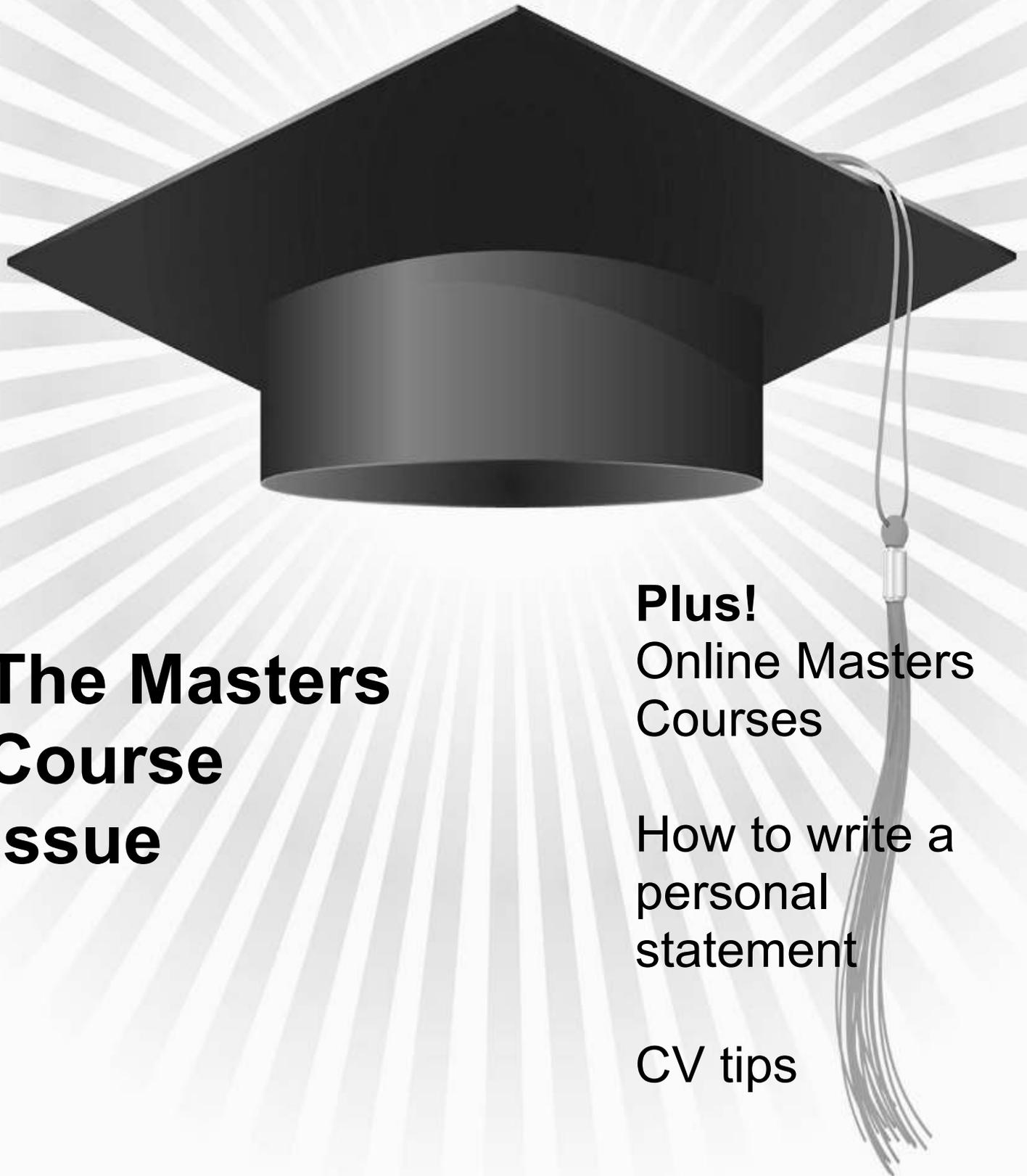


Issue 6  
June/July 2011

# Green Light

*The Student Magazine that helps you move forward  
in work, life and your chosen career*



**The Masters  
Course  
issue**

**Plus!**  
Online Masters  
Courses

How to write a  
personal  
statement

CV tips

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[www.intoemployment.org](http://www.intoemployment.org)

## Editors Note

Welcome to the sixth Issue of Green Light Magazine! You will notice it looks different from the previous issues as we have now added more content and updated the format into a magazine. We hope you like the changes.

