



POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

JANUARY 2026 INTAKE

The University of Malawi is inviting applications for various Postgraduate Programmes which will commence in January, 2026.

I. GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER'S DEGREES

The following are the **minimum application requirements** for all Master's degree programmes:

- a. A Bachelor's degree from an accredited university/programme with at least a credit. Candidates with a strong pass may be considered;
- b. A detailed CV;
- c. Certified or notarised copies of academic transcripts and certificates;
- d. Two letters of reference from traceable referees (one of which shall be an academician and the other one may be a professional referee) and to be submitted in sealed envelopes or as a PDF attachment;
- e. A copy of a bank deposit slip for the application fee of **MK20,000** for nationals and **US\$50** for international applicants. Please indicate the name of the programme you are applying for and deposit the money into the following account: Chanco Sundry Income, Account No: 282553, held at the National Bank of Malawi, Zomba Service Centre;
- f. Evidence of sponsorship: Preference will be given to applicants who will present credible evidence of funding for their studies;

NOTE: Specific programmes may have additional requirements which must be complied with. Incomplete applications will not be processed.

II. GENERAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR PHD PROGRAMMES

In addition to the general requirements above, applications for doctoral degree programmes should meet the following **minimum conditions**:

- a. A good Master's degree from an accredited university/programme. Candidates with work experience will have an added advantage;
- b. A concept note detailing the proposed research topic in terms of objectives, approach and research questions;
- c. Sample of the applicant's written academic work.

Conditions for admission

- a. Unless specifically indicated, all Masters' programmes are full-time and will run for 24 months. The first year is for course work, while the second year is for research and thesis writing. PhD programmes run for 3 years (full time) and up to 5 years (part-time);
- b. The tuition fees cover costs of registration, examinations, supervision and institutional overheads. Students are expected to meet costs of research, accommodation, meals, medical cover, books, stationery and learning materials;
- c. The University does not provide accommodation, and the students will be required to look for their accommodation outside the campus;
- d. All programmes operate on a no-fees no-classes basis. Applicants will be expected to demonstrate how they will support their studies either through a letter of commitment from their sponsors or a bank statement.

III. SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR PROGRAMMES

The following are specific entry requirements of the advertised programmes:

1. SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

(a) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOUNDATIONS

The Education Foundations Department is offering the following Master's and Postgraduate Diploma programmes at its **Lilongwe Satellite Centre** and **Zomba (UNIMA) campus**:

- i. M.Ed. in Curriculum Development and Instructional Design
- ii. M.Ed. in Inclusive Education

All programmes are two-year programs. However, the programmes will be offered during weekends using blended mode. Lectures will be conducted on Saturdays and Sundays. For the **first two weeks of each semester**, face-to-face classes will be conducted at **the Lilongwe Satellite Centre (KUHES/old KCN campus)** and **the Zomba (UNIMA) campus**. Thereafter, classes will be conducted online.

Applicants are, therefore, required to indicate whether they are applying for **the Lilongwe Satellite Centre** or **the Zomba (UNIMA) campus**.

Fee Structure: MK2,750,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals; US\$3,000 per academic year for SADC region students; and US\$3,500 per academic year for international students.

Entry Requirements: Possession of a Bachelor's degree in Education (or its equivalent) with Credit, from an accredited university. Those with a strong pass may be considered for admission. Work experience in teaching or in education-related area will be an added advantage.

iii. Postgraduate Diploma in Open Distance and e-Learning (ODeL)

Background

In response to the increasing demand for professional expertise in Open, Distance, and e-Learning (ODeL), the University of Malawi and the Malawi College of Distance Education (MCDE) have jointly developed a specialised postgraduate programme of study. The programme aims to strengthen the delivery of ODeL across Malawi's education system and beyond by equipping educators, administrators, and education managers with the knowledge, skills, and tools required to implement high-quality, technology-enhanced teaching and learning models.

Programme Structure

This is a **one-year, fully ODeL programme** delivered through MOODLE. Participants are also required to complete a practical ODeL project or practicum as part of the graduation requirements.

Fee Structure: MK1,000,000.00 per academic year for Malawian nationals; US\$1,000 per academic year for SADC region students; and US\$1,500 per academic year for international students.

Entry Requirements

Applicants must be holders of a Bachelor's degree in Education or any other relevant field from an accredited institution, or with at least two years of hands-on experience in ODeL. Applicants must submit all the required documentation outlined in the General Entry Requirements (for Master's Degree) above.

