



AFRICAN VIRTUAL UNIVERSITY  
UNIVERSITE VIRTUELLE AFRICAINE  
UNIVERSIDADE VIRTUAL AFRICANA

## VACANCY

### SENIOR RESEARCH OFFICER

The African Virtual University (AVU) [www.avu.org](http://www.avu.org) is an equal opportunity employer.

The successful candidate will be appointed for 2 years renewable.

Application must include an application letter and detailed curriculum vitae with a telephone number; email and residential addresses; and names with contact addresses of three professional references.

Applications should be sent to [job@avu.org](mailto:job@avu.org) and must have Senior Research Officer as the email subject

All inquiries should be sent to [avuhr@avu.org](mailto:avuhr@avu.org)

The successful candidate will be based at the AVU Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The closing date for this application is February 6<sup>th</sup> 2013 at 18:00 East African Time (UTC/GMT + 3)

Note: ONLY shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1.0. INTRODUCTION

The African Virtual University (AVU) [www.avu.org](http://www.avu.org) is a Pan African Intergovernmental Organization established by charter with the mandate of significantly increasing access to quality higher education and training through the innovative use of information communication technologies. A Charter, establishing the AVU as an Intergovernmental Organization, has been signed so far by fifteen (15) African Governments - Kenya, Senegal, Mauritania, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Benin, Ghana, Republic of Guinea, Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan and Sudan. The AVU has its headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya and a Regional office in Dakar Senegal with Host-Country Agreements and Diplomatic Status with the two governments.

The AVU Business Plan 2009-2014 has two main thrusts: (a) Educational and support services provided on a fee basis; and (b) Not-for-profit development services. The Not-for-profit development services aims at building the capacity of AVU Partner Institutions (PIs) with an objective of increasing access to quality education through the following activities: updating and developing content; Open Educational Resources (OER) Development; AVU Capacity

Enhancement Program (ACEP); set up/upgrade ODeL centers; developing professional networks through Communities of Practices; Research and Development; and Quality Evaluation and Benchmarking.

Some of the Not-for-profit development services were delivered from 2005 to 2011 through the AVU Multinational Project I, funded by the African Development Bank (AfDB) and implemented in 10 African countries.

The AfDB is funding a second phase of the Multinational Project which will build on the first phase and will extend its benefits to more countries. The overall objective of the AVU Multinational Project II is to strengthen the capacity of the AVU and a network of 27 institutions to deliver and manage quality ICT integrated education and training opportunities in 21 African countries. The project has the following activities: (1) Establishment of new Open Distance and eLearning (ODEL) Centers and/or upgrading of exiting AVU Learning Centers as well as Internet connectivity provision at AVU Partner Institutions; (2) Development and/or improvement, and delivery of four ICT integrated Programs: AVU Capacity Enhancement Program (ACEP); Teacher Education (TE), Computer Science (CS), and Peace and Conflict Resolution; (3) Gender Mainstreaming, (4) Research and Development; (5) Promotion and development of Open Education Resources (OERs); and (6) Enhancement of AVU Capacity .

The AVU Multinational Project II will be implemented in 27 AVU Partner Institutions in the following 21 countries: nine (9) Francophone African Countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal; three (3) Lusophone African Countries: Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau and Mozambique; and nine (9) Anglophone African Countries: Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, South Sudan, and Tanzania.

To successfully implement the enhancement of the capacity of AVU, the organization wishes to engage a well experienced Senior Research Officer who will be responsible for setting up a Research Unit at AVU and for the implementation of the AVU Research and Development Agenda.

## **2.0. SCOPE OF WORK**

1. Lead the establishment of the AVU Research & Development Unit
2. Lead the improvement and implementation of AVU R&D Agenda
3. Identify possible research areas related to AVU activities, such as the Multinational Project Phase II and lead the research
4. Coordinate the implementation of a Mobile Learning Lab
5. Lead the implementation of an online and open access peer-reviewed journal
6. Organize annual conferences
7. Raise funds to support AVU R&D
8. Any other task that may be required by Management

## **3.0. EXPECTED DELIVERABLES**

1. AVU Research and Development Unit established
2. AVU R&D agenda improved and implemented

3. Possible research areas identified and executed
4. M Learning Lab established and functional
5. Online and open peer-reviewed journal established and issues published
6. Annual conferences organized
7. Funds raised to support AVU R&D

#### **4.0. QUALIFICATIONS**

- PhD in education or related field
- Knowledge of latest trends in R&D related to open, distance and eLearning
- Qualification and/or experience in ICT Integration in Education is required
- Demonstrated skills and experience in research design, implementation and report writing
- Skills in managing a peer-review journal, from submissions, to peer review, to copy-editing, composition, proofing and final publication.
- Ability to recruit and manage a research team
- Excellent record of scholarly publications in the areas related to Open, Distance and eLearning; Access to Higher Education; Educational Policies; Mathematics, Science, Technology and Innovation Education; ICT in Education ; Mobile Learning; Open Educational Resources (OERs), Massive Online Open Online Courses (MOOC); Gender in Education.
- Record of successful management of an online peer-reviewed journal.
- Record of successful organization of a large international conference
- Record of collaborating online with individuals from different location and cultures
- Strong organizational skills and demonstrated experience in networking.
- Ability to write proposals and raise funds
- Ability to work under pressure.
- Knowledge of and/or experience in Anglophone/Francophone/Lusophone higher education systems is an added advantage
- Experiencing in building and leading teams
- Language: strong knowledge of English. Knowledge of French and Portuguese will be an added advantage
- Computer Skills: Microsoft Office, Power Point, Excel, Access, MS Project, MS Project, Internet Skills, Proficiency in Learning Management Systems

#### **5.0. MODALITIES OF WORK**

This is a full time employment

#### **6.0 DURATION**

2 years renewable

#### **7.0REPORTING**

The Senior Research Officer will report to the AVU Rector.

#### **8.0 PAYMENT**

The salary will be commensurate with the qualification and experience of the successful candidate