



UNIVERSITY of  
RWANDA

AFRICAN CENTER OF  
EXCELLENCE IN ENERGY FOR  
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Transforming Energy Access  
LEARNING PARTNERSHIP



## **Call for Applications for Professional Short Course: Mini-Grids Planning and Design for Rwanda**

**Organized by:** African Centre of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development (ACE-ESD), University of Rwanda – College of Science and Technology

The African Centre of Excellence in Energy for Sustainable Development (ACE-ESD) at the University of Rwanda is pleased to announce a professional short course designed specifically for the Rwandan context: **“Mini-Grids Planning and Design for Rwanda.”**

This practical-focused course provides comprehensive training in mini-grid development within Rwanda’s policy, regulatory, and technical landscape. Participants will gain hands-on skills in feasibility assessment, technical design, and project implementation, leveraging local expertise and real-world case studies from Rwanda’s energy sector.

### **Course Overview**

This course is tailored to equip participants with immediately applicable skills for planning, designing, and implementing mini-grid projects in Rwanda. Through a blend of seminars, software training, field exercises, and case studies, participants will learn to navigate Rwanda’s unique energy sector requirements and contribute effectively to the national electrification agenda.

### **Key Learning Outcomes**

Upon completion, participants will be able to:

- Navigate Rwanda’s mini-grid policy and regulatory framework.
- Conduct comprehensive feasibility studies and site assessments.
- Perform technical design and system optimization using industry-standard tools.
- Develop sustainable business models and financial plans for mini-grid projects.
- Manage project implementation, monitoring, and evaluation in line with national standards.

### **Who Should Apply?**

This course is designed for:

- Postgraduate students in energy-related fields.



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- Engineers and technical staff from Rwanda Energy Group (REG) and private energy developers.
- District Energy Officers and environmental officers.
- Energy project managers, consultants, and developers active in Rwanda.

## Course Structure & Delivery

The course is divided into four intensive seminars, totaling **54 hours** of training.

**Mode of Delivery:** Blended (physical sessions at ACE-ESD with practical field exercises)

**Duration:** 4 seminars spread over [indicate period, e.g., 4–6 weeks]

### *Seminar Outline:*

1. **Rwandan Policy & Regulatory Framework for Mini-Grids** (15 hours)  
*Lead Faculty: Dr. Geoffrey Gasore*  
Topics: SEIA process, national electrification policy, RURA licensing, contracting frameworks, and comparative African models.
2. **Feasibility Study & Technical Assessment** (15 hours)  
*Lead Faculty: Dr. Eustache Hakizimana & Dr. Geoffrey Gasore*  
Topics: Site selection using GIS, demand assessment, productive use of energy, and feasibility reporting.
3. **Technical Design & System Architecture** (15 hours)  
*Lead Faculty: Assoc. Prof. JMV Bikorimana*  
Topics: AC/DC systems, HOMER software training, protection systems, and design validation.
4. **Project Development & Implementation** (9 hours)  
*Lead Faculty: Dr. Jean de Dieu Hakizimana*  
Topics: Business models, financing, tariff setting, procurement, and M&E frameworks.

## Practical Training & Resources

- **Software Tools:** HOMER Pro, GIS applications, financial modeling software.
- **Field Exercises:** Site assessments, community engagement simulations, technical inspections.
- **Case Studies:** Nyagatare Solar Mini-Grid, Gisagara Hydro Mini-Grid, Rubavu Hybrid System.



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- **Guest Lecturers:** Experts from REG, RURA, REMA, BRD, and successful mini-grid developers.

## Assessment & Certification

Participants will be assessed through:

1. Individual feasibility study for a proposed mini-grid site.
2. Technical design project using HOMER software.
3. Business model and financial plan development.
4. Final integrated mini-grid development proposal.

**Certification:** Successful participants will receive a **Certificate of Completion** from the University of Rwanda – ACE-ESD.

## How to Apply

Interested applicants should submit:

1. A completed application form (available at [Insert Link]).
2. A brief statement of interest (max 300 words).
3. A current CV.

**Application Deadline:** 15 February 2026

Submit your application via email to:

[b.munyazikwiye@ur.ac.rw](mailto:b.munyazikwiye@ur.ac.rw)

and copy:

[ufiteyezuem@yahoo.fr](mailto:ufiteyezuem@yahoo.fr)

**Email Subject:** Application for Mini-Grids Planning and Design Course

## Contact Information

For inquiries, please contact:

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**Dr. Emmanuel Ufiteyezu**

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**Take the lead in Rwanda's energy future. Equip yourself with the skills to design and deploy sustainable mini-grid solutions.**

**Apply now!**