Contacts for further details: The Postgraduate Coordinator, Mr. Y. Chakasika on **0980032350 or 0888061055**, or via email at med@unima.ac.mw

1. SCHOOL OF NATURAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES

(i) Master of Science in Environmental Science (MES)

Duration of Programme: 24 months (full-time)

Fee Structure: MK2,250,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals or US\$3,000 per academic year for international students.

Description of Programme: The MES programme consists of coursework, research, and a thesis.

Additional Entry Requirements: Candidates should have a good Bachelor's degree (at least an upper pass) in natural sciences or related fields. Preference will be given to candidates with relevant experience.

Contacts for further details: The MES Coordinator at: mesadmin@unima.ac.mw.

(ii) Master of Science in Water Science and Management (WSM)

Description of Programme: The WSM programme consists of course work, research and a thesis.

Duration of Programme: 2 years (full-time)

Fee Structure: MK2,250,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals and US\$3,000 per academic year for international students.

Additional Entry Requirements: Potential candidates should have at least a high pass in natural/applied sciences or related fields from recognised and accredited universities.

Contact for further details: The Programme Coordinator, Dr. Evance Mwathunga, at wrmg@unima.ac.mw.

(a) DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY AND EARTH SCIENCES

(i) Master of Science in Geography and Earth Sciences (by Research)

Duration: 2 years (full-time) and 3 years (part-time) programme.

Fee Structure: MK2,587,500 per academic year for Malawian nationals or US\$3,450 per academic year for international students.

Description of Programme: Supervised research and thesis.

Additional Entry Requirements: A strong first degree (credit or high pass) majoring in Geography and/or Earth Sciences or any other related discipline. Candidates must also submit a research topic of their choice.

Contacts for further details: The Head of Department on: geo@unima.ac.mw; or emwathunga@unima.ac.mw.

(ii) Doctor of Philosophy in Geography by Research

Duration: 3 years (full time); 5 years (part-time)

Fee structure: MK3,750,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals or US\$5,000 per academic year for international students.

Description of Programme: Full-time students will dedicate their time to the programme of study, either at the University of Malawi or at a collaborating institution depending on agreed-upon arrangements and availability of resources. Those on a part-time basis will have to spend a minimum amount of time on campus that is equivalent to the full-time students during the 5 years. Students will be required to attend and participate in regular seminars, reading exercises and presentations, offer tutorials to MSc and BSc students, and participate in other scholarly activities as may be arranged by the department from time to time.

Additional Entry Requirements

Applicants must hold a Master's degree in Geographical Sciences or related disciplines from accredited institutions of higher learning.

Contacts for further details: The Head of Department on: geo@unima.ac.mw; or emwathunga@unima.ac.mw.

(iii) Doctor of Philosophy in Earth Sciences by Research

Duration: 3 years (full-time); 5 years (part-time)

Fee Structure: MK3,750,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals or US\$5,000 per academic year for international students.

Description of Programme: Full-time students will dedicate their time to the programme of study, either at the University of Malawi campus or at a collaborating institution depending on agreed-upon arrangements and availability of resources. Those on part-time basis will have to spend a minimum amount of time on campus that is equivalent to the full-time students during the 5 years. Students will be required to attend and participate in regular seminars, reading exercises and presentations, offer tutorials to MSc and BSc students, and participate in other scholarly activities as may be arranged by the department from time to time.

Additional Entry Requirements: Students applying to be admitted into this programme must hold a Master's degree in Earth Sciences or related disciplines obtained from accredited institutions of higher learning.

Contacts for further details: The Head of Department at: geo@unima.ac.mw; or emwathunga@unima.ac.mw.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

(i) Master of Science in Biostatistics

Description of Programme: A 2-year programme offered through block release and involves coursework and a thesis.

Additional Entry Requirements: Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree, major in Statistics or Mathematics, and any other related disciplines with at least a strong pass from a recognized university. Selected candidates with

deficiencies in some Mathematics/Statistics modules will be asked to attend bridging courses before enrolment. Further details about the programme can be accessed on the programme website through the link <https://biostatistics.unima.ac.mw/programmes/Master of Science in Biostatistics>.

Scholarships for International Students under CRAFS-ACE 2 Project: Under the Centre for Resilient Agri-food Systems (CRAFS), with support from the World Bank's Africa Centres of Excellence II (ACE II) project, the School of Natural and Applied Sciences (SNAS) has secured funding for full-time study scholarships of international students willing to pursue various postgraduate science programmes at the University of Malawi. A separate advert for the same will be circulated. Selection for scholarship will be through a competitive process. Female candidates are particularly encouraged to apply.

