular biology, microbiome analysis or related areas will also be advantageous.

Nature and Duration of the Positions

These are **project-specific, grant-funded positions** and do not constitute appointments to the permanent establishment of Busitema University. Engagement will be subject to availability of project funds and satisfactory performance.

Appointment to the project does not automatically constitute admission to or registration for a postgraduate programme. Successful candidates must satisfy the applicable University postgraduate admission, registration, supervision and academic progression requirements.

Application Procedure

Interested applicants should submit:

1. A brief application/Expression of Interest indicating the position applied for and suitability for the role;

2. An updated Curriculum Vitae;
3. Copies of relevant academic qualifications; and
4. A **one-page statement of research interest** showing how the applicant's proposed postgraduate research could contribute to the objectives of TRICHOS.

Applicants claiming previous involvement in the development of TRICHOS should briefly indicate the **nature of their contribution** in their Expression of Interest.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Principal Investigator/Venture Leader

TRICHOS Project

Natural Products Research and Innovation Centre (NAPRIC)

Faculty of Science and Education

Busitema University

And send to trichos.sci@busitema.ac.ug and uvtech.sci@busitema.ac.ug

Deadline: 14th October, 2026 at 4:59 pm. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

Busitema University is committed to transparent, merit-based selection and equal opportunity.