



115TH BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

BOR RESOLUTION NO. 96-B

Series of 2024

APPROVING THE STUDY LEAVE WITH PAY OF HEREMEROSE E. MATUTES, EFFECTIVE AUGUST 2024 AT THE GHENT UNIVERSITY, BELGIUM TO PURSUE DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOSCIENCE ENGINEERING UNDER SCHLUMBERGER FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FOR FUTURE FELLOWSHIP GRANT AND FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT TO SIGN THE SCHOLARSHIP CONTRACT

Whereas, the VSFC-AS endorses for approval by the Governing Board, among others, the scholarship of Ms. Heremerose E. Matutes, faculty member of VSU Alangalang;

Whereas, Ms. Matutes will be pursuing the degree PhD in Bioscience Engineering with Specialization in Aquatic Ecology at Ghent University, Belgium under Schlumberger Foundation Scholarship for Future Fellowship Grant;

Whereas, the scholarship contract that outlines the terms and conditions of the scholarship grant under which the involved parties have agreed are crafted to help protect the faculty-recipient and the University;


Whereas, the Scholarship Committee endorsement and the scholarship contract were presented to the University Administrative Council on May 23, 2024, and obtained favourable endorsement;


Now, therefore, on motion, duly seconded, and unanimously approved, be it;

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Board of Regents of Visayas State University approves the study leave with pay of Heremerose E. Matutes, effective August 2024 at the Ghent University, Belgium to pursue Doctor of Philosophy In Bioscience Engineering under Schlumberger Foundation Scholarship for Future Fellowship Grant and further authorizing the university president to sign the scholarship contract.

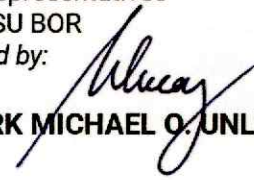
IN WITNESS of our approval thereof, we hereby affix our signatures this 7th day of June 2024 at VSU, Baybay City, Philippines.

VSU BOARD OF REGENTS


HON. ETHEL AGNES P. VALENZUELA
CHED Commissioner and Chairperson
VSU-Board of Regents



HON. PROSE IVY G. YEPES
VSU President, Vice Chairperson
VSU-Board of Regents

HON. ALLAN PETER S. CAYETANO
Chairperson, Senate Committee on Higher,
Technical and Vocational Education
Member, VSU BOR
Represented by:


HON. MARK O. GO
Chair, Committee on Higher & Technical Education
House of Representatives
Member, VSU BOR
Represented by: 


HON. BERNADETTE REMALLA-MAYBITUIN

HON. MARK MICHAEL O. UNLU-CAY


HON. MEYLENE C. ROSALES
Regional Director, National Economic and
Development Authority Regional Office VIII
Member, VSU BOR

HON. ANDREW RODOLFO T. ORAIS
Regional Executive Director, Department of
Agriculture-RO8
Member, VSU BOR

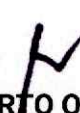

HON. ERNESTO F. BULAYOG
Faculty Regent - VSU System Faculty Union of
Baybay Leyte
Member, VSU BOR


HON. OSCAR B. POSAS
President, VSU Federated Alumni Association
Member, VSU BOR


HON. SHAINA MAE F. LACABA
Student Regent - VSU Student Council Federation
Member, VSU BOR

Private Sector Representatives:


HON. ALAN CHARLES J. VELOSO
Member, VSU BOR
Villaba, Leyte


HON. RUPERTO O. APPARRI, III
Member, VSU BOR
Tacloban City, Leyte



**ACADEMIC STAFF
RECOMMENDED FOR TRAVEL ABROAD TO PURSUE PhD DEGREE**
per VSFC-AS Res. No. 259
dated May 20, 2024

Dept.	Name	Position	Date of Study Leave
VSU Alangalang	Ms. Heremerose E. Matutes	Assistant Professor II	August 2024 to July 31, 2027

Submitted by:

ROTACIO S. GRAVOSO

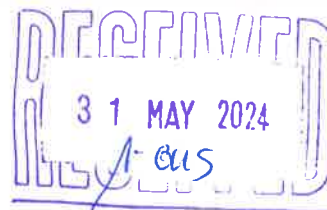
Vice President for Academic affairs &
Chairperson of VSFC-AS

Recommending approval:

PROSE IVY G. YEPES
University President

NOTE:

Ms. Heremerose E. Matutes, Assistant Professor II of VSU Alangalang, was approved to go on study leave with pay to pursue PhD in Bioscience Engineering with a specialization in Aquatic Ecology at Ghent University, Belgium effective August 2024 under the Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for Future Fellowship grant. Hence, this request for approval to travel abroad and issuance of authority to travel.





Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Reference No.: SUC 2024-05-831

27 May 2024

PROSE IVY G. YEPES, EdD

University President
Visayas State University
Baybay City, Leyte

Dear **Dr. Yepes:**

This is with reference to the foreign travel of **Mrs. Heremerose E. Matutes** to pursue PhD in Bioscience Engineering with Specialization in Aquatic Ecology at Ghent University from 01 October 2024 to 31 October 2025 in Belgium, which was submitted to this office for assessment pursuant to the Memorandum from the Commission dated 24 July 2018 titled "Guidelines for Securing Authority to Travel Abroad for State Universities and Colleges."

Upon evaluation, we deem that the PhD studies of Mrs. Heremerose E. Matutes at Ghent University is legitimate since the organizing institution is duly recognized higher education institution in Belgium. We note that Ms. Palen was awarded with the Schlumberger Foundation Scholarship and it is fully funded by the organizing institution.

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 77, s. 2019, it is recommended that the appropriate travel authority be issued subject to compliance with pertinent rules and regulations of CHED, CSC and the SUC's Board of Trustees/Regents. Likewise, please advise the scholar to present themselves to the Philippine Embassy immediately upon arrival in the host country. Lastly, may we request VSU to accomplish the form for Filipino Students and Staff Deployed Abroad at <https://bit.ly/outboundmonitoringform> for monitoring purposes.

Kindly note that the assessment stated herein refers only to the legitimacy of the activity. We would like to clarify that the Board of Trustees/Regents of your school reserves the right to approve attendance in such activity upon submission of recommendation and certification from the OVPA/SUC Director for international affairs that the activity is connected to the institution's Strategic Internationalization Plan and endorsement from the SUC President to the BOR.

Verification of release and approval may be checked at <https://bit.ly/SUCstogo>.

Under the authority of IAS Director:

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS SERVICE

Commission on Higher Education
55 HEDC BLDG. C.P. Garcia Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City
+63 2 8441-0750



21 May 2024

Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III, DPA

Chairman, Commission on Higher Education
Higher Education Development Center Building,
C.P. Garcia Ave, Diliman, Quezon City

Thru: **ATTY. LILY FREIDA M. MILLA, CESO IV**
Director III
International Affairs Staff

Dear **Dr. De Vera**:

Greetings!

Please find the attached documents for the international travel of Mrs. Heremerose E. Matutes, Instructor I of VSU-Alangalang, to go on study leave with pay only since she was Awarded by the Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowship to pursue PhD in Bioscience Engineering with a specialization in Aquatic Ecology at the Ghent University effective August 2024 for your appropriate action.

Attached herewith are the pertinent documents to support their request.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

PROSE IVY G. YEPES, EdD.
President

Annex B

IAS Form No. 15

Evaluation Form for the Necessity of Foreign Travel for State Universities and Colleges

Title of Travel: To go on study leave with pay to pursue PhD in Bioscience Engineering with a specialization in Aquatic Ecology at Ghent University in Belgium

Attendee/s & Age: Heremerose E. Matutes, 41

Date of Last Travel: November 24, 2023

INDICATORS	CONSIDERATIONS	REMARKS
<i>Memorandum Circular No. 35, s. 2017 (Office of the President of the Philippines)</i>		
1. The purpose of the trip is strictly within the mandate of the requesting official of employee.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complied <input type="checkbox"/> Not Complied
2. The trip is expected to bring substantial benefit to the country.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
3. The trip's projected expenses are not excessive and in accordance with EO 298 "Amending Further Executive Order No. 248 Dated May 29, 1995 as Amended by Executive Order No. 248-A Dated August 14, 1995, Which Prescribes Rules and Regulations and New Rates of Allowances for Official Local and Foreign Travels of Government Personnel", Section 8 of EO 298 on UNDP Index and Chapter 5 "Travel Expenses" of the "Training Handbook on Government Expenditures" (2011).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complied <input type="checkbox"/> Not Complied Total amount of expenses: University tuition and bench fees, accommodation costs, living allowance, visa fees, flight to the host country, professional travel, and conferences for the entire duration of the program will be covered by the Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Grant/Fellowship
4. Source of funding (in accordance with the ff. issuances: -EO No. 248 dated May 29, 1995, as amended by EO 248-A dated August 14, 1995, and EO 298 dated March 23, 2004, prescribing rules and regulations and new rates of allowances for official local and foreign travels of government personnel" -Memorandum Circular No. 35 s. 2017, Clarifying and Reinforcing Existing Rules and Regulations on Foreign Travel Authorities, Travel Entitlements, and Travel Tax Exemptions, which require the approval	Source <input type="checkbox"/> Internal <input type="checkbox"/> Project Grant Provisions <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Meals <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accommodation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Incidental Expenses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-departure Expenses <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Registration/ Participation Fee	<i>Remarks: All expenses to be shouldered by the Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Grant/Fellowship.</i>

