

**PATUAKHALI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY
&
BANGLADESH AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY**

Call for Applications

2 PhD Scholarships Available under Work Package 2 & 3 (WP2 & WP3)

The Faculty of Fisheries and Faculty of Business Administration and Management of the Patuakhali Science and Technology University, Bangladesh in collaboration with the Faculty of Fisheries and Faculty of Agricultural Economics of Bangladesh Agricultural University and University of Copenhagen, Denmark hereby invites interested and qualified citizens of Bangladesh (holding MSc degree or equivalent) to submit applications for 2 PhD scholarships related to the Danida financed project ***“Upgrading pangas and tilapia value chains in Bangladesh (Bangfish)”***. Students will be enrolled at both the Patuakhali Science and Technology University & Bangladesh Agricultural University and University of Copenhagen, with a possibility of attaining a double degree.

The scholarships are of three years duration, and will commence on **1st October 2015** or soon after. The PhD scholars will be supervised by a joint team of senior academics from the Faculty of Business Administration and Management at PSTU and Faculty of Agricultural Economics at BAU and University of Copenhagen will be provided PhD level training in both university environments. The PhD study and research will be closely integrated and coordinated with all the other activities in the Bangfish project.

The overall purpose of Bangfish is to promote green growth in freshwater pangas and tilapia aquaculture in Bangladesh by providing knowledge on how to improve water quality, achieve better farm management and exploit the market potential for farmed fish by enhancing value chains functioning. The project involves detailed data collection at field trips visiting fish farmers and value chain actors in Bangladesh.

The 2 scholarships come with different requirements under 2 Work Packages (WP2 and WP3):

In WP-2

- The PhD scholarship entitled ***“Valuing quality and exploring export potentials of Bangladeshi pangas/tilapia”*** focuses on markets and the value of quality of pangas and tilapia all through the value chain, considering both the domestic value chain in Bangladesh and exploring the export potentials. The methodological foundation is international and environmental economics, economic valuation to identify the implicit price of quality of pangas/tilapia and regression analysis to identify price transmission and estimate demand.

In WP-3

- The PhD scholarship entitled ***“Comparative analysis of on-farm production performance of pangas and tilapia. Including water quality as an environmental performance parameter”*** focuses on improving the knowledge base on how water quality affects the economic performance of small and large scale pangas and tilapia farms in Bangladesh. The PhD include data collection of micro data on farm level for the purpose of analysing cost and benefits of introducing different water cleaning measures to pangas and tilapia farms taking into account the scale of operation and the farmer’s ability to implement the proposed water cleaning measures. The economic effects of internal farm measures to improve water quality related to input factor use should be examined and best practice should be established. Furthermore, the

influence of external factors, such as, general water quality, flooding, soil, temperature and spreading of diseases should also be examined. Finally, the existing policy provisions to regulate environmental externalities affecting farm production and productivity should be examined. Depended on the type and the effect of the externalities identified a recommendation on how existing regulation or new regulatory measures could improve pangas and tilapia in Bangladesh should be examined.

The aim is to use the results of the PhD scholarships to synthesize the multidisciplinary research results from the three work packages of the project on water quality, farm management and value chain functioning as a basis for upgrading pangas and tilapia value chains in and potentially out of Bangladesh.

Detailed descriptions of the aim, content, requirements, financial conditions, and application procedure for each of the 2 (two) PhD scholarships and the application procedure are posted on the PSTU homepage www.pstu.ac.bd (Professor Badiuzzaman), www.bau.edu.bd (Dr. Akhtaruzzaman Khan).

Deadline for application is 25 August 2015. Short-listed candidates will be invited to prepare a full research proposal, within each of the mandatory subjects, and to present this at skype interview on a further fixed date.