Scholarships: Limited full scholarships will be available under the DELTAS Sub-Saharan Africa Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics Training (SSACAB) project to selected applicants having a Statistics bachelor's degree with at least a credit pass and aged below 35 years.

Fee Structure: MK4,000,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals and US\$3,000 per academic year for international students. Those invited to attend bridging courses will be required to pay US \$300 per module.

Contacts for further details: The Programme Coordinator, Dr. Tsirizani Mwalimu Kaombe on +265999603074, biostat-unima@unima.ac.mw, copy to sec.maths@cc.ac.mw.

(ii) Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences

Master of Science in Mathematical Sciences (Financial Modelling, Coding Theory and Cryptography, Mathematical Biology, Mathematical Statistics)

Description of Programme: A 2-year full-time programme involving course work and thesis.

Entry Requirements: Applicants must have a Bachelor's degree in Mathematical Sciences with at least a credit or a strong pass obtained from any accredited institution of higher learning.

Fee Structure: MK 2,750,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals and US\$1,750 per academic year for international students.

Scholarships for International Students under CRAFS-ACE 2 Project: Under the Centre for Resilient Agri-food Systems (CRAFS), with support from the World Bank's Africa Centres of Excellence II (ACE II) project, the School of Natural and Applied Sciences (SNAS) has secured funding for full-time study scholarships of international students willing to pursue various postgraduate science programmes at the University of Malawi. A separate advert for the same will be circulated. Selection for scholarship will be through a competitive process. Females are particularly encouraged to apply.

Contact for further details: The Programme coordinator, Dr. Elias Peter Mwakilama at: emwakilama@unima.ac.mw /mathsciences_unima@cc.ac.mw, and copy to sec.maths@cc.ac.mw

(iii) Doctor of Philosophy in Mathematical Sciences (Pure Mathematics, Applied Mathematics) by Research

Description of Programme: This is a 3 - 5 years full-time PhD programme by research, including supervisor guided reading. Students on this programme will dedicate full time to the programme of study, spending their time on campus at University of Malawi or at a collaborating institution depending on agreements and availability of resources. During the entire period of study, students should be prepared to devote at least 90 hours of tutoring undergraduate or MSc students in the Department of Mathematical Sciences at University of Malawi. In addition, students will be required to attend and participate in departmental or faculty seminars and/or presentations, and attend to other scholarly activities which the department may arrange from time to time.

Additional Entry Requirements: A Master's degree in Mathematics or related disciplines obtained from any accredited institution of higher learning. Those with first class BSc honours degrees in Mathematics may also be admitted. It is highly recommended for PhD applicants to pre-identify academic supervisors who are specialists in the proposed research areas.

Fee Structure: MK3,000,000 for Malawian nationals or US\$3,500.00 for international students per academic year.

Contact for further details: The Programme coordinator, Dr. Elias Peter Mwakilama at: emwakilama@unima.ac.mw/mathsciences_unima@cc.ac.mw, and copy to sec.maths@cc.ac.mw

(iv) Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics

Description of the programme: This is a 3 to 5-year full-time programme by research including supervisor-guided reading. It aims to produce a highly trained cadre of individuals who will contribute to knowledge generation in the field of biostatistics. During the entire period of study, the candidate should also be prepared to devote at least 90 hours of teaching/tutoring MSc or undergraduate students in the Department of Mathematical Sciences, which is equivalent to teaching 3 modules.

Additional Entry Requirements: Applicants to be considered under the PhD programme in Biostatistics or Statistics should have a strong Master's degree in Statistics or Biostatistics or related disciplines from a recognized university. Applicants should also submit a concept note, not exceeding 5 pages, outlining the proposed area of research.

It is also highly advised that applicants should pre-identify or suggest an academic supervisor who is a specialist in the research area they are proposing. The University requires that the main PhD supervisor should be at the level of at least Senior Lecturer. The academic supervisor does not necessarily have to be from the University of Malawi. The University encourages collaborative supervision. Applications with pre-identified supervisors may have an added advantage. Further details about the programme can be accessed on the programme website through the link <https://biostatistics.unima.ac.mw/programmes/Doctor of Philosophy in Biostatistics>.

Scholarships: The Africa DELTAS SSACAB programme offers some fellowships to deserving applicants. For more details visit <https://www.ssacab.co.za/Fellowships/Opportunities.aspx>.

Fee structure: Tuition fees is USD 5,500.00 per academic year payable in Malawi Kwacha equivalent at the time of registration.

