

Call for Applications: PhD student scholarship in Japan [Stimulating Participatory risk-based Planning for WASH (SPLASH) project]

We are seeking highly motivated candidates to join our research team in Japan for a fully funded **PhD position in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)**.

About the Project

The Stimulating Participatory risk-based Planning for WASH (SPLASH) was five-year project funded by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) and JST (Japan Science and Technology Agency), operated as a JICA Technical Cooperation project. The project is led by **Kyoto University (PI: Prof. Hidenori Harada)** and **University of Zambia (PI: Prof. Kawawa Banda)** and implemented in peri-urban Lusaka, Zambia. The project aims to develop and implement a method for participatory WASH improvement planning through WASH-derived diarrheal risk visualization at three (3) sites in the City of Lusaka and to develop a bottom-up database for monitoring WASH quality to implement data-driven policy making in the future. The project focuses on the following research themes:

1. Development of a method for estimation of WASH-derived diarrheal risk structure and for estimation of fecal contamination sources
2. Evaluation of technical and non-technical WASH improvement measures based on the estimation of their effectiveness in reducing WASH-derived diarrheal risk
3. Development of a model to build a new social relationship network for the implementation of participatory WASH improvement planning
4. Development of a method for participatory E. coli survey and App-supported risk-based WASH planning
5. Accuracy management on a bottom-up database of community-measured E. coli concentration data

More information is available: <https://wash.africa.kyoto-u.ac.jp/splash/en/>

Key Responsibilities

- Conduct original research aligned with the project goals.
- Publish findings in high-impact journals and present at international conferences.
- Collaborate with multidisciplinary teams of researchers.

Eligibility Requirements

We encourage applicants with:

- A Master's degree in the relevant research field of study including the expected master's degree before beginning of the scholarship.
- A master's degree in social science or public health is preferable.
- Strong academic background in relevant research fields.
- A scientific publication in a high impact Q1/Q2 Journal (added advantage)
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English.
- Recommendation from UNZA researchers or SPLASH's academic partners who are involved in the project (attached at the end of the document).

What We Offer

- A fully funded JICA's PhD student scholarship for 3 years starting in Oct 2025 or April 2026.
- Access to world-class research facilities and a collaborative academic environment.
- Opportunities for professional development, networking, and conference travel.

Host University in Japan

Kyoto University, Hokkaido University or Tohoku University

Application Process

Interested candidates should submit the following documents:

1. Cover letter
2. CV, including publication list
3. Research Achievements
4. Motivation and research proposal not more than 5 pages
5. Academic transcripts
6. Recommendation letter

Please send your application as PDFs to naing.wutyi.5e@kyoto-u.ac.jp. The deadline for applications is **20 May 2025**. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews. For more information about the position or the research group, please contact Prof. Kawawa Banda, Project co-PI, kawawa.banda@unza.zm.

List of SPLASH's academic partners

Name	Affiliation	Assigned Period	E-mail Address
Professor Emmanuel K. C. Chanda	Dean School of Mines, UNZA	From June 2024 to June 2029	emmanuel.chanda@unza.zm
Associate Professor Kawawa Banda	Coordinator of Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM) / Zambia -PI	From June 2024 to June 2029	Kawawa.Banda@unza.zm
Dr. Cryton Phiri	Lecturer, School of Mines Geology Department, Member of the IWRM Centre, UNZA	From June 2024 to June 2029	cryton.phiri@unza.zm
Dr. Joel Kabika	Lecturer, School of Engineering Civil and Environmental Engineering,	From June 2024 to June 2029	kabika@unza.zm;
Dr. James Madalitso Tembo	Lecturer, School of Engineering Civil and Environmental Engineering,	From June 2024 to June 2029	wazatemboj@gmail.com
Dr. Vincent Kanyamuna	Lecturer, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNZA	From June 2024 to June 2029	vkanyamuna@unza.zm
Associate Professor Lydia Mumbi Chabala	School of Agricultural Sciences – Soil Sciences, UNZA	From June 2024 to June 2029	lchabala@unza.zm;
Dr. Manoah Muchanga	Lecturer, School of Natural Science Geography UNZA	From June 2024 to June 2029	mmuchanga@unza.zm
Dr. Liberty Mweemba	Dean, School of Education	From June 2024 to June 2029	liberty.mweemba@unza.zm;
Dr. Fredrick S. Mudenda	Lecturer, School of Law, UNZA	From June 2024 to June 2029	fredrick.mudenda@unza.zm
Dr. Nosiku Sipilanyambe Munyinda/ Dr Chisala Meki	Lecturer, School of Public Health, UNZA	From June 2024 to June 2029	nosikumunyinda@gmail.com / chisala.meki@unza.zm;

We look forward to your application!