Evaluation Criteria or Benchmarks (Memorandum from the CHED OIC, March 5, 2018)

5. Rationale as institutional strategy	<p>Internationalization Dimensions Fulfilled by the Activity:</p> <p>Internationalization Engagement: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Articulated Institutional Commitment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Relations and Reputation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Visibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Intelligence and Internationalization Awareness/ Diversity <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Quality Assurance <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Strategies and Policy Development</p>	<p>Cite specific relation to institutional strategy: The university's vision to be globally competitive requires faculty members to possess advanced training and education which can be obtained by pursuing advanced degrees at local or international academic institutions.</p>
	<p>Learning and Discovery: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Experience (Staff) <input type="checkbox"/> International Experience (Students) <input type="checkbox"/> Digital and Global Citizenship <input type="checkbox"/> Internationalized and Industry-based Curriculum <input type="checkbox"/> Non-conventional Instructional Delivery <input type="checkbox"/> Organizational Strategies and Policy Development</p>	<p>Pursuing advanced degrees in a renowned institution abroad will significantly increase our faculty's chances of gaining expertise and higher-level analytical skills in their specific areas of study. Moreover, it will contribute to the enhancement of our curriculum and the effectiveness of our academic programs, as well as advance the faculty's research capabilities.</p>
	<p>Innovation, Collaboration and Resource Generation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Stakeholder Engagement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Special Program/ Project <input type="checkbox"/> External Resource Generation</p>	<p>Meet possible collaborators and forged linkages</p>
6. Value of the travel or mission	<p>International Commitment: <input type="checkbox"/> is a member-institution <input type="checkbox"/> is signatory <input type="checkbox"/> is part of the negotiation or agreements</p> <p>Nature of Sponsoring or Inviting Body: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Organization <input type="checkbox"/> Academic Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Professional Institution <input type="checkbox"/> Research Institute <input type="checkbox"/> Government Entity Conference/ Training duly accredited by Accrediting Organization/Agency Recognized by Home Government <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Activities/topics to be discussed in the conference/meeting is in consonance with the thrust of SUC <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>	<p>Details of the agreement/commitment:</p> <p>Date signed: August, 2024 Parties: Schlumberger Foundation Stichting Fund, Parkstraat 83-89, 2514 JG The Hague, The Netherlands Programs covered: All study expenses Obligations: To study full time in Ghent University Belgium and render service in the country after graduation.</p>



31 May 2024

Dr. Judith B. Jomadiao
Chancellor of Alangalang Campus
Alangalang, Leyte

Dear **Dr. Jomadiao:**


This is in connection with the recommendation of the VSU Alangalang Personnel Committee for **Ms. Heremerose E. Matutes**, Instructor I of VSU-Alangalang, to go on study leave with pay only since she was Awarded by the Schlumberger Foundation Faculty for the Future Fellowship to pursue PhD in Bioscience Engineering with a specialization in Aquatic Ecology at the Ghent University effective August 2024.

Quoted hereunder is the action of the VSU Scholarship/Fellowship Committee for Academic Staff thru its meeting dated May 20, 2024 which was approved by the University President.

VSFC-AS Res. No. 259
Series of 2024

Action: Recommending approval for Ms. Heremerose E. Matutes to go on study leave with pay under Financial Assistance Grant, subject to IAS and BOR approval.

Certified True and Correct:


MA. FEL L. GAYANILO
VSFC-AS, Secretary

cc: **Ms. Heremerose E. Matutes**
LDHRAO Files



ENDORSEMENT

April 17, 2023

DR. PROSE IVY G. YEPES
University President

Through

DR. BEATRIZ S. BELONIAS
VP for Academic Affairs /Chairman, APB

Sir/Madam:

This is to endorse letter of **Mrs. Heremerose E. Matutes**, Instructor I, from Department of Environmental Sciences of VSU-Alangalang. She is admitted in Ghent University, Ghent Belgium for Ph.D. in Bioscience Engineering with specialization in Aquatic Ecology. In line with this, she is applying for a Financial Assistance grant from the university on study leave status effective August, 2024.

