**PENDA PhD Studentship Kenya**

**Call for Applications**

# Summary

The PENDA Consortium aims to create evidence to achieve long-term improved wellbeing and inclusion of people with disabilities in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), through building knowledge, people and tools. PENDA is funded by the UK Department of International Development until 2023.

PENDA is led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and this studentship programme is being delivered in partnership with the University of Nairobi. The PhD studentship is offered on a full-time basis for a maximum period of three years.

Through PENDA’s commitment to increasing capacity and effectiveness in disability inclusive research this PhD studentship will be awarded to researchers with disabilities. One studentship will be awarded and applicants should have the right to reside and study in Kenya. Please see specific eligibility criteria outlined below.

The thematic areas of study is outlined below.

The deadline for applications is 23:59 GMT, 21 June 2020 and the template provided on the PENDA website should be used. Full application details are outlined below.

# Overview

The PENDA Consortium aims to create evidence to achieve long-term improved wellbeing and inclusion of people with disabilities in Low and Middle Income Countries (LMICs), through building knowledge, people and tools. PENDA is funded by the UK Department of International Development until 2023.

The Consortium is committed to building the capacity of researchers with disabilities from LMICs, and so is launching an exciting new PhD Programme - a partnership between LSHTM and the [University of Nairobi](https://www.uonbi.ac.ke/).

The partners believe that international collaboration can increase effectiveness in disability inclusion research. These universities have had long partnerships in improving the research and evidence for inclusion, and this next step in the partnership will improve that further. PENDA aims to build disability-inclusive development research capacity in LMICs, foster the careers of researchers with disabilities, and encourage South-South collaboration and networking.

The PhD Programme will include a full-time studentship for one researcher with disabilities to conduct research to improve the evidence surrounding Disability Inclusive Development. The PhD will be based in Kenya with the University of Nairobi with additional support and supervision from the [International Centre for Evidence in Disability](http://disabilitycentre.lshtm.ac.uk) at the [London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine](https://lshtm.ac.uk).

# Opportunity

The PENDA studentship will provide the opportunity for researchers to build their knowledge and experience in disability inclusive research over the course of three years and work to the completion of a PhD at the University of Nairobi. The studentship will provide funds for the successful researcher to study at the these university with additional supervision provided by LSHTM in London. The studentship will include a stipend to enable the candidate to study full time for three years, provide some research field work costs, provide for reasonable adjustments and spend up to three months of the PhD in London, based at LSHTM.

This studentship opportunity is open to researchers with an interest in disability inclusive development in LMICs. The studentship research will centre on certain inclusion topics (outlined below), researchers with experience in these areas are encouraged to apply but applications will not be restricted by this.

The studentship is available for applicants to begin before September 2020 for a maximum period of three years until September 2023. Candidates are expected to commit to the studentship on a full-time basis for the three years with no additional employment being performed during this period to ensure completion within the three-year period.

Eligibility criteria apply, but in line with the priorities of PENDA, this studentship is open to candidates who have a disability and who identify as disabled.

Candidates should also have the right to reside and study within the country of study (Kenya). PENDA will not be able to support residency visa applications for candidates in the country of study. Short term visas will be supported for the visits to LSHTM in London.

Candidates should meet the eligibility criteria outlined below.

# Programme Structure

The PhD Programme is training for research that involves completion of an independent piece of original research. It will be a full time research studentship over a maximum period of three years. The research will be carried out under the guidance of supervisors from both Partner Universities.

Students will have at least one named supervisor from each Partner University, the Lead Supervisor has been identified from each partner university, see below.

Research students will be registered directly for the PhD award with the University of Nairobi. Normally, research students will spend the majority of their time at the Lead University with a maximum of three months based at LSHTM in London, up to one month per year. The timing, and possible subdivision, of these periods of residence will be aligned to the needs of the individual and their research degree.

The supervisors will work closely with the students, preparing progress reports every six months for each student which will be submitted to a Joint Academic Committee (JAC) across the institutions. The JAC will be made up of members of the PENDA Steering Committee and Evaluation Advisory Group, further details can be found on the [PENDA website](https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/penda#about)[[1]](#footnote-2).

A Qualifying Examination (QE) Panel will review the progress of each research student after 7-11 months of full-time registration. Continuation in the PhD programme will be allowed only if the QE Panel is satisfied that the research study and the research student’s progress are sufficiently advanced to indicate that the PhD standard will be reached within the permitted period of registration.

