



ACE II

Eastern and Southern Africa
Higher Education Centers of Excellence Project



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**Addis Ababa University
Addis Ababa Institute of Technology
African Railway Center of Excellence (ARCE)**

**MSc and PhD in Railway Engineering
Scholarship Announcement for 2026 Entry**

Application Deadline: 31st of December 2025

Objectives of the Program

The African Railway Center of Excellence (ARCE) serves as a sustainable regional hub for advanced training and research in Railway Engineering and Management. ARCE strengthens the professional landscape of the railway sector through short-term training programs, as well as MSc and PhD-level education and research initiatives delivered in Ethiopia and the wider region.

In line with this mission, ARCE is pleased to announce scholarship opportunities for citizens of African countries to pursue MSc and PhD studies in the following fields for the 2026 entry.

- MSc Railway Engineering (Traction and Train Control)
- MSc Railway Engineering (Civil Infrastructure)
- MSc Railway Engineering (Rolling Stock)
- PhD Railway Engineering and Management (Traction and Train Control Engineering)
- PhD Railway Engineering and management (Rolling stock Engineering)
- PhD Railway Engineering and Management (Civil Infrastructure Engineering)
- PhD Railway Engineering and Management (Railway System Management)

Eligible Applicants

Applicants must:

1. Be citizens of an African country.
2. Hold a Bachelor's degree for admission to the Master's program, and an MSc degree for admission to the PhD program.
3. Submit a personal statement or motivation letter describing their interest in joining the program.
4. Provide at least one letter of recommendation from an academic advisor or supervisor at a previous educational institution.
5. Submit an official certificate confirming English as the medium of instruction for their previous degree (required for regional applicants only).

Female candidates and candidates from underprivileged regions or groups as well as candidates with disabilities are especially encouraged to apply.

Eligible Fields

- **MSc in Railway Engineering (Civil Infrastructure)**
Applicants should hold academic qualifications in engineering fields strongly related to Civil Engineering. Candidates from other disciplines with clear relevance to Civil Infrastructure or Railway Engineering may also be considered.
- **MSc in Railway Engineering (Rolling Stock)**
Applicants should possess a background in engineering disciplines aligned with Mechanical Engineering. Relevant fields include Mechanical Design, Industrial Engineering, Thermal Engineering, Electromechanical Engineering, or other related areas that demonstrate applicability to Rolling Stock or Railway Engineering.
- **MSc in Railway Engineering (Traction and Train Control)**
Applicants are expected to have academic training in engineering fields related to Electrical Engineering. Suitable backgrounds include Electronic and Communication Engineering, Power Engineering, Industrial Control Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Microelectronics Engineering, or other disciplines with relevance to Traction Systems, Train Control, or Railway Engineering.
- **PhD in Railway Engineering and Management (Civil Infrastructure Engineering)**
This program is open to applicants with strong academic backgrounds in Civil Engineering or other engineering fields demonstrating direct relevance to Civil Infrastructure or Railway Engineering.
- **PhD in Railway Engineering and Management (Rolling Stock Engineering)**
Applicants should hold academic qualifications in engineering disciplines with strong relevance to Mechanical Engineering. Suitable backgrounds include Mechanical Design, Industrial Engineering, Thermal Engineering, Electromechanical Engineering, or other

closely related fields that demonstrate clear applicability to Rolling Stock or Railway Engineering.

- **PhD in Railway Engineering and Management (Traction and Train Control Engineering)**

Applicants are expected to have an academic background in engineering fields aligned with Electrical Engineering. This includes Electronic and Communication Engineering, Power Engineering, Industrial Control Engineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Microelectronics Engineering, or other related disciplines with demonstrated relevance to Traction Systems, Train Control, or Railway Engineering.

- **PhD in Railway Engineering and Management (Railway System Management)**

This specialization is open to applicants with qualifications in Construction Management, Railway Systems Engineering, Asset Management, Industrial Engineering, or other fields that contribute to systems-oriented approaches within the railway sector.

Place of Study

Addis Ababa University (AAU), College of Technology and Built Environment (CTBE), African Railway Center of Excellence (ARCE), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Duration and Commencement

Study period for master's Students is two academic years, while the PhD study period is four years only. The scholarship will be initially granted for one semester and extend for those who completed the first semester successfully.

Application Procedure

The applicants should submit their document in a single PDF file through the application form link. The application file name must be [**Applicant First Name_Study level_Name Field. Pdf**]. For example, if John wanted to apply for PhD in Railway Engineering (Rolling Stock), the document should be named as Jhon_PhD_Rollingstock.pdf and application only be complete if the following documents are submitted.

1. Filled *ARCE 2026 Entry Scholarship form*

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScDRZKG3HanQrMpWR9NnmZvJ8IVdt16T8M5HGCE-gKOHqUoMQ/viewform?usp=dialog>



2. Signed curriculum vitae scanned in PDF; please use the Europass CV template (<http://europass.cedefop.europa.eu>)
3. Scanned copies of all University Degree certificate
4. Scanned copy of passport (Regional Student Only)
5. Scanned copies of all University Transcripts
6. Letter of motivation (Maximum 2 pages)
7. Academic reference from senior lecturer and proof of employment if applicable (scanned copy)
8. English language certificate for regional applicants
9. All the documents listed above should be scanned in a single PDF document.
10. Separately submitted documents will be considered as incomplete application.

Scholarship Type

- Type A. Full Scholarship only for regional Applicants: Covers monthly stipend (USD 400 for MSc students), tuition fee, health insurance and transportation cost.
- Type B. Half Scholarship only for national competent Female Applicants: Covers monthly stipend USD 200 for MSc) and tuition fee.
- Type C. for outstanding national students: Covers tuition fee only.
- Type D. Institution or Self-Sponsored Students: the institution or the student are expected to cover all the expenses.
- Selected candidates should cover authentication fee, registration fee, application fee, visa fee, resident permit fee and local transportation.
- Stipend payment will be effective only after applicant has been admitted by Addis Ababa University.

Application Schedule

No.	Activities	Deadline
1.	Deadline of application	31 st of Dec 2025
2.	Announcement for shortlisted candidates	5 st of Jan 2026
3.	National students written exam	10 th of Jan 2026
4.	Interview of regional students	10 th of Jan 2026
5.	Final selected student announcement	15 th of Jan 2026
6.	Registration at Addis Ababa University (for selected candidates) – applicants should fulfill additional requirements expected by university registrar which includes GAT pass mark, official transcripts, authenticated documents for regional students and cost sharing clearance certificate for national students	3 rd Feb 2026
7.	Class begins	9 th Feb 2026

Contact

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