Patuakhali Science and Technology University

Faculty of Business Administration and Management

Description of PhD scholarship

Valuing quality and exploring export potentials of Bangladeshi pangas/tilapia

This PhD project focuses on improving our understanding of markets for pangas and tilapia in Bangladesh considering both the domestic value chain in Bangladesh and exploring the export potentials.

The PhD study, and hence the subject, research design and methods must be within the framework set out in work package 2 “Value chains and markets” of the Bangfish project proposal that this PhD scholarship forms part of, should include:

1. Exploration and identification of market levels and channels, price formation and transmission, actors through the value chains and price transmission of pangas and tilapia in Bangladesh.
2. Exploration of the export potential and demand for pangas and tilapia from Bangladesh at the world market and trade policies in potential buyer countries, on the basis of international economics.
3. Identification of economic values of the implicit price of quality of pangas/tilapia through the value chain in Bangladesh.

Applicant must have a strong master degree in economics, agricultural economics, marketing, MBA or social sciences, be applied and well-founded in quantitative economics and must be interested in the development of aquaculture in Bangladesh.

If selected for the scholarship, the applicant must be flexible and collaborating with the candidates for the other five PhD scholarships in the Bangfish project and adapt research approaches for mutual benefits and project coherence. All six PhD students in the Bangfish project must collect field data, must collaborate in data collection and share data.

Applications for the PhD scholarship must be completed using the Bangfish “PhD Application Form” posted on the PSTU homepage www.pstu.ac.bd (Prof. Badiuzzaman).

Deadline for application is 25 August 2015. Applications must be submitted per mail to the address bzaman_pstu@yahoo.com (Prof. Badiuzzaman), where you can also submit any queries you must have in relation to the application process.

General conditions for the scholarships:

1. The recipients of the PhD scholarships will be enrolled at Faculty of Business Administration and Management, Patuakhali Science and Technology University and at the Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, with a possibility of obtaining a double degree given that all requirements are met.
2. The PhD scholarship comes with an attractive salary and benefits package.
3. The PhD scholarship involves 6 month study stay at the University of Copenhagen, possible over two 3 month periods.
4. The recipients of scholarships are expected to commit full time to the PhD study for the entire three year period.

Bangladesh Agriculture University
Department of Agricultural Finance
Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology

Description of PhD scholarship
Comparative analysis of on-farm production performance of pangas and tilapia.
Including water quality as an environmental performance parameter

This PhD project focuses on improving the knowledge base on how water quality affects the economic performance of small and large scale pangas and tilapia farms in Bangladesh.

The PhD study, and hence the subject, research design and methods must be within the framework set out in work package 3 “Farm economics” of the Bangfish project proposal that this PhD scholarship forms part of, should include:

1. Examining cost and benefits of introducing different water cleaning measures to pangas and tilapia farms taking into account the scale of operation and the farmer’s ability to implement the proposed water cleaning measures.
2. Examining the economic effects of internal farm measures to improve water quality related to input factors and the economic effects of external factors, such as, general water quality, flooding, soil, temperature and spreading of diseases.
3. Exploration of existing policy provisions to regulate environmental externalities affecting farm production and productivity and depended on the type and the effect of the externalities recommend strengthening of existing regulation or implementation of new regulatory measures.

Applicant must have a strong master degree in economics, agricultural economics or social sciences, and must be interested in the development of aquaculture in Bangladesh.

If selected for the scholarship, the applicant must be flexible and collaborating with the candidates for the other five PhD scholarships in the Bangfish project and adapt research approaches for mutual benefits and project coherence. All six PhD students in the Bangfish project must collect field data, must collaborate in data collection and share data.

Applications for the PhD scholarship must be completed using the Bangfish “PhD Application Form” posted on the Bangladesh Agriculture University homepage www.bau.edu.bd (Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman Khan) .

Deadline for application is 25 August 2015. Applications must be submitted per mail to the address azkhan13@yahoo.com (Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman Khan), where you can also submit any queries you must have in relation to the application process.

