Academics Without Borders (AWB) is a Canadian nonprofit organization. Its mission is to help developing countries improve their universities so that they can train their own experts and conduct research to assist in their countries’ development. AWB’s projects are involved in the full range of university activities from expanding and improving existing institutions and programs to helping create new ones. AWB fulfills its mission by sending volunteers on projects that originate in and are owned by developing world institutions. AWB volunteers are reimbursed for their expenses but are not paid a salary.

**Project Reference:** Strengthen qualifications of political science faculty members through doctoral supervision

**Number of Volunteers:** 4-8

**Partner Organization:** Bahir Dar University

Bahir Dar University is one of the largest universities in Ethiopia. The University was founded in 2000 with the merger of the former Bahir Dar Teachers College and Bahir Dar Polytechnic Institute, which became the Education and Engineering Faculties, respectively, of the new university.

**Location:** Bahir Dar University, Bahir Dar, Ethiopia

**Language:** English

**Job Description:**

The Government of Ethiopia has made a renewed commitment to higher education in recent years and many universities are expanding their programming to meet the needs of the population. There is a recognized need to upgrade qualifications of young faculty of the universities from the master’s to the PhD level.

Bahir Dar University has developed a PhD program in Political Science to primarily upgrade the qualifications on their own faculty members. The students in the program are either faculty at Bahir Dar University who have been granted study leave or faculty at other universities in Ethiopia. Once they finish their studies, the graduates will return to their faculty positions.

There is a shortage of PhD holders in Ethiopia to act as supervisors to the current group of students in the program.
The Department of Political Science at Bahir Dar University therefore requests the assistance of volunteers to act as the primary supervisors for PhD candidates in the thesis topics listed below. Local faculty will serve as other members of the supervisory committees. A secondary important role for the volunteer will be to mentor those committee members regarding best practices in graduate supervision.

1. Journey to the Unknown: The 1980s resettlement programs in Ethiopia and its ongoing sociopolitical effect on the displaced people
2. Reforming the UN Security Council: A viability or mirage?
3. The Emergence and Ruining of Political Order and the Future of the State: The Ethiopian post-1991 experience
4. Ethno-nationalistic Attitudes and Exclusion of Exogenous Regional Minorities in Ethiopia’s Ethnic Federalism: A comparative regional study
5. Ethno-politics and Ethiopian Nationhood Since 1991: Predicaments and prospects
7. Ethnic Federalism and Conflict in Ethiopia: A study of conflicts in Amhara, Oromia, and Tigray regional states
8. Ethnic Political Parties and Democratization in Ethiopia (1990s-present)

Requirements:
PhD in Political Science or a related discipline. Experience with PhD supervision. Applicants with specializations in International Relations, International Studies, Peace and Security Studies, Comparative Politics, and African Studies are especially encouraged to apply.

Start Date and Duration:
The volunteers will visit Bahir Dar University for 2-3 weeks in 2020 to meet with their students and other members of the supervisory committee and to develop a workplan. The volunteers will further be expected to support their students remotely by reviewing proposals and draft chapters, following up and reporting of progress to Bahir Dar University faculty administrators, and encouraging participation in conferences and publication of research. Subsequent onsite visits may be required throughout the period of supervision and for the thesis presentation and defence.

Benefits:
All expenses - flights, accommodations, local transportation, travel and medical insurance, vaccinations and medications, and other incidentals - will be covered by Bahir Dar University and AWB.

Applications:
Please send to Corrie Young, cyoung@awb-usf.org:
● Your CV, including your contact information
● A statement of your motivation in seeking the position including an indication of the listed topics that you would be willing to supervise.
● Dates of availability for travel to Ethiopia in 2020
• Two (2) letters of reference – please either include the letters of reference with your application package or have them sent separately as soon as possible to:
  Corrie Young, Associate Executive Director - Projects & Network, cyoung@awb-usf.org

**Deadline:** January 6, 2020