Contacts for further details: The Programme Coordinator, Dr. Tsirizani Mwalimu Kaombe on +265999603074, biostat-unima@unima.ac.mw, copy to sec.maths@cc.ac.mw.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN ECOLOGY AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

Master of Science in Food Science

Duration of programme: 2 years (24 months) full-time

Fees structure: K2, 500,000 per academic year for Malawian nationals or US\$3,750 per academic year for international students.

Description of the programme: This is a full-time Master's programme comprising coursework in the first year and research leading to a thesis in the second year. The aim of the programme is to produce a highly trained Food Scientist who will contribute to knowledge generation, inform food policy and produce a range of nutritious food products.

Additional entry requirements: Candidates must have a Bachelor's degree in Food Science, Food and Nutrition, Food Technology, Public Health, Biology, Microbiology and related fields with at least a strong pass or its equivalent from any recognised institution of higher learning.

Contacts for further details: The Head of Department, Human Ecology Department at: humanecology@unima.ac.mw

2. SCHOOL OF LAW, ECONOMICS AND GOVERNMENT

(a) DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Master of Arts in Economics (Non-Residential Programme)

Description of Programme: The Programme consists of two components: a one-year taught course work in the first year followed by research and thesis writing in the second year. Modules are delivered in a block-release form in a specified period of not more than three working weeks and will be sequenced over one year.

Entry Requirements: A good Bachelor's degree from an accredited university majoring in Economics or closely related fields of study. The applicant should also have covered Intermediate Microeconomics and Intermediate Macroeconomics and Quantitative methods/econometrics with an average grade of a high pass. Applicants with a bare pass in their first degree and relevant work experience will also be considered.

Fee Structure: MK4,500,000.00 per student per year for Malawian nationals and US\$5,000.00 per year for international students.

Contacts for further details: The MA (NR) Coordinator, Economics Department, Email: at sec.economics@unima.ac.mw or +265111951135.

(b) DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

Master of Arts in Political Science

Description of Programme: The programme consists of taught coursework in the first year, followed by independent research and preparation of an examinable thesis in the second year.

Duration: 2 years (Full-time)

Additional Entry Requirements: Applicants should have a strong Bachelor's degree with a credit or strong pass in Political Science or Public Administration. Applicants with a degree in Humanities and Social Sciences from an accredited institution will be considered if they had some Political Science subjects in their undergraduate programmes. Applicants should also submit a two-page typed brief of proposed research interests in the chosen discipline of study.

Fee Structure: MK2,750,000.00 per academic year for Malawian nationals or US\$ 3,250 per academic year for international students.

Contacts for further details: The Coordinator or Head of the Department of Political and Administrative Studies at: pastudies@unima.ac.mw, or call 0882436251/0993007186.

(c) DEPARTMENT OF PRIVATE LAW

Master of Laws in Commercial Law [LLM (Commercial Law)]

Duration of Programme: 18 Months

Fee Structure: The tuition fee for the entire programme is MK7,875,000 for Malawian nationals or US\$10,500.00 for international students.

Description of Programme: The LLM (Commercial Law) programme consists of coursework, supervised research and a thesis. The course modules are delivered at the purpose-built Faculty of Law complex situated at the University of Malawi in Zomba, where they have access to the National Bank of Malawi Postgraduate Computer Lab, which includes free access to the University of Malawi internet

resources, and the Macknight Machika Resource Centre, which stocks a wide variety of up-to-date Library resources relevant to the postgraduate study of Commercial Law.

Additional Entry Requirements: Admission into the programme is open to graduates who have either: (a) Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Upper Second Class degree (or its equivalent); or (b) A Bachelor of Laws (Honours) Lower Second Class degree (or its equivalent) and two years' experience working on matters directly related to the application of commercial law.

Contacts for further details: The Dean, Faculty of Law, Phone: +265 1 951 096, deanlaw@unima.ac.mw or the Programme Coordinator or postgradlaw@unima.ac.mw.

3. SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

(a) DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY ARCHAEOLOGY AND HERITAGE STUDIES

Master of Arts in African Social and Economic History

The programme is organised around a modular system and candidates may have the option of choosing either the MA (African Social History) or the MA (African Economic History) routes.

Duration: 24 months (full time)

Specific Entry Requirements: To qualify for admission in this programme, applicants must have Bachelor's degree with credit in history or related disciplines obtained from accredited institutions of higher learning. Applicants with a strong pass in their first degree (55% and above average) and relevant work experience will also be considered.

