



CREATE PhD PROGRAMME 'AFRICA HEALTH RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMME'

APPLICATION GUIDE: AFRICAN APPLICANTS

The Programme

The Africa Health Research Training Programme (CREATE) supports PhD fellowships for 25 UK fellows and 25 matched African fellows from our partner countries (see below).

A fellowship through this scheme provides an unrivalled opportunity to undertake research training at an African Partner Institution where there is a critical mass of other researchers from a broad range of disciplines. We welcome applications from individuals, regardless of their background, who have the scientific rigour, drive and ambition to carry out world-class research that focuses on issues of public health importance in Africa.

The programme is a partnership of 5 UK institutions (UKIs) and 6 African Partner institutions (APIs). The UKIs are: the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (lead) (LSHTM); King's College London (KCL); Queen Mary University of London (QMUL); St George's University of London (SGUL); and Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS).

The five African partner institutions (APIs) that will host fellows are: the LSHTM MRC units in The Gambia and Uganda; the Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI) and the Zvitambo Institute for Maternal and Child Health Research (Zvitambo) in Harare, Zimbabwe; Zambart at the University of Zambia (Zambart-UNZA) in Lusaka, Zambia; and the Centre for Innovative Drug Development and Therapeutic Trials for Africa at Addis Ababa University (CDT-AAU) in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Our mix of partners will provide a vibrant and thriving research environment for PhD fellows.

The CREATE PhD Programme will provide 25 doctoral fellowships (up to 5 fellowships per year) to African nationals who will be based at one of the APIs. The African fellows will apply for a specific project and will register their PhD at a Higher Education Institution linked to the same project. The African fellows will be paired to the UK fellows who will be recruited in the same year and will be based in the same country as the African PhD fellow, to create a blended north-south cohort of fellows.

All CREATE PhD Programme fellows, regardless of their source of recruitment, will be able to access a large supervisory pool, training and mentorship offered by the programme. A structured research training programme, termed the *Digital Global Health Academy*, will be delivered to fellows regardless of where they are based, aimed at equipping them to be future academic leaders and mentors, to maximise their research impact and to address the substantial inequalities in global health. In particular, the programme aims to help fellows develop the skills to build positive, inclusive research cultures.

Information about the application process

The PhD programme is open to all candidates who want to undertake research focused on the major global health challenges in Africa. This fellowship programme will provide a 3-year research PhD training fellowship. Candidates apply through a localised admissions process at one of the African Partner Institutions (API), but if awarded a fellowship can be registered at either the API or another institution (e.g. a UK institution) dependent on the individual circumstances of the award.

PhD fellowships are intended to commence on 1st January/April 2023 and will have a duration of up to 36 months. The funding will cover tuition fees, stipend, and project related costs such as travel and training. A full list of the PhD fellowship projects is shown in Table 1. Kindly note that the CREATE PhD Programme for API's is individually costed and will require consultation with the specific project supervisory team.

Candidates submit a Stage 1 application to their API of choice, for a particular pre-identified project. These projects are advertised on the CREATE PhD website – www.create-phd.org – and are submitted to the Programme Management Group (PMG) before the recruitment commences.

Please note the following:

- Routine clinical work (not related to research) should be limited to no more than 8 hours a week (2 clinical sessions) full-time equivalent (FTE) (16 hours for craft specialities FTE, 4 clinical sessions) during the fellowship and the host institution must provide a signed statement agreeing to this restriction. Fellows working clinically or undertaking patient-facing research in the country where they are conducting their PhD research must ensure that they are registered with the appropriate health professional body and are undertaking appropriate continuing professional education to maintain their registration.
- Projects must demonstrate a clear relevance to the main aim of the CREATE PhD Programme.

Eligibility

Applicants must be nationals of an African country and be suitably qualified to enter a PhD programme at the host institution. Applicants should be eligible to work in the country where the API is situated and qualify for home or local-level fees.

