

Call for Applications – MSc Scholarship

A GeoRes4Dev Research Scholarship (2026-2028)

Project: *Geological Resources for Development – GeoRes4Dev*

Partners: Royal Museum for Central Africa (RMCA), University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), Stellenbosch University (SU)

Funding: Belgian Development Cooperation

Study Level: MSc

Fieldwork in : Bamba Kilenda, Kongo-Central Province, Democratic Republic of the Congo

1. Background

The GeoRes4Dev project (2024-2029) supports research that strengthens the sustainable governance of natural resources in Central Africa. The Kongo-Central section includes research activities related to mineral resources of the region, which are relatively poorly documented by published studies. The offered MSc scholarship targets the Cu-Pb-Zn deposit of the Bamba Kilenda area.

2. MSc Research Theme

“Relationship between carbonate host-rock characteristics and mineralisation in the Cu-Pb-Zn deposit of Bamba Kilenda, Kongo-Central Province”

The study consists of :

- extracting relevant information from archived documents related to past coring campaigns
- recording host-rock properties, calcite vein generations, and mineralisation patterns, along the contact between the Lukala limestone and Mpioka or Inkisi sandstones, as observed in selected core sections
- sampling for petrographical and chemical analyses
- performing analyses to determine host-rock control on mineralisation and to identify generations of diagenetic features (e.g. whole-rock major to trace element analysis, carbon analysis, petrography, in-situ microanalysis)

3. Expected Research Outputs

- improved understanding of ore deposition conditions and controls for the studied deposit
- formulation of implications for other West Congo Belt deposits of a similar type
- MSc dissertation, scientific communications

4. Candidate Profile

- Bachelor degree in geology
- strong interest in ore geology

- have the support of an academic staff at the host university (UNIKIN, Geology Department)
- good writing and analytical skills in English
- candidates must have a professional occupation in a field of earth sciences either with a private employer (e.g. design office, mining company) or in a state organisation (e.g. ministry, geological survey, research centre, university or college); they must have a waiver from the employer certifying that (i) they will remain employed but will be released from professional duties for the duration of the scholarship, (ii) they will keep their salary and any other benefits due to them for the duration of the scholarship, and (iii) they will be reinstated in their duties at the end of the scholarship or after graduation.
- have a valid passport

5. Scholarship Conditions

- **Duration:** 2 years
- **Enrolment:** University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), Geology programme
- **Supervision:**
 - 2 supervisors at UNIKIN
 - 1 supervisor at RMCA (GeoRes4Dev team)
- **Financial support:**
 - annual fieldwork budget
 - travel and research-related expenses
 - funding for mobility stay of 4 weeks per year, to the RMCA or in another partner university/centre of expertise, for specific training, documentary research, analyses
 - supervision support in the field by South and North promoters
- **Start date:** July 15, 2026

6. Application File

Applicants must submit the following documents in French or in English:

1. cover letter explaining motivation and thematic fit (max. 2 pages)
2. research proposal (max. 4 pages)
3. curriculum vitae (max. 2 pages)
4. diplomas and transcripts (scanned copies)
5. recommendation of an academic staff member at UNIKIN
6. identification document (passport)

7. Submission Process

- send applications to: geores4dev@africamuseum.be
- e-mail subject line: *Application – MSc Kongo-Central Bamba Kilenda – [Applicant Name]*
- **deadline: June 15, 2026 23:59**
- selection procedure:
 1. pre-selection based on application file (RMCA)
 2. online interview (shortlisted candidates)