Fee Structure: MK4,200,000 for the entire period of study for Malawian nationals; U\$6,720 for SADC and U\$9,580 for Non-SADC students for a similar period of study.

Preliminary inquiries can be made to: Head of History Department on gkayira@unima.ac.mw or call +265883688771

(b) DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

(i) Name of Programme: PhD in Theology and Religious Studies (TRS)

Fee Structure: Tuition fees for the whole programme is **K4, 000, 000** for Malawian nationals, **US\$ 6,000** for SADC students, and **US\$ 8, 000** for international students.

Duration of the Programme: 3 years

Programme Description

The PhD in Theology and Religious Studies (TRS) is a research degree for postgraduate students in the TRS department. It offers a high-quality training programme and an outstanding environment for research in various fields of theological and religious studies. This is a full-time PhD programme by research. Candidates will undergo a compulsory research methods course prior to commencement of their research studies. Candidates will later be expected to work with allocated supervisors on their chosen research topics and they will be expected to make at least two presentations: one on the research proposal and the other one on the research findings. Each candidate is also expected to publish articles in peer-reviewed scholarly journals before completion of the study.

Specific Entry Requirements

Qualification for admission into the PhD in Theology and Religious Studies (TRS) is a strong Master's degree in Theology and Religious Studies or any other related field from accredited institutions. Prospective candidates will be expected to be able to conduct independent research in the various academic fields of Theology and Religious Studies.

Contact for further details: Head of TRS department, Dr. Hermann Mvula on +265 884 03 31 20 or via email at hmvula@unima.ac.mw or the Postgraduate Coordinator, Dr. Jones Mawerenga on +265 991 91 88 97 or via email at jmawerenga@unima.ac.mw.

(ii) Name of Programme: Master of Theology and Religious Studies

Additional Entry Requirements: Bachelor's degree in Theology and Religious Studies or any other relevant first degree with a credit.

Fee Structure: MK4,500,000 for Malawian nationals and US\$6,000 for international students for the entire two years.

Contact for further details: Head of TRS department, Dr. Hermann Mvula on +265 884 03 31 20 or via email at hmvula@unima.ac.mw or the Postgraduate Coordinator, Dr. Jones Mawerenga on +265 991 91 88 97 or via email at jmawerenga@unima.ac.mw

(a) DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY

(i) Name of Programme: Master of Arts in Sociology

Applications are invited from motivated social scientists to pursue a two-year research programme in the Sociology and Population studies Department at the University of Malawi leading to the award of a Master of Arts Degree in Sociology.

Duration: This is a two-year programme. In the first year, students will undertake a bridging course, develop a research proposal, and conduct fieldwork under the guidance of department-assigned supervisors. In the second year, students will focus on developing and completing their thesis.

Specific Entry Requirements: To qualify for admission, an applicant should have a good bachelor's degree in Social Science from a recognized university majoring in Sociology/Social Anthropology/ Gender studies/ Social Work. The applicant must have covered Introductory Sociology and demonstrated competence in Sociological Theories and Social Research Methods.

A complete application dossier must include the following: a one-paged motivation letter, a concept note (maximum of two pages), three copies of completed application forms (University of Malawi PG1), updated curriculum vitae, two academic references, copies of diplomas and degrees and an academic transcript and deposit slip for the application fee.

Fee Structure: MK 2,500,000 per year for Malawian students and \$2500 per year for international students.

E-mail: sec.sociology_population_studies@unima.ac.mw

(ii) Name of Programme: PhD in Sociology (By Research)

Fee Structure: MK2,000,000.00 per year for Malawian nationals and USD 3,000 per academic year for International students.

Duration of Programme: 3-5 years

Programme Description: Candidates will undergo a compulsory research methods course prior to the commencement of their research studies. Candidates will later be expected to work with allocated supervisors on their research topics during which they will make at least two presentations one on the proposal and the other on the findings. Each candidate is also expected to publish articles in scholarly journals before the completion of the study.

Additional Entry Requirements: Prospective candidates must be capable of carrying out independent sociological research, using and exchanging ideas with a view to improving and critically analyzing societal phenomena and development interventions. Candidates should have a strong Master's degree in Sociology, Development Studies and other social science fields from a recognized institution. Candidates from Development Studies and other social science fields will be considered if they have some background in Sociology at undergraduate or Master's levels.

Contacts for further details: The secretary for the Department of Sociology and Population studies; Email: sec.sociology_population_studies@unima.ac.mw

IV. PROCEDURE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS

Strictly Online Application using the link <https://admission.unima.ac.mw/>. The deadline for receiving the applications is 3rd October, 2025.