We expect that successful applicants will have a track-record of academic excellence, with a first class or upper second class (or equivalent) undergraduate degree and a relevant Masters degree (or clinical qualification) as specified for each project advertised. Applicants who do not have these qualifications but believe that they have equivalent relevant research or industrial experience should explain this clearly in their application (with letter of motivation). For some projects additional eligibility criteria apply.

Support

Our supervisory pool covers a range of global health expertise, across health professions, from infectious diseases, maternal, child and adolescent health, and non-communicable diseases, neglected tropical diseases and mental health. We strongly encourage interdisciplinary research projects, and all fellows will have one or more supervisors from a UKI, as well as a supervisor from the API or an HEI in the African partner country. It is

generally expected that fellows will be based for the entirety of their project in the African partner country undertaking their research. There may be opportunities (based on funding available) for fellows to undertake short periods of travel to UKIs to attend training/conferences/other support opportunities as may be made available, but this is not guaranteed. All fellows will also have a mentor (matched to their health profession) to provide support and guidance for balancing their clinical and research career.

How to apply

Applicants must submit all four of the following documents by email to the indicated recruitment lead for your selected project (Table 1).

1. Completed Stage 1 Application Form
2. Project summary (1000 words, see below for details)
3. Supporting Letter from Academic Referee (maximum 1 page)
4. Completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Applications must be written in English. Further details of the requirements for each document are given below.

Applications must be received by email to the indicated recruitment lead for your project (Table 1) by **1700 hours EAT on Friday 26th August 2022**. No applications received after the deadline will be accepted.

Selection process

The API fellowship application is a one-stage process. The application assesses your career history to date, your achievements in research to date, your motivation to enrol in this PhD fellowship programme and an indication of the specific project you are applying for (based on the pre-identified advertised projects).

The applicant will also draft a 1000-word project summary. It is expected that you will have communicated with a prospective supervisor for one of the advertised projects in order to develop the project together with them. Shortlisters will be asked to shortlist the application form and the project summary prior to selection for interview.

Kindly note that the deadline for appointing fellows on these projects is by **1700 hours (EAT) on Friday 30th of December 2022**.

Timeline

Stage 1 Applications open: 25th July 2022

Stage 1 Applications close: 26th August 2022, 5pm EAT

Shortlisting completed: 12th September 2022

Interviews: w/c 13th October 2022

Provisional Uganda outcome notifications: December 2022

Post Stage 1 Application - Assessment and Selection Process

Shortlisting. We will use the Stage 1 application form and project summary to shortlist applicants who can demonstrate that they have outstanding academic potential, and are scientifically curious, highly motivated, hard-working, professional, and excellent team players. We expect PhD fellows to demonstrate that they have knowledge, skills and some experience

relevant to the project(s) they wish to undertake, or that they could easily gain relevant knowledge and skills.

Interviews. Interviews will be conducted on-line or in person. We will send further details to the candidates shortlisted for interview. We will require proof of identity, proof of qualifications, and any other relevant documentation to be presented at the interview. Interviews will be conducted by a diverse and gender balanced panel from within the network, including representatives from host institutions.

We will try to offer flexibility in interview dates and times, but due to the number of applications and posts we may not be able to accommodate some requests.

Although eligibility varies by project, our selection panel will aim to ensure our cohort of fellows is diverse, and we will strive to ensure gender balance and representation of students from countries with fewer opportunities for PhD funding, whilst also ensuring all fellows meet our rigorous selection criteria.

After interview. Successful applicants will receive provisional confirmation of our intention to award them PhD Fellowship funding. **This does not mean that they have been accepted onto the PhD programme at the relevant University.** Applicants must **also** apply and be accepted to study at the University where the Fellowship will be held before funding can commence.

Guidance for completion of the Stage 1 Application Form

1. CREATE African Fellows Stage 1 Application Form

Personal Details: Please provide your full name and title, gender nationality and email address

Proposed Fellowship: Reference number(s) of your proposed PhD projects.