General conditions for the scholarships:

1. The recipients of the PhD scholarships will be enrolled at the Department of Agricultural Finance, Bangladesh Agriculture University in Mymensingh and at the Department of Food and Resource Economics, University of Copenhagen, with a possibility of obtaining a double degree given that all requirements are met.
2. The PhD scholarship comes with an attractive salary and benefits package.
3. The PhD scholarship involves 6 month study stay at the University of Copenhagen, possible over two 3 month periods.
4. The recipients of scholarships are expected to commit full time to the PhD study for the entire three year period.

PhD Application Form

Applications must be received no later than

25 August 2015

Please read the instructions carefully before completing this application form. Only complete and signed application forms will be processed. The application must be sent per email to bzaman_pstu@yahoo.com (Prof. Badiuzzaman, PSTU) and azkhan13@yahoo.com (Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman Khan, BAU). The application email should have two pdf-format attachments; (1) the completed and signed application form in pdf-format and (2) all other supporting documents (see checklist under 'Part F') compiled into one pdf-file.

Introduction

This application form is for use for applications for PhD scholarships that are part of the research project "Upgrading pangas and tilapia value chains in Bangladesh" (Bangfish). Each scholarship is three-year full time with start around 1st October 2015. Enrolment will be at Patuakhali Science and Technology University, the Faculty of Business Administration and Management and the Faculty of Fisheries, and Bangladesh Agricultural University, Faculty of Agricultural Economics and Rural Sociology on the one hand and University of Copenhagen in Denmark on the other. Successful students can thus obtain a double degree.

Who can apply?

Only nationals of Bangladesh can apply. An MSc/MA degree must have been **completed** at the time of application in Bangladesh or abroad.

This application form consists of the following nine parts

- Part A Personal Details
- Part B Doctoral Study Synopsis
- Part C Academic Qualifications
- Part D Brief Curriculum Vitae
- Part E References
- Part F Checklist
- Part G Other Information
- Part H Declaration and Signature

How to complete this application form

- Please write in the indicated boxes. Respect all word limits
- All personal information should correspond with your certificates/passport, e.g. spelling of names
- All documents must either be originals or be certified copies
- Ensure that you complete the checklist, print out the form and sign the declaration on the last page
- All documents should be submitted in the same e-mail
- We recommend keeping photocopies of your application
- Do not include this front page when you submit your application
- Read the "Guidelines to completing the application form"
- Applications can only be submitted electronically

Please return this form and enclosures to this email address:

bzaman_pstu@yahoo.com (Prof. Badiuzzaman, PSTU) and azkhan13@yahoo.com (Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman Khan, BAU).

APPLICATION FORM

Part A Personal Details

Note – according to passport/official documents. Always supply two email addresses that you use.

First name(s)	
Family name	
Date of birth (dd/mm/yy)	
Nationality	
Sex (M, F)	
Residence address	
E-mail address	
Alternative E-mail address	

Part B Doctoral Study Synopsis (Max 1500 words excl. references, see Guidelines)

The number and working title below must correspond to those found in the call for applications. Attach the doctoral study synopsis as a separate document and name it "yourfirstname_yoursurname_synopsis.pdf", e.g. "Godwill_Segesela_synopsis.pdf"

Related to the announced research topic (number and title):

Part C Academic Qualifications

Second University Degree(s)

Type of Degree (MSc/MA)	
Full official name of university	
City and country of university	
Field (e.g. economy, biology, ecology)	
Year obtained	
Other academic qualifications, please list (e.g. BSc, BA)	
Result at masters level	Your score/GPA Max possible score Comments:

All applicants must include **certified copies of official transcripts**. Documents not in English should be accompanied by an official certified translation. Do NOT enclose high school or BSc/BA level transcripts. You must also **enclose an official explanation of the grading system**.