The purpose of the magazine is to guide university students and recent graduates towards information and advice about jobs and opportunities, and how to become more employable and move forward in life. If you are a job seeker, or soon will be, this is the magazine for you. Subscribe electronically to make sure you don't miss an issue!

Each magazine has a key theme and when we were planning our editorial content we asked students *What next?* After they graduate, many express the desire to go on to do a Masters course, and ideally, they say, outside Rwanda.

These days a bachelors degree has become such a popular thing that people are turning to Masters and PhDs hoping that this will help them to be unique and to secure good jobs.

*If this is your dream , how realistic is it?*

Well you have found the right publication! In this issue we guide you through everything you need to know to start towards your dream. It will take a lot of time and effort to get where you want to go, but at Green Light we believe it is possible. We help you to become informed about the possibilities, and its up to you to do the rest.

Happy reading and we hope it makes you successful!

Editor of Green Light Magazine.  
NDAGIJIMANA Eugene

## Contributors to this issue...

Every month we welcome contributions from different people. Those who have helped us in this issue are...

### Dr Peter BUTERA BAZIMYA

Director of Human Resources, Advisory Services, Research, Monitoring & Evaluation at the Public Service Commission. On page 3 he gives us the FIRST WORD and tells us why Rwandese need to think about Masters courses.

### Didier GISCARD SAGASHYA

Deputy Director at the National Land Centre contributes to our *Day in the life of...* column and tell us what his experience of doing a Masters in Edinburgh was like and what he learnt.



Sam MUNDERE contributes to this months *Letter from...* on page 10. The Programme Co-ordinator from SURF tell us how he made his dream of doing a Masters in International Development in London a reality.



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SPARK is a fast growing, young, dynamic development NGO with 40 staff members in offices in Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

SPARK develops higher education and entrepreneurship, so that young ambitious people are empowered to lead their post-conflict society into prosperity. We aim to support the ongoing reconstruction process in post-conflict societies by building the capacity of local economic and educational institutions in a way that is lasting and demands the proactive participation of local communities.

**SPARK is currently recruiting** for two full time (40hrs/week) posts for its Kigali office. Team work skills and good command of English, French and Kinyarwanda are essential for both these posts.

#### **Vacancy Programme Officer - SPARK Kigali**

SPARK is looking for a Programme Officer (m/f) to support the Country Manager with our new SME Development Programme in Rwanda. The Programme Officer provides implementation and logistical assistance to tasks performed by the country coordinator. For this post you need at least a high education in project management, economics, social science or similar and working experience on donors funded economic development projects.

#### **Vacancy Financial Officer - SPARK Kigali**

SPARK is looking for a Financial Officer (m/f) to control all financial matters related to our new SME Development programme in Rwanda and be the main contact of SPARK headquarters in Amsterdam for all financial matters. Minimum requirements include working experience in management finances and budgets on international donors' projects; Experience in project cycle management, especially in drawing up activity budgets and reporting to donors; Good command of Excel and spreadsheets Accurate, Structured, Flexible, and Responsible.

For full job descriptions for either post or more information on SPARK please visit: [www.spark-online.org](http://www.spark-online.org).

If you are interested in either post please email your letter of motivation and your CV to [kigali@spark-online.org](mailto:kigali@spark-online.org) before July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Reference: Vacancy Programme Officer/ Financial Officer. Only successful candidates will be contacted for interview.

Would you like to contribute to **Green Light**? We are currently looking for guest contributors, article suggestions and your feedback. Is there something you would like us to feature? A question you want us to address? Get in contact with us today!

## **FIRST WORD: why do a Masters?**

Dr Peter Bazimya of the Public Service Commission tells us why its not only important to get a Masters but it has to be the right Masters...

“Many people in Rwanda look to the Public Service for employment. Ten years ago the minimum criteria for entry was just a first degree. These days most adverts state “at least a masters degree and ideally a PhD”. And it is still not uncommon for us to get over 350 applications per job that we advertise, which aren't many. The reality is that the public service is not expanding and current employees are not leaving so there are few new jobs here for young people.

Most young Rwandese should be focussing on the private sector when looking for a job. The private sector in Rwanda is young but is growing: there are many opportunities. But Rwanda is not isolated and we are part of EAC, COMESA... This gives us freedom of people, products and services but at the same time exposes Rwanda to competition from neighbouring countries: Kenya, Uganda... People are coming in from outside, taking advantage of the opportunities available in Rwanda, so competition within the private sector is fierce. Young people need to position themselves to be competitive and stay competitive in this dynamic sector and a Masters, or the right Masters can help you to achieve this.

But a Master's alone does not lead on to a good job. Many people return to Rwanda with a Masters from abroad and still have difficulty finding a good job. It has to be the right Masters. Find where the gaps are and focus on these. Think about how Rwanda will be developing in future and where the skills gaps lie. A good place to start might be to read the Vision2020. Move in the direction the country is moving, think forward. What about engineers, pharmaceuticals, be dynamic. Don't do what everyone else is doing.

But of course funding is an issue for many and gaining a Masters is just a dream. My philosophy is that you have to invest in your education. The more you invest, the more serious you will take it and the more rewards that will come out. Work to save money, yes it may take you ten years to save up the money that you need, but those years of working are also good experience.” And this magazine will help you to achieve this!

## 4 A day in the life of...

**Didier Giscard Sagashya** starts his day as Deputy Director General of the National Land Centre at 6.30 a.m. First he deals with financial issues, answers e-mails and then he starts working through his “to do” list, ticking items off to review progress. The ‘open door’ policy means that many people drop by during the day making it difficult to get down to work. After the office officially closes he has many things to catch up with so he usually stays late and works on weekends. “It’s a very long day, but I enjoy it” he says.

Motivation, persistence and hard work got Didier, 32, where he is today. His Masters course in Scotland (2006 to 2007) has helped him as well.

“I did my Undergraduate at KIST in Civil Engineering and graduated in 2004. I then worked for Kigali City Council for a year as Director of General Inspection Department, before I was transferred to Rwamagana District to work as Director of Land, Housing, Physical Planning and Infrastructure. But I realised I lacked some key skills and wanted to do further studies.

“I saw a scholarship advertised in Imvaho from the Rotary University Scholarship Scheme and applied. I chose a Masters in Urban and Regional Planning because there were few people with these specialist skills in Rwanda. I think I had a strong case because of this.”

The scholarship only covered tuition fees, so a SFAR loan was still needed for living costs. He settled in well to University, but there were a few surprises when it came to studies. “We only had lectures 2 days a week, but the rest was a busy schedule of group work and a reading list of more than 200 items! This was very different from my studies at KIST, where the teachers gave you handouts with all you needed to know.”

He also found the course had no exams. *No exams!* It was all assessed by course work and assignments, much harder than exams he found. This taught Didier how to write long reports. “So apart from technical information I increased my tolerance for reading and writing. It may sound basic, but some Rwandese don’t have that culture. If you give them a report to read, they push it aside; if you ask them to *write* a report, they don’t feel confident”.

After graduating he did a three month internship with a planning firm to experience what working life was like in the UK. “I learnt a lot. First, team work, and that managers need to be accessible, not un-touchable. Second, efficiency: we had 15-minute weekly management meeting where everyone



**Heriot Watt University in Edinburgh where Didier studied his Masters in Urban and Regional Planning.**

would be standing. I also learnt the invaluable principle of the 3Fs: Figures, Facts and Forecast. If you do anything in life, you need to have all these 3 things.”

My advice to anyone who wants to get far in life:

- Read, read, and read. Nothing comes if you don’t read. The internet is full of information, but if you just use it to email your friends, it won’t get you anywhere.
- Be a good time manager. Don’t say you don’t have time to read or apply for jobs or scholarships – prioritise and make the time.
- Do a personal development plan (Google it if you don’t know how to do one). You need to know what skills you need for your desired job, how to develop those skills, etc.
- You have to be persistent, and never give up.

Good luck! ...as told to Maia Gedde

### CV advice!

In each issue we give you top tips on how to improve your CV.

**Top tip 1** Remember that your CV is your number one marketing tool to potential employers or universities, so you need to invest time and make it good. Start by doing some online research on how to write a good CV and above all, do not copy someone else’s. Good places to start are:

- [www.prospects.ac.uk/cv\\_content.htm](http://www.prospects.ac.uk/cv_content.htm)
- [www.cvtips.com/](http://www.cvtips.com/)

## Masters Courses: The process

Many people aspire to doing a Masters course overseas, but if you don't know the process, you can feel very lost, like jumping in to a black hole. Also for many of us Rwandese, the concept of online application forms is strange.

But time spend on your computer researching and completing applications can have a very positive outcome, so stop emailing your friends, checking facebook and get in to action. Opportunities are of course very competitive, but also fair. The best get chosen. Are you the best? The process is usually as follows...

1. Decide what you want to study and have a good reason why (you will later have to justify this decision in your personal statement in your application form). Think about what will open doors for you in future and what skills are currently needed but missing in Rwanda. Set yourself apart, don't follow the crowd.
2. List the universities that offer the course and prepare your applications. The more you apply to the greater your chances.
3. If your chosen course is in the US or Canada you will need a high score in the Graduate Records Examination (GRE) (a standardized test that is an admissions requirement for many graduate schools) or the Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) for MBAs. They are hard so prepare early and get some help. You will also need TOEFL (or IELTS) English proficiency tests.
4. Some countries (e.g. the US and Sweden) charge a fee just to submit your application, usually around \$100 each, payable with credit card. Start saving money for this. The application processes usually starts around 6 to 9 months before you start studying.
5. Your application usually consists of basic details; CV; two academic references (sent directly to the admissions office); your degree certificates, transcripts and a personal statement detailing why you want to do the course (see P9).
6. Time to apply for scholarships (see P7). Sometimes you do this after admission, other times at the same time.
7. Successful? Congratulations! It's time to start applying for your visa and planning your time overseas.

# Interested in getting a MASTER'S DEGREE?

## We can help you prepare for the admission exams!

The Bridge2RwandaTraining Center is now offering classes to help students prepare for the necessary standardized tests in order to apply to institutions in the US, UK, Australia, and other native English-speaking countries.

Please email [scholars@bridge2rwanda.org](mailto:scholars@bridge2rwanda.org) or call 0783063928 to inquire about or register for a class.

### GRE Class (to prepare for the GRE Test on October 22, 2011):

- \*\* This exam is for students who want to obtain a Master's degree in any field other than business**  
 Course begins August 20-October 15 (9 week course), Saturday mornings from 9:00am-12:00pm.  
*Cost: \$300, includes study materials and access to computer/resource labs*

### GMAT Class (to prepare for the GMAT Test by appointment in Kampala, Uganda):

- \*\*This exam is for students interested in getting a Masters in Business Administration (MBA)**  
 Course begins June 27 – September 1 (10 week course), Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:30 pm  
*Cost: \$350, includes study materials and access to computer/resource labs*

### TOEFL Class:

- \*\*This exam is a general test of English proficiency that ALL international students must pass for admissions**

Course currently in session. Please contact us for details for future courses.

Location of classes: The Training Center, 1<sup>st</sup> floor of Telecom House in Kacyiru

**\*\*Please note that we do NOT provide scholarships to Universities but will only provide the classes to prepare you for the tests. You will be responsible for finding your own admission and scholarship.**

## 6 FEATURE! Masters courses around the world....

Doing a Masters course overseas is possible if you have the skills dedication and knowledge to navigate the education and application systems in different countries. There are many advantages to studying overseas, not just in terms of qualifications. You get to see different cultures and perspectives. People who travel tend to be more flexible and adaptable and more suitable for working in international organisations back in Rwanda.

Here we give you a snapshot of just a few of the countries you might want to think about and the individual application details.

### CANADA

#### Find courses:

<http://www.canadian-universities.net/Universities/Programs/Graduate-Studies.html>

**Number of Universities in Canada:** 83

**Masters course duration:** 2-3 years

**Minimum Entry Requirements:** high grades in your field of study; High GRE or GMAT scores are often required; strong letter of recommendation (for most); strong letter of intent (for most); Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

**Application Process:** Online. There is usually a fee associated with applying payable by credit card. Courses usually start in September, but start applying from November of the year before.

**Funding:** Many masters programs offer some funding to students, or teaching assistant positions that pay fairly high hourly wages (but can be a distraction from the students' own work). NGOs, organizations and the government also offer some scholarships to international students, but gaining this funding will take research and lengthy applications.

**Costs without a scholarship:** The good news is, the prices for masters programs for international students are some of the lowest in the world. Fees range from C\$2000 to C\$17,000 annually. Cost of living in Canada is similar to Australia and the US. Monthly rent for an apartment may be around \$650.



### UNITED KINGDOM (UK)

**Find courses:** [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk) is a good start as is [www.prospects.ac.uk](http://www.prospects.ac.uk). Follow up with individual university websites.

**Number of Universities in UK:** 115

**Masters course duration:** usually 1 year (full time)

**Minimum entry requirements:** Good undergraduate degree; IELTS English test score of 6.5, paper based TOEFL of



570 or internet based of 90; 2 academic references, your CV, covering letter and copy of certificates.