Attached to this endorsement

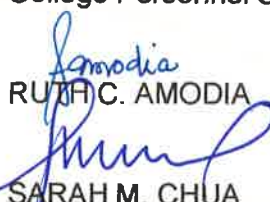
- a. Letter Request for Study Leave
- b. Letter of Admission
- c. Ph.D. Workplan and Timeline

Mrs. Matutes is scheduled to pursue her graduate studies per approved Faculty Dev. Plan of the college, year 2021.

Recommending approval.

Very truly yours,

College Personnel Selection Board


RUTH C. AMODIA


GONZALO EDMUND V. GARIANDO


SARAH M. CHUA


REYNALDO P. PEJA, JR.


SONIA L. PEDROSA

Noted


JUDITH B. JOMADIO
VSUA Chancellor/Chairman CPSC



RECOMMENDING APPROVAL:



ROSA LIDIA GARCIA

BEATRIZ S. BELONIAS

VP for Academic Affairs /Chairman, APB

APPROVED:


PROSE IVY G. YEPES

University President, 

APPROVED:
AS PER USFG-RS RESOLUTION/REFERENDUM NO. 259
DATED 5/20/24



11 April 2024

DR. JUDITH B. JOMADIAO

Chancellor

Visayas State University – Alangalang Campus

Binongtoan, Alangalang, Leyte

Attention: Scholarship Committee

Visayas State University – Alangalang Campus

Dear *Dr., Jomadio*:

Greetings!

I would like to express my interest in pursuing a doctorate in line with my field of expertise for the First Semester AY: 2024-2025. I am admitted to Ghent University, Gent, Belgium, with PhD in Bioscience Engineering with a specialization in Aquatic Ecology, which commences in September 2024. The duration of this PhD program is four years. Recently, I received a Schlumberger Faculty for the Future Fellowship award, which covers my educational expenses at Ghent University. The degree program to which I applied was PhD in Applied Biological Sciences under the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering; however, recently, the name of the degree changed as the name of the faculty is now called Bioscience Engineering, which was formerly Faculty of Applied Biological Sciences, to complement the faculty name. According to my professor and the administration of Ghent University, the program's goal, mission, and objectives are still the same as the previous; only the name of the faculty and degree title have changed. The Faculty of Bioscience Engineering at Ghent University is a leading European research university in applied biological and life sciences or bioengineering (see website <https://www.ugent.be/bw/en/faculty>). Moreover, the faculty educates generations of scientists in leading-edge research and high-impact work with governments, communities, industry, and NGOs to support innovation and sustainability in life sciences while managing and protecting natural and man-made ecosystems. This implies that according to the definition of Ghent University, bioengineering is synonymous with applied biological and life sciences.

Under the Faculty of Bioscience Engineering, I will be working in the Aquatic Ecology Research Unit under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Peter Goethals, who has a PhD in Applied Biological Sciences. The vision of the Research Group Aquatic Ecology is focused on the improved management of water systems through innovative monitoring, modelling, and assessment methods. The research group has also been assisting in developing assessment indices and protocols for several freshwater ecosystems in Belgium and tropical countries. Determining and modelling the effects of environmental disturbances on aquatic ecosystems have been part of their research from the start. Furthermore, the research group has been developing tools to assist stakeholders in the decision-making for the management of these ecosystems (<https://www.ugent.be/bw/asae/en/research/aeco>).

Most importantly, my PhD research topic (i.e., basically my whole PhD programme) is about investigating and predicting the combined effects of extreme weather events (e.g., drought and flood) brought by climate change and land degradation on macroinvertebrate communities, their functional traits, and food web ecology in the tropical peatlands of Leyte Island, Philippines. The study will specifically assess the effects of these disturbances on the composition, diversity, and abundance of macroinvertebrates (including those that are vectors of diseases), the functional traits of species, and how these relate to energy sources in the peatlands and carbon sequestration and depletion. The study will also develop a Bayesian Belief Network Model simulating and quantifying (in terms of probabilities) the effect of extreme weather events and land degradation on the macroinvertebrate community composition, trait diversity, and food web interactions. The results of this study will be useful for

management strategies and policymaking. This will also help identify which organisms are more vulnerable to environmental and climate changes and need more protection. Important to note that the PhD programme is mainly based on the generation of a PhD dissertation, which gives evidence of the researcher's ability to generate scientific knowledge based on independent scientific research, and, the doctoral dissertation should be able to lead to scientific publications. In summary, my PhD study aligns with the Applied Biological Sciences and the strategic plan of the Alangalang campus and the Department of Environmental Science.

