Report on the APhRICA 2025-2027 selection of participants

The call for the selection of the 2nd cohort (2025-207) of participants in the APhRICA training programme was open online until August 31st, 2025 (see figure on the right).

124 applications were received with the following distributions:

- 65% MSc students, 20% PhD students, and 15% Faculty;
- 85% from physics departments and the rest from chemistry, mathematics, materials science, biochemistry / nanomedicine, geophysics, biomedical and information engineering.

The MSc and PhD students from 22 universities in Kenya[1], 2 in Tanzania[2] and 1 in Uganda[3] were invited to take a written test in 8 different test centers[4]. The support from colleagues in the different locations who invigilated the examination is highly appreciated. The written test took place in the same day in all the test centers in Kenya and Uganda. Due to the local instabilities, a different date had to be chosen in Tanzania. A dedicated online (moodle) platform was used to upload the exercises.

The written test was followed by an online oral interview for the shortlisted students.
Both the written examination and the oral interview focused on basic mathematics topics (BSc level), identified as prerequisites to fruitfully attend the training programme. The topics had been communicated to students in advance, along with an appropriate selection of reading material.

Finally, 6 students and 4 faculty have been invited to participate in the 2025-2027 APhRICA training programme. They will join the EAIFR MSc students in Kigali, Rwanda, in December (and in March) to attend an introductory course on quantum mechanics. They will all then attend a school in Nairobi in July 2026.
In parallel, at the same dates and locations, the 1st cohort APhRICA participants will complete their training on computational quantum many-body physics.

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1 Kibabii University, Moi University, University of Eldoret, Turkana University College, University of Embu, Tom Mboya University, Kabarak University, Kaimosi Friends University, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Pwani University, Maseno University, Kisii University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Maseno University, South Eastern Kenya University, Machakos University, Meru University of Science and Technology, Kenyatta University, University of Nairobi, Technical University of Kenya, Egerton University, Masaai Mara University

2 Nelson Mandela African Institution of Science and Technology, University of Dodoma

3 Makerere University

4 Nairobi, Mombasa, Nakuru, Eldoret, Kisumu, Kakamega, Kampala, and Arusha