**Application Process:** Academic year usually starts in September, and application process starts in December of the year before. Apply early. Most applications are online with no fee.

**Scholarship Opportunities:** Several including the Chevening and Commonwealth scholarships. Each university usually gives individual guidance. Some are full and others are partial support.

**Costs without a scholarship:** For an international student completing a one year Masters courses, fees alone will be in the region of £14,000 (13M RWF) plus living costs (allow £800 per month).

### SOUTH AFRICA

**Find courses:** Online. The top 5 universities in the country are University of Cape Town, University of Pretoria, Universiteit Stellenbosch, University of the Witwatersrand, University of KwaZulu-Natal

**Number of Universities in SA** 23

**Masters course duration:** 1-2 years

**Minimum entry requirements:** Bachelors degree with high grade. International students who wish to apply for admission must be in possession of a valid study permit/permanent residency permit and have the necessary medical aid cover before their application will be considered. For students who did not complete their studies in an English Medium University, TOEFL exam scores (internet based test - iBT) must also be presented.

**Application Process:** Applicants can usually apply throughout the year. However, applications should be made well in advance of an academic year (beginning in January) to be accepted for registration.

**Funding:** Several including commonwealth scholarships

**Costs without a scholarship:** The tuition fees vary from institution to institution. It is approximately for post graduate programs it is R22 000 (\$3,200) per year. The cost of living is approximately R 8000 (per month \$1190) which is inclusive of accommodation, food, utility bills and travel.



### SWEDEN

**Find Courses:** [www.studyinsweden.se](http://www.studyinsweden.se)

**Number of Universities in UK:** 36

**Masters course duration:** usually 2 years

**Minimum entry requirements:** Good undergraduate degree in a relevant related subject area; IELTS or TOEFL score. 2 academic references, your CV and

covering letter.

**Application Process:** Academic year usually starts in September, and the application process starts in December of the year before. Applications are done online at [studyinsweden.se](http://studyinsweden.se) website and then supporting documents are sent to the individual university. There is a fee for overseas students' payable by credit card.

**Scholarship Opportunities:** Some see [www.studyinsweden.se](http://www.studyinsweden.se)

**Costs without a scholarship:** No tuition fees, even for overseas students except MBA students. Scholarships cover living costs, visas, flights, etc. If you have to pay your own living costs these will be in the region of \$1300 a month. Classes are in English.



## UGANDA

**Finding Courses:** Through individual universities. The top 5 are: Makerere University, Uganda Christian University, Kampala International University, Mbarara University of Science & Technology, Bugema University

**Number of universities in Uganda:** 20

**Minimum entry requirement:** a Bachelors degree university with a good GPA will be considered for entry to a Masters degree. For certain courses work experience will also be required .575 in the written TOEFL test and 5 in the Test of Written English (TWE.)

**Application process:** Academic year usually start in mid-August and deadline for receiving application is usually April. Apply by sending electronic application form. Small application fee of \$25 usually.

**Scholarship opportunities:** Some available, but mostly for Ugandan students.

**Fees and costs:** Fees around \$720-\$1000 a year for Ugandans and \$2400-\$4800 a year for foreign students.

## THE UNITED STATES

**Find courses:** <http://www.usastudyguide.com/> is a great start for university listings. Also search individual universities.

**Masters course duration:** usually 2 years

**Number of Universities in US:** 5,758 higher education institutes (highest number of higher education students in the world!)

**Minimum entry requirements:** You need a high GRE and TOEFL score, high grades in good undergraduate program.

**Application Process:** Long application process- some sources advise you to start working on your application



18 months in advance. Write the TOEFL early, check get recommendation letters from teachers and professionals, often a personal statement and a statement of purpose outlining the work you intend to focus on.

**Scholarship Opportunities:** There are some scholarships, including the Fulbright offered by the American Embassy. A little aid provided for international students by U.S. sources, with a lot more aid for graduate students than undergraduates. Many universities provide funding for masters research, so check with the schools you apply to. Some international organizations might also have options, like the UN, the World Health Organization or the World Council of Churches.

**Fees without a scholarship:** The cost of education in the US is one of the highest in the world, but many of the world's top universities are American so it can be worth it. The cost can be from \$10,000 to \$80,000 a year for tuition. Room and board can cost about \$3000 to \$8000 a year.

## Achieve your Potential!



**The Education into Employment (EiE) Programme helps young people, university students and recent graduates, to achieve their potential.**

**Run by AERG (Association des Etudiants et Rescapes du Genocide) and SURF (Survivors Fund ) we particularly target people from disadvantages backgrounds, especially, but not exclusively, AERG members.**

**We have several programmes that you can get involved with. These include:**

- **A mentoring programme** matching final year university students and recent graduates with professionals within their area of interest. You meet for 12 sessions and your mentor helps you to draw up a personal development plan, life goals, improve your CV and interview techniques, plan job or internship applications , etc.
- **English language classes and language clubs** which may be running at your university. Improve your English today!
- **IT training centres at 4 universities**, including INILAK, RTUC, ULK and KCT.
- **This magazine!** Which will help you to gain ideas and opportunities about your future

For more info see [www.intoemployment.org](http://www.intoemployment.org) , drop in to the AERG national coordination office near Sonatube or contact the coordinator on 0788439284. We are recruiting for new posts so check out our website.

## 8 Masters Courses in Rwanda...

There are a growing number of Masters courses offered in Rwanda. But unfortunately they are still limited by the skills available in the country. But if you prefer to stay at home to gain your Masters, here we explore some of what is currently available in Rwanda.

The National University of Rwanda (NUR) is responsible for many of the Masters programmes in the country and is expanding its mode of delivery of Master's programmes by using modern technologies, reaching students all over the country.

To be admitted to a Master's Programme, a student should hold a Bachelor's degree with Distinction or Satisfaction and work experience for some programmes. All programmes are offered in English.

Course costs vary between \$6,000 for an MSc in Business Law to \$10,000 for an MSc in Agroforestry for example. See the NUR website for respective programme details and admission requirements : [www.nur.ac.rw](http://www.nur.ac.rw)

Kigali Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) also offers a Masters Communications Management (MCM) and Master of Science in Operational Communications (MOC) . Admissions are similar to NUR, with two years working experience in ICT and/or telecommunications industry.

Applications will be open at the beginning of July to end of September; successful applicants will be notified at the end of October of every year. The programme normally commence in January. A total amount of 2,925,000 Rwf or about \$5,750 US covers tuition fees, application fees, registration fees and graduation fee. For more information please visit KIST website: [www.kist.ac.rw](http://www.kist.ac.rw).



KIE started its Masters in Social Sciences (Gender and Development) in January 2011 at the Centre for Gender, Culture and Development.

Course Director, Professor Shirley Randell, AO, PhD says "The course has excellent standards and will be recognised internationally, as we have expert, experienced lecturers coming from all over the world to teach it. The curriculum was validated by Sussex University, a leading world centre for Gender and Development teaching and research."

There were nearly 200 applicants for the first intake to the course, with just 50 being accepted. Many of the students on the course already work on gender issues, but need theoretical and policy training to strengthen their work, or training to teach in this area in future. It is an evening course, with lectures and classes Monday through Friday from 5.45 until 8.45 pm as well as Satur-

day morning. The total student cost for the 18 month course is 2.4 million RWF (\$4,000) and many students are self funded.

KIE will soon be recruiting for the next intake, so if you are interested, watch out in Imvaho and New Times where the applications will be advertised or go on to their Facebook group: [www.facebook.com/CGCDKIE](http://www.facebook.com/CGCDKIE)

### Online Masters courses?



Want a Masters degree from a good international university without leaving the comfort of your job, family and home in Rwanda?

An online Masters course could be for you. Here we explore them in more detail.

Only a few courses are offered online (but this is growing) so you need to check that what you want to do is available, and which universities offer it (a Google search might be a good start). Acceptance to an online course can be as competitive as with live courses, so don't expect to get an automatic offer.

Tuition fees are not cheap either, and can be as much as taught course (except you don't have the living, visa and flight costs to go with that). For example, the University of Manchester offers an online MSc in International Development costing £10,600 (10M RWF) for this 33 month part-time course. Penn State World Campus in the US is a university specifically designed to deliver online courses. A Masters in Software Engineering costs over \$40,000. But like physical courses, some scholarships also exist to cover online courses, and these make online courses even more worthwhile to look into as an option.

Online courses do not compromise on teaching quality. Weekly discussion boards, reading lists and essays to write and research mean that it is not an easy ride and you have to dedicate about fifteen hours a week. Of independent study to a part time Masters. A fast and reliable internet connection is essential. Most universities give you access to their online library facilities where you can access millions of journal articles, e-books, for your reading and research. You will also interact regularly online, with other students in the course, who may be from all over the world.