The Schlumberger Faculty for the Future Grant will cover university tuition and bench fees, accommodation costs, living allowance, visa fees, flight to the host country, professional travel, and conferences. In line with this, I would like to request financial assistance from VSU in the form of study leave with pay starting August 2024 for the whole duration of the PhD program. As a faculty member, my primary goal is to enhance my teaching skills and research capabilities to contribute to VSU's vision and mission. Pursuing a PhD at Ghent University would allow me to deepen my understanding of biology and its allied fields and equip me with the necessary skills to significantly impact our institution and address pressing environmental challenges in our region. Upon my return, I envision leveraging my expertise and knowledge gained to contribute to ongoing efforts in environmental conservation and sustainable development. Attached is my admission letter from Ghent University, a workplan and timeline of my PhD research certified by my supervisor, and a fellowship award from the Schlumberger Foundation.

I am hoping that the scholarship committee will warrant my request.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely yours,


HEREMROSE E. MATUTES
Instructor, Dept. of Environmental Science

Visayas State University-Alangalang

HRMO

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Date:  4/15/24



VISAYAS
STATE UNIVERSITY
ALANGALANG

DEPARTMENT OF
**ENVIRONMENTAL
SCIENCE**

RE-ENTRY ACTION PLAN (REAP) FOR DEGREE PROGRAM

Name	Heremerose E. Matutes
Degree Program and Specialization to Pursue	PhD in Bioscience Engineering with specialization in Aquatic Ecology
Name and Address of SHEI	Visayas State University-Alangalang Binongtoan, Alangalang, Leyte
Type of Grant Applied For	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Master's <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doctorate <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thesis or Dissertation Grant
Name and Address of Prospective Delivery Higher Education Institution (DHEI)	Ghent University Department of Animal Sciences and Aquatic Ecology BW22, Coupure Links 653, geb. F 9000 Gent Belgium

Time frame	September 2024 – September 2028
Designation/Status	Faculty/Instructor I
Context	Pursuing an advanced degree would be of great advantage to our university for the effective delivery of higher education instruction in our region and in terms of improving the faculty's research, extension, and innovation competencies. Moreover, it will capacitate the faculty to conduct advanced research to be at par with other high-ranking universities abroad.
Objectives	The PhD aims to contribute to the long-term vision of the Philippine Development Plan, particularly in improving the instruction and research capabilities of Higher Education Institutions in the Philippines. As soon as I become a PhD holder, I intend to help the university further engage in the national and international endeavor of sustainable development.
Outcomes	Upon completing my PhD and as a tenured faculty member of VSU, I am obliged to come back and render services by conducting research, development, extension, and innovation. With the advanced research skills, analytical skills, problem-solving abilities, and project management experience I gained

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

Visayas State University-Alangalang
Brgy. Binongtoan, Aalangalang, Leyte
Email: alangalang@vsu.edu.ph
Website: www.vsu.edu.ph
Phone: +63 53 565 0600 Local 1098


	<p>from my PhD, I can contribute to advancing the instruction and research capabilities of the institution. Upon my return, I will lead the crafting of new curricular programs to increase the number of students on our campus. I will be instrumental in improving the lecture materials and laboratory manuals so that students will also advance their analytical and critical thinking skills to tackle pressing environmental issues. It is also expected that I will lead the crafting of research proposals for the department and serve as a bridge in establishing partnerships with Ghent University and VSU so that we can advance our research. Ghent University will guide us in crafting research proposals that can obtain international funding so that our department can acquire research facilities and conduct research at par with other high-ranking universities in the Philippines and abroad. Through the established collaboration with Ghent University, we may be able to increase our visibility in the global scientific world and forge a MOA for the faculty and student exchange mobility program. Our department will also continue to develop our linkages with other government and non-government agencies, other academe, and local stakeholders to conduct various community outreach programs. I will also become a consultant to other agencies and sectors if they need my expertise in solving environmental problems. I will also conduct various capacity-building workshops and a trainer-trainee strategy for environmental citizen-science research so that citizens will become stewards of their resources and know how to manage them sustainably. Hopefully, ten years from now, I will become a full-time professor at the institution, leading and undertaking instruction, research, extension, and innovation functions.</p>
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HEREMEROSE E. MATUTES
 Signature of Applicant

May 6, 2024
 Date

I hereby certify that the above information is true and correct, and that the VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY has committed to the above re-entry plan for HEREMEROSE E. MATUTES


JAYSON D. BALTESCO
 Environmental Science, Department Head


SONIA L. PEDROSA
 Dean, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Visayas State University-Alangalang

Personnel Selection Scholarship Committee

RECEIVED

Vision: A globally competitive university for science, technology, and environmental conservation.
Mission: Development of a highly competitive human resource, cutting-edge scientific knowledge and innovative technologies for sustainable communities and environment.

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