Part D Brief Curriculum Vitae (Education only from BSc/BA; study relevant employment only; list all your publications)

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Part E References

Please list the two academics you have asked to write a letter of recommendation for you. The letters are to be printed on letterhead and signed. We welcome references providing relevant information that cannot be found elsewhere in the application materials, and that contribute to understanding the applicant's abilities and suitability for doctoral studies.

Referees should directly email their recommendation in pdf version to bzaman_pstu@yahoo.com (Prof. Badiuzzaman, PSTU) and azkhan13@yahoo.com (Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman Khan, BAU) indicating name of the applicant.

First referee

Name	
Title	
Organisation	
Telephone	
E-mail address	

Second referee

Name	
Title	
Organisation	
Telephone	
E-mail address	

Part F Checklist

I have included the following documents in one pdf-file with my application:

☐	Certified copy of second university degree (MSc)
☐	Certified English translation of transcripts, if necessary
☐	Official explanation of grading system
☐	Doctoral study synopsis
☐	Clear copy of passport

Please explain if you did not provide the required information with this application.

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Part G Other information**Equal opportunities**

The project applies a policy of equal opportunities for people with special needs. Do you have any physical disability?

Yes:	No:	If yes, please specify
☐	☐	

Criminal record

Are you currently under any criminal charges?

Yes:	No:	If yes, please specify
☐	☐	

Part H Declaration & Signature

I declare that the information provided by me is correct and complete. I understand that incomplete information will delay the application process and I accept that incorrect information will render the application invalid.

I declare that I have not previously received a PhD fellowship for doctoral education.

Date (dd/mm/yy)	
City, Country	
Name of applicant	
Signature	

NOTE: This application, inclusive of attachments, will only be used for assessment purposes. Personal data is collected and used in accordance with Directive 95/46/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 24 October 1995 on "the protection of individuals with regard to the processing of personal data and on the free movement of such data".

Submitted material will not be returned.

Guidelines to complete the PhD Application Form

These guidelines provide directions on how to complete the PhD Application Form. They do not provide detailed comments on each part of the application form; these are seen as self-explanatory. Instead the guidelines explain how applications are assessed and thus what you should pay particular attention to when completing your application.

If you have any questions regarding the application, you can address them to bzaman_pstu@yahoo.com (Prof. Badiuzzaman, PSTU) and azkhan13@yahoo.com (Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman Khan, BAU).

How are applications assessed?

First, applications are screened for eligibility. You should make sure that your application is complete – pay particular attention to the items mentioned in Part F (Checklist) of the application form.

Eligible applications are then evaluated by the Assessment Committee consisting of a number of senior scholars. The evaluation categories are:

- Academic performance as indicated by (i) a very good second university degree; and (ii) documented research achievements, e.g. publications in international journals with peer review or other indicators of intellectual potential, e.g. relevant working experience in (international) organizations with very competitive selection processes (40%).
- Research synopsis that closely relates to one of the research topics announced by the "Upgrading pangas and tilapia value chains in Bangladesh (Bangfish) project and demonstrates insight and interest in the subject (40%).
- Recommendations from the two academic references (20%).

Each of the three categories is given a score from 1 (poor) to 5 (excellent); eligible applicants must not score 3 or lower in any category. All short-listed applicants must score at least 4 (very good) for their submitted research synopsis. The three categories are weighted 40%, 40% and 20%. Overall average score is used to rank all applicants.

The best applicants are short-listed and invited to develop full research proposals (in collaboration with their supervisors; contact to supervisors will be facilitated). Short-listed applicants are notified around 24 April 2015. Full applications are due **25 August 2015**. Short-listed applicants are invited for personal skype interview on a fixed date. We expect to offer contracts to around one-third of the short-listed applicants.

What should I pay particular attention to when preparing my application?