# PhD Research Topics

This studentship aims to provide training and aid in building skills for future leaders in the field of Global Disability, particularly for future leaders with disabilities. A further aim is to facilitate important research advances that will support Disability Inclusive Development (DID).

This will be a three year full-time project and PhD studentship, focusing on research issues of key importance to assess the impact of DID programmes, including the development and testing of new impact tools. A maximum of one PhD will be awarded for this round. The studentship awarded will sit at the University of Nairobi.

The studentship will focus on a broad research area which will be discussed and refined further with the successful candidate dependent on their experience and area of interest. The indicative topic is outlined below.

1. Impact of Covid-19 on people with disabilities health and wellbeing, University of Nairobi, Kenya

This topic is recommended to explore the inclusion of people with disabilities through a mixed methods approach.

# PhD Partnerships and Supervision

The PhD studentship is available at the University of Nairobi, with support from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. The PhD partnership will be led by [Professor Tom Shakespeare](https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/people/shakespeare.tom) from the International Centre for Evidence in Disability (ICED) at LSHTM.

**University of Nairobi, Kenya**

This PhD studentship will be based at the University of Nairobi. The PhD would be delivered under the supervision of [Professor Joyce Olenja](https://profiles.uonbi.ac.ke/jolenja/).

**London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine**

Secondary supervision will be provided through the [International Centre for Evidence in Disability](https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres/international-centre-evidence-disability) (ICED) at LSHTM. ICED’s mission is to provide evidence to improve the health and wellbeing of people with disabilities globally. We develop tools, techniques and evidence on disability, leading to scalable interventions that can improve people's lives across the world. ICED was awarded the PENDA grant to evidence and inform disability inclusive practice and this PhD programme supports that mission.

Secondary supervisors will be:

* Kenya, COVID 19 response: [Doctor Islay Mactaggart](https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/aboutus/people/mactaggart.islay)

**PhD Research Outcomes**

Research outcomes and final PhD deliverable will be discussed with the student. The PhD degree may be completed by either the submission of a written research thesis or through writing and publishing of papers. The written work will not exceed 100,000 words in length. Each of these should be written in English with satisfactory literary presentation and include a full reference list.

# Studentship award details

Successful candidates will be awarded a studentship for three years that will include payment of tuition fees, stipend, fieldwork costs, reasonable adjustments and some travel to the UK. Due to the location of study and individual support that may be required, these budgets will be discussed with each successful candidate to discuss specifics. Indicative budgets should be submitted as part of the application to understand expectations.

Tuition fees for the three years of study will be paid by PENDA directly to the institution of study.

The stipend is estimated based on the location of study and anticipated costs. This is proposed to cover a level of income for the student to allow for full-time study and to facilitate accommodation and living costs. This stipend will be released to the student on a regular basis.

Fieldwork costs have been budgeted up to GBP 10,000 per student. Indicative fieldwork costs should be submitted up to this maximum value as part of the application. Fieldwork should take place in the country of study in line with the research topics.

The studentship also includes the opportunity to travel to the UK to be based at LSHTM for a period of up to three months during the three-year PhD. This is anticipated to be once each year for up to a month at a time but can be discussed with the supervisors to find the best opportunity. This will allow the successful student to liaise with other disability inclusion researchers based at ICED, liaise with their second supervisor and access the LSHTM library and some resources.

All costs incurred by the student should be documented and receipts kept, with regular reference and approval being made to their supervisors and the PENDA team to ensure eligibility of costs and compliance with the funding guidelines.

# PhD duration

Successful candidates will be registered at the lead partner university with access to standard resources. Through the scheme, students will also have the opportunity to access some resources at LSHTM. This is subject to the relevant regulations, policies and procedures at each university. The normal periods of registration for the PhD programme are as set out below.

|  | **Minimum** | **Maximum**  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Full-time** | 24 months | 36 months |

The students will conduct their studies in places approved by the lead partner university; normally at the lead university and one or more approved research sites.

# Eligibility requirements

Applicants with the right to reside in Kenya are eligible for the studentship in that country. The fieldwork should be conducted in that setting. One student will be selected to receive the studentship for Kenya. The Lead university’s specific eligibility criteria must also be fulfilled, please see their respective requirements below.

The studentships are specifically targeted to researchers with disabilities. We will therefore hold discussions with shortlisted candidates on which accommodations are needed to complete the PhD and how these can be met.

