

## The Makerere University – UVRI Centre of Excellence for Infection and Immunity Research and Training (MUII-plus)

Our vision is African institutions and African scientists leading Infection and Immunity research which is relevant to Africa and which has a transformative impact on African Health.

Our goal is to realise this vision through a Centre of Excellence for Infection and Immunity research in Uganda.

Infectious diseases still represent a major health burden in Africa. **HIV, malaria and tuberculosis** are still major killers. **Neglected infectious diseases** cause extensive illness and misery. **Emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases** threaten the fabric of society. Vaccines, improved diagnostics and improved interventions are greatly needed for most of these conditions. However, the transition to urban living and changing lifestyles mean that exposure to infections is changing and the so-called “non-communicable” diseases (NCDs) – such as cancer, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke – are becoming major concerns in our societies. There are important **infection-NCD links**: infections may be casual agents (as in some cancers) or may modulate immune responses and even protect against inflammatory diseases (such as asthma). At the same time, **human genetic studies** promise new insights into immunobiology because genetic variability in Africa is so high, and **pathogen genomics** contributes understanding of biology and transmission. MUII-plