



Canadian International
Development
Scholarships 2030



In partnership with
Canada

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Project Overview

Canadian International Development Scholarships: 2030

WHAT IS THE PROJECT?

The *Master of Arts in Rural Development* program has inspired many international students to enroll in Brandon University. This is especially true for students from Ghana. Through long-standing connections with the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was created to promote long-term academic partnerships that build sustainable rural development through research and academic teaching.

Through collaborations between the Department of Rural Development and the Rural Development Institute, Brandon University was successfully granted scholarly funds through the Canadian International Development Scholarships: 2030 (BCDI: 2030). The \$448,271.78 scholarship project will be used to provide support for ten students from KNUST to attend Brandon University between 2024 and 2028. This exchange will allow selected students to gain theoretical and practical knowledge on Sustainable Rural Development. “This is a testament to our commitment to fostering global collaboration in rural development,” said Dr. Wilder Robles, Chair of the Department of Rural Development at BU and the Primary Investigator of this project. He also noted, “the connections forged through this project will enhance academic networks between Canada and Ghana, and will also contribute to the promotion of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in both countries.”

WHAT IS RDI'S ROLE IN THE PROJECT?

“We’re looking forward to further broadening our international footprint and opportunities here in Brandon will enrich the learning experience for both local and international students,” said Dr. Wayne Kelly, Director of BU’s Rural Development Institute and the Co Investigator of this project. “The research internships offered by RDI will offer valuable hands-on experience in applied research and policy development, bridging the gap between academic learning and real-world application.”

The internships at the research center will focus on Applied Research Design and Management, Community Based Research Realities, 21st Century Research Skills, and Knowledge Mobilization of Findings and Research Impacts. These trainings will help the students to learn different parts of research projects and combine practical experience with the academic learning from the MA RD at Brandon University.

WHY IS THIS PROJECT IMPORTANT?

Not only does this project allow for the exchange of knowledge and experiences between international partners, but it will continue to enhance the networks between students and faculty of rural development. As well, it is the intent that selected students will return to their home countries to apply their knowledge and insights to contribute to the socio-economic development of Ghana once their studies are complete.



With partners in communities, agencies, and among academics and students, RDI continues to initiate new outreach activities, research, and learning options. These partnerships also contribute to addressing rural development issues and responding to development opportunities. The Institute builds on a strong history of collaborative activities while enhancing resource capabilities and programming. As a leading source of information on rural areas, RDI continues to deliver new knowledge of rural issues and helps create opportunities for vibrant rural communities and regions.