So you could end up with a very good Masters Degree from a British or American University, without even having left the comfort of your own home. stepped foot in the UK. You will of course miss out on living and experiencing a different culture, but you can keep your family around you.

Have any comments, suggestions or questions about what you have read in GREEN LIGHT? E-mail us with your thoughts as we want to hear from you!

[Greenlightrwanda@gmail.com](mailto:Greenlightrwanda@gmail.com)



## Writing a personal statement....By Molly Campbell

A personal statement is often a requirement when you're applying for a master's program. What is a personal statement and how do you write one?

A personal statement is your opportunity to sell yourself. Tell the admissions officer why they should accept you over another candidate. As with a CV you should never copy someone else's work as it will be immediately obvious and probably disqualify you. You can look at others for inspiration but don't copy. And before you start writing your statement think about what sets you apart from others.

While some programs such as many medical or law school applications require a general, comprehensive personal statement that allows a lot of freedom in terms of what you write, other programs ask for answers to specific questions that you must include. Make sure you read instructions carefully before you start your personal statement as each university's requirements vary.

## Quiz? Is a Masters right for you?



Research is the next step. There are three things you should know about before you start writing: the career the masters program is leading you to, specifics about the program and university you are applying to, and a comprehensive list of your own experience and qualifications. Tailoring your statement to each and every different program you apply for is essential, because schools want to see that you have taken a specific interest in their program.

Proving you're a stand-out candidate isn't simple. Link your talents with experiences that prove you have those talents. Focus on what you learned from situations, and make sure everything you write about applies to the program you hope to get into.

Again, setting yourself apart from other candidates is what will get you into that competitive program. Have you faced any notable hardships in your life? Are there discrepancies in your grades you should explain? What made you want to go into this career? What characteristics do you have that make you memorable? Tell the judges your personal story and prove you're not a robot. Think of an angle to take they probably haven't heard before.

Getting someone to proofread your personal statement is the last step. Your English grammar, spelling and punctuation need to be perfect.

Getting someone to proofread your personal statement is the last step. Your English grammar, spelling and punctuation need to be perfect.

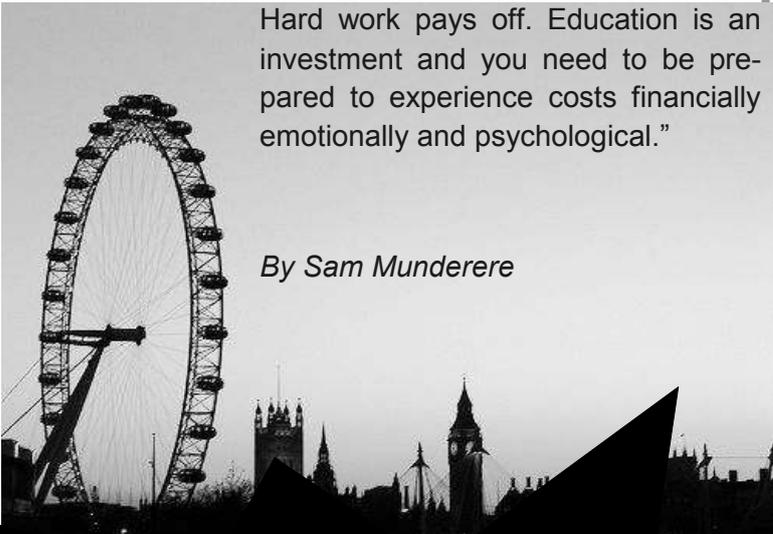


"I began my Masters in International Development Management at the University of Westminster, London, UK in January 2011. I got a place at Reading University in 2010 and was ready to cover all my costs, but regrettably, I didn't get the visa. I wanted to do a Masters course for many years, so I didn't give up. I applied to a number of Universities and got two offers from London Metropolitan University and the University of Westminster. Not only did Westminster give me a place, but they provided me with a full scholarship as well.

In my course there are six students who started in January and I am the only male student we are all international students. My lectures take 15 hours a week but a lot of time is spent doing research and course work and presentations. The studying facilities are excellent as a student is able to get material from the well-stocked library and online resources with a fast internet connection.

If you are serious about doing a Masters in another country it is possible, but it is not easy. Firstly you have to make sure your English is good enough as you need a very high TOEFL or IELTS score. Secondly you need to invest a lot of time, researching courses and applying. Thirdly you need to be prepared to cover costs, as if you don't get a scholarship, fees plus living can be at least (18,000,000 RWF) in the UK. It probably takes at least a year to prepare your English certificates and research and apply for courses and scholarships.

