



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Full-Time Research Assistant (M.Phil. Studentship)

Uva Wellassa University Research Grant
Grant No.: UWU/RG/MPhil/2026/11
Faculty of Technological Studies
Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka, Badulla.

Research Project: Development and 3D Printing of Biomimetic Mineral-Patterned Hydroxyapatite–Polylactic Acid–Maleic Anhydride Fiber-Reinforced Biocomposites

Applications are invited from suitably qualified graduates to serve as a **full-time Research Assistant** and concurrently pursue a **Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree** under the above research project at the Faculty of Technological Studies, Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka. This research project aims to develop novel biomimetic biocomposite materials through the integration of hydroxyapatite, biodegradable polymers, and natural fiber reinforcements using advanced additive manufacturing technologies. The successful candidate will contribute to cutting-edge research in biomaterials and sustainable advanced materials while obtaining postgraduate research training leading to an M.Phil. degree.

Research Areas and Responsibilities

The selected candidate will be involved in:

- Hydroxyapatite synthesis and surface modification
- Preparation and processing of polymer-based biocomposites
- Development of fiber-reinforced biomimetic composite materials
- Additive manufacturing (3D printing) of biocomposite structures
- Materials characterization using FTIR, XRD, SEM, and thermal analysis techniques (TGA/DSC)
- Mechanical, physical, and chemical performance evaluation of developed materials
- Data analysis, report writing, and scientific publication preparation
- Presentation of research findings at conferences and scientific forums

The selected candidate will have the opportunity to publish research findings in peer-reviewed journals and present research outcomes at national and international conferences.

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants should possess:

- A B.Sc. degree with Chemistry as a major subject or substantial Chemistry component from a recognized university.
- Preference will be given to candidates with a First Class or Second Class Upper Division degree.
- Knowledge and/or research experience in Biomaterials, Materials Chemistry, Polymer Science, Composite Materials, Nanomaterials, 3D Printing, or related disciplines.
- Research publications, conference presentations, laboratory experience, or previous involvement in research projects relevant to the proposed study will be considered added qualifications.

- Excellent written and oral communication skills in English.

Selection Procedure

Selection will be based on:

1. Academic qualifications and achievements.
2. Research aptitude and previous research experience.
3. A brief research concept/proposal and work plan aligned with the project theme.
4. Performance at the interview.

Only shortlisted applicants will be invited for an interview.

Application Documents

Applicants should submit the following:

1. A cover letter/application addressed to the Principal Investigator.
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae (CV).
3. A brief research concept/proposal relevant to the project title, including a tentative work plan.
4. Certified true copies of academic certificates and transcripts (degree certificate and academic transcript are mandatory).
5. A one-page Statement of Purpose describing research interests, motivation, and career aspirations.
6. Copy of the National Identity Card.
7. Copies of research publications, conference abstracts, or other evidence of research experience (if available).

Original certificates must be produced at the interview and/or upon appointment.

Duration of Appointment

The appointment is for a period of **two (02) years**, subject to the regulations of Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka and the conditions of the research grant.

The selected candidate will be required to enter into an agreement with the Principal Investigator for the duration of the project. In the event of withdrawal before completion of the agreed contract period, the candidate may be required to reimburse the stipend received in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreement.

The successful candidate is expected to register for the **Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) degree within three months of appointment** and maintain satisfactory academic and research progress throughout the tenure of the project.

Stipend

A monthly stipend of **LKR 65,000** (all-inclusive) will be provided for a period of two years, subject to the payment regulations of Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka.

Application Submission

Interested candidates should submit the required documents via email on or before: **30 June 2026**

Email: Kolitha@uwu.ac.lk

Attention: Senior Professor Kolitha B. Wijesekara

Email Subject: *RA Application – UWU/RG/MPhil/2026/11*

All required documents should be submitted as scanned copies of certified true copies of the relevant documents in PDF format.

For further information regarding the research project, applicants may contact the Principal Investigator via the above email address.

Senior Professor Kolitha B. Wijesekara

Principal Investigator

Faculty of Technological Studies

Uva Wellassa University of Sri Lanka

Badulla, Sri Lanka