

Faculty Member Contact Information

Name	Mary Macharia, PhD
Contact Info	
SIUE Email	mmachar@siue.edu
Campus Box	1106
Department	CMIS

1 Unfunded URCA Assistant(s)

Are you willing to work with students from outside of your discipline? If yes, which other disciplines?

- Yes

How many hours per week will your student(s) be required to work in this position?
(Minimum is 6 hours per week; typical is 9)

- 6

Will it be possible for your student(s) to earn course credit?

- No

Location of research/creative activities:

- Mostly online

Brief description of the nature of the research/creative activity?

- The overarching goal of the project is to mobilize knowledge between US and Canadian researchers and Kenyan tech educators to generate insights based on the evidence, and to co-create a gender-sensitive technology training curriculum that will improve education and employment outcomes for rural youth in Kenya. The project responds to the Connection Grant's objective to facilitate exchange on critical research issues
- We are organizing a three-week coding and Artificial Intelligence (AI) bootcamp for 25 young women from rural Kenya, with the aim to address gaps in understanding effective pedagogical approaches for similar contexts and demographics.

Brief description of student responsibilities?

- To assist in research towards developing a gender-sensitive (inclusive) curriculum for information technology (software development, cyber security, data analytics, ...) training; collate gender-sensitive IT/IS training models.
- To assist in research on inclusive AI training materials; collate materials applied to build the capacity of marginalized / disadvantaged students to develop AI tools.

URCA Assistant positions are designed to provide students with *research or creative activities* experience. As such, there should be measurable, appropriate outcome goals. What exactly should your student(s) have learned by the end of this experience?

- At the end of the experience, the student will have
 - learned how to conduct a literature review and synthesize literature
 - learned or improved their academic writing skills
 - learned or improved on their knowledge of AI
 - connected with international students and thereby learned how to interact with people from a different culture

Requirements of Students

If the position(s) require students to be available at certain times each week (as opposed to them being able to set their own hours) please indicate all required days and times:

- I require students to be available on an agreed weekday for 2 hours every week for update meetings.

If the location of the research/creative activities involves off campus work, must students provide their own transportation?

- The work will be virtual/online therefore students do not necessarily need transport.

Must students have taken any prerequisite classes? Please list classes and preferred grades:

- Students who have taken CMIS 342 and have earned at least a C are encouraged to apply.
- Interest in learning about other countries and culture, and interest in IT and specifically AI is required..

Other requirements or notes to applicants:

- The project focuses on a gender-based approach to teaching IT skills, therefore an interest in gender issues will also be preferred.