I would recommend anyone interested should get English Language skills and work some years first, so they have good experience for their CV. It is a requirement for some scholarships to have some money behind you for the application process. But if you have good results, can write a strong personal statement there are many opportunities out there.



Hard work pays off. Education is an investment and you need to be prepared to experience costs financially emotionally and psychological."

By Sam Munderere

## Your questions answered....

*"Dear Greenlight. I have just graduated from a Masters in Public Administration at ULK in 2010. I have a job but I am not finding it interesting and want to go on and do a Masters in International Development or Governance and Democracy, ideally in the UK or Canada, to work in an International NGO or the UN in future. I have no money to support myself, do you think I have a chance to get a scholarship? What advice can you give me?"*

JC, Kigali

Dear JC,

Many thanks for your question. It seems you already have a clear idea of what you want to go on and study and why, so I would definitely encourage you to do some research especially around Masters courses and Scholarships. I don't know your background, but if you have held some positions of responsibility either while at university or in your community, have some relevant work experience and can really prove why you are different, you do have a chance. But remember you also have to have excellent English to get the right score at TOEFL or IELTS level so you might want to start preparing early and invest some time in this. Get an English speaker to correct your CV and application form. If it is full of grammar and presentation errors this will count against you. And don't just apply for one, maybe ten masters courses and scholarships will make you successful. Let us know how it goes! Good luck.

*"Dear Greenlight. I graduated in 2008 in Law and have not yet found a job. I think if I do a Masters in the US I may have some better skills and more likely to find a job. Can you advise?"*

Anonymous

Yes you would do! But do you have the money to do it? The fact that you haven't yet found a job and don't have much professional experience will count against you when applying for scholarships. If you don't have the means to pay for yourself, I would focus your efforts on building up your skills in Rwanda, maybe improve your English, get an internship, play an active role in community organisations so that you have something that makes you special and stand out. Read books, network and make contacts. If you do all this, perhaps in two or three years, with some professional experience behind you, you will be a much more suitable candidate and it will be easier for you to get admissions and a scholarship.

**Have a question for us?** For each question we publish we choose to publish, we give you 5,000RWF. So if you have something urgent, drop us an email at [greenlightrwanda@gmail.com](mailto:greenlightrwanda@gmail.com)

## June / July 2011

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
Green Light Issue 6 is out!		15	16	17	REAL Entrepreneurial Mindset training contact realtraining@educat.dk Tel. (+250) 782741804	
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Have a date you want us to feature? Let us know and we can add it in to the next issues		29 Send us any questions you have!	30	1 July!	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 Deadline for advertisers!	9	10
11	12	Think about registering for TOEFL and GRE with Bridge2Rwanda	14	15 Deadline for SPARK vacancies (see P3)	Watch out for issue 7 of Green Light!	

**A final word on scholarships....**

"We need a scholarship, we need a scholarship, help us find a scholarship!" I hear all of you chanting this. True, the tuition and living costs of doing a Masters overseas make it too expensive for many of us to even think about pursuing a Masters course without funding. But Green Light can't help you get a scholarship, you have to do this yourself. So start searching and the best place is the internet.

But remember, in most countries the first step is usually to apply for a course first, and then (after you have been accepted) to find a scholarship, some courses (especially in the US) are the exception where you apply for both at the same time. The good news is there are many opportunities out there, so if you are a good candidate and put in the effort, you may find one.

Not all scholarships are FULL scholarships. Some might only cover tuition fees and not living costs. Others might only offer a contribution towards tuition fees. In these cases you may have to complement funds with a loan. SFAR is one source (see *A Day in the Life of...*) if you are working in the public sector or a private loan if not. As a first resource look at the scholarships mentioned on pages 6 and 7. But also use the internet and individual university and courses for a useful searching tool. Don't give up, it is possible., but at the same time don't waste your time if you are not ready. Get some experience and skills that make you a unique candidate first and only then, when you are sure you are ready, start applying. And find a mentor who can help you through this process..



In the next issue! Out on 15th of July, the next issue of GREEN LIGHT focuses on what characteristics make people successful and what we have to learn from them. If you would like to receive hard copies at your organization or subscribe to the electronic version email us at [greenlightrwanda@gmail.com](mailto:greenlightrwanda@gmail.com)

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**When:** Monday to Thursday evenings (2 hours per day)

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**Where:** Green Hills Academy Secondary School

\*Note that books are not included in this price

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