Applicants for this studentship must:

* Hold a 1st or 2.1 university degree (or equivalent).
* Hold a Master’s degree in qualitative studies (e.g. anthropology, sociology) or quantitative methods (e.g. epidemiology, statistics), public health or a relevant field.
* Be permanently resident in Kenya with the right to reside there.
* Have two strong references of support.
* Have experience in the conduct of research in a low-resource setting.
* Be a person living with a disability, has an impairment and identifies as disabled.
* Show evidence of commitment to an academic career and be committed to long-term capacity building in disability-related research in their own country.
* Have excellent written and oral communication skills in English.
* Be available to start academic studies in Kenya on a full-time basis starting before September 2020 for three years without other competing jobs.

It is desirable that applicants for this studentship should:

* Have experience in writing up study results and findings in reports, guidelines, standard operating procedures or papers suitable for publication in peer-reviewed journals.
* Have experience in undertaking independent research.
* Have published research articles in peer reviewed journals.
* Have experience in the design of research in a low-resource setting.
* Have experience working for Disabled Persons’ Organisations (DPOs), NGOs or the Ministry of Health.
* Have knowledge of DID programmes and research, particularly focusing on education, health, livelihoods and social protection.

We will not fund:

* A second PhD degree.
* People already registered for a PhD or an MPhil leading to a PhD, whether at a UK or international university.
* Immigration or visa costs for residency in the country of the Lead University.

# Institution specific eligibility requirements

University of Nairobi: [Link to the University of Nairobi graduate admissions website https://graduateschool.uonbi.ac.ke/basic-page/admissions](https://www.unza.zm/academics/study-at-unza/postgraduates)

# Application and award process

Applications are invited for three-year studentships, to start before September 2020.

The application process will be a two-stage process. Dates outlined below are subject to change which interested candidates should check the PENDA website and sign up to email notifications to be kept up to date with any changes.

1. Candidates should first complete the application form provided outlining which studentship location they would like to apply for and their interest in completing a PhD in disability inclusive research. Candidates should submit the application form along with their up to date CV as attachments to PENDA@LSHTM.ac.uk. Applications should be submitted by 21 June 2021.

Candidates will be notified of whether they have been shortlisted to the second stage by 26 June 2020. The programme will endeavour to notify all applicants about the outcome of their application, but due to the number this may not be possible for unsuccessful candidates.

1. Shortlisted candidates will be invited to participate in a written assessment and interview with the studentship supervisors during the week of 06 July 2020. Candidates should make sure they are available during this time.

The written assessments and interviews will take place at the institution applied for and will be conducted face to face. The interview will include discussion of the written assessment. Face to face assessments and interviews are preferred but if shortlisted candidates are unable to attend, then the reasons and alternatives will be discussed.

1. The successful candidates will be notified of their studentship award during the week of 13 July 2020 when they will be asked to confirm their acceptance of the award.
2. The successful candidate will then need to complete the formal application to the institution of study with the support of their supervisors. The fee for this application will be paid through the studentship.
3. The studentship would begin between August and September 2020.

# How to Apply

The application form can be found on the PENDA website. Completed application forms should be submitted to PENDA@LSHTM.ac.uk along with a copy of the candidates’ up to date CV. Applications should be received by 23:59 GMT on 21 June 2020.

Applicants will be shortlisted by a Joint Academic Committee (JAC). This JAC will be made up of supervisors from LSHTM and the applicable University.

Incomplete applications will not be considered for this studentship. Appeal is possible to PENDA@LSHTM.ac.uk.

For any queries regarding the studentship or application process please contact PENDA@LSHTM.ac.uk.

# Indicative timeframe

| **Stage** | **Date** |
| --- | --- |
| Applications open | 01 May 2020 |
| Deadline for application forms | 23:59 GMT on 21 June 2020 |
| Shortlisted candidates invited to written assessment and interview | 26 June 2020 |
| Assessment and interview  | Week commencing 06 July 2020 |
| Notification of successful candidates | Week commencing 13 July 2020 |
| Formal acceptance of studentship award | By 20 July 2020 |
| Application to registry of institution of study | Week commencing 01 August 2020 |
| Studentship begins | August/ September 2020 |

\* These dates are subject to change and may be extended

1. <https://www.lshtm.ac.uk/research/centres-projects-groups/penda#about> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)