The evaluation criteria focus on your academic potential. Here is what we are looking for:

▪ *Convincing research synopsis*

Your doctoral study synopsis should be closely aligned with one of the announced research topics. You are free to use other titles than the working titles provided in the topic description but you must clearly specify the category and topic number you have chosen. Even though you have limited space, only 1500 words (excluding references), your synopsis should (i) be complete, i.e. include sufficient information to allow an evaluation, (ii) show that you have a good overview and understanding of the relevant literature and the key issues in the research topic field, (iii) contain research questions that you plan to answer, (iv) convince the Assessors that your choice of methods is sound, and (v) that you will be able to undertake the study, i.e. that you have the competences and a realistic work plan. End the synopsis by providing the word count (excl. references).

- *Convincing written work*

Make sure that any published work is clearly presented in your CV, in particular any peer-reviewed international journal papers. Also make sure that you list any theses, book chapters, etc.

- *Two strong recommendation letters*

Letters of recommendation are assessed for additional evidence of your academic achievements, interests, and personal motivation. The Assessment Committee will take into account the academic experience of the referee, as a scholar and as a supervisor of successful doctoral candidates. You should therefore strive to get letters of recommendations from strong academics.

- *Brief Curriculum Vitae*

This should show your high level of academic achievement and/or relevant non-academic experiences. Include a complete list of your publications.

- *Feed-back*

Make your peers and, if at all possible, other experienced people read and comment on your research synopsis before you submit it. Use feed-back to revise and improve the synopsis.

- *Consult research proposalwriting guidelines*

There are many good guides to how to write a convincing research proposal. Read some of these to get additional tips and inspiration on how to improve your proposal.

- *Format requirements*

Remember that you are only allowed to submit your application as one email with two attached phd-documents; (1) the completed and signed application form in pdf-format and (2) all other supporting documents (see checklist under 'Part F' in the 'PhD Application Form') compiled into one pdf-file.

Guidelines for short-listed candidates

Short-listed applicants must develop a full research project description. This note describes how this should be done and when. There are four key steps that may overlap in time: (i) establishment of contact between applicant and supervisors, (ii) development of the full research project description, (iii) submission of the final full project description, and (iv) discussion of the submitted description at personal interview.

Step 1: Contact between applicant and supervisors

You will receive an email with names and email addresses of your principal and co-supervisors. Your supervisors will read and comment upon your research proposal as part of the process of developing the full research project description.

Step 2: Development of the full research project description

You are responsible for the development of the full project description, i.e. the next version of the research synopsis you submitted with your original application. You will be assisted by your principal and co-supervisors. The final project description must contain information on:

1. Working title
2. Project background and justification
3. Objectives
4. Research questions
5. Methods
6. Risks and ethics of proposed research
7. Expected outcomes and time schedule (use Gantt chart)
8. List of references

You may find it useful to re-read the "Guidelines for completing the application form". Note that the final project description must contain no more than 3,000 words (exclusive of item 8). Specify the number of words used at the end of the project description. Do not exceed the word limit.

Step 3: Submission of the full research project description

The principal supervisor can terminate the process of developing the full research project description if s/he finds that progress and/or quality is not satisfactory. All supervisors are expected, as part of the process of short-listed applicants' development of full proposals, to interview their applicant, either personally or using Skype or similar means, and inter alia use this to write and submit a short note on their evaluation of the applicant for use by the assessment committee that will interview the applicant.

The applicant is responsible for submitting the full project description via email attachments to bzaman_pstu@yahoo.com (Prof. Badiuzzaman, PSTU) and azkhan13@yahoo.com (Dr. Md. Akhtaruzzaman Khan, BAU) must not be larger than 12MB in total.

Step 4: Discussion of full research project description at personal interview

All short-listed applicants, whose full applications are submitted by the deadline, will present their full research project proposal before an assessment committee, consisting of senior university faculty. Each applicant must prepare an oral project presentation lasting no more than 15 minutes. It should start by giving a brief introduction to the interviewee. We expect that half of the short-listed applicants will be offered a fellowship.

Interviews will take place in skype meeting, exact time and place will be announced in due time before the interview.