Referee details: Please provide a letter of support from an academic referee. This should be no longer than 1-2 A4 pages, in 11 font typeface. The letter should outline how the referee knows you, in what context they supervised your work, and what your skills and achievements were. They should specifically highlight your suitability for the CREATE PhD Programme and any relevant skills that make you a good fit for this programme.

Please indicate how you heard about this programme: e.g. via a website (specify), colleague, other social media etc. This will help us target our advertisement for future programmes.

University degrees / diplomas / professional qualifications: Please ensure you provide the Level (e.g. II.2, II.1, First class, Merit/Distinction) or equivalent for all degrees, together with institution and year of award, and indicate if study was undertaken as full or part time.

Prizes: Only list those awarded for academic achievement at University level and above. This section should include any recognition for clinical leadership, management, innovation or research.

Employment since primary qualification: Please provide these in reverse chronological order.

Publications: Please enter a complete list of your research publications to-date (full citations including title and all authors). These should be separated into

- Original peer reviewed papers
- Pre-Prints
- Reviews
- Books or book chapters
- Editorials, letters or case reports
- Conference presentations (Oral or poster)
- Other research outputs, such as
 - Development and sharing of new datasets, software, research reagents, tools, methods, products or patents.
 - Contributions to collaborations/consortia/team science
 - Participation in Patient and Public involvement and engagement activities (PPI)
 - Influences on policy, practice, education or training
 - Development of new preventative, diagnostic, treatment or management approaches and interventions
 - Improvements to health or quality of life of patients and the public

Skills and experience: Please enter the relevant information with regards to any prior research degree studies and any mitigating circumstances that may have affected your career progression.

Please provide details of any training (include relevant courses or specific training) or technical skills you already have that prepare you for pursuing the PhD in the area you

have identified: Please describe any specific *training* you have received in research methodology, which could encompass design, analysis and reporting skills; laboratory methods; clinical trials; qualitative methodology; research communication and impact; and patient and public involvement and engagement.

Tell us about a research activity you have undertaken that you are particularly proud of, and what its impact was. Explain how you contributed to the generation of research ideas and/or implementation of research, highlight any funding you won, and describe why the research output was of particular relevance.

How have you contributed to broader society? This includes examples of societal engagement and knowledge exchange. It can include engagement with the public sector, industry and the private sector; with clients and the broader public, inclusion of patients in processes and advocacy. It can include other impacts across research such as practice and policy including efforts to advise policy-makers at local, national or international level.

How have you contributed to the development of individuals? This includes your teaching activities or workshops, and the supervision of students and colleagues. Mention mentoring of members in your field and support you provided to the advancement of colleagues, be it junior or senior. Highlight the establishment of collaborations, from institutional (maybe interdisciplinary) to international.

What are the things that excite you about undertaking a PhD? This should include your personal aspirations for your learning and areas for development/opportunity as a fellow on this programme.

Why do you think you are a good fit for this scheme? Please explain how your track record, experience, and future plans make you a good fit for this research training programme.

What do you hope to achieve through this PhD Programme? Please explain your motivation for undertaking training through this PhD fellowship programme, what you hope to achieve, and how this will provide a good basis for your future career.

What are the main challenges for you personally in undertaking a PhD? How will you overcome these challenges? Please consider what may be the challenges that you will face in undertaking this level of academic research and commitment.

2. Project Summary (1000 words)

Explain the hypothesis you will be testing and the aims and objectives of the proposed project. What is the importance of the project and what are the gaps that this project will fill in order to move the field forward? Explain some of the methods to be used and the skills to be developed through this PhD together with your proposed supervisors.

3. Supporting Letter from Academic Referee (maximum 1 page)

4. Completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

Contact

For further enquiries regarding any aspect of your Stage 1 Application Form, please contact: [Achilles Kiwanuka](#) or [Prof Kirsty Le Doare](#)

General enquiries

Create-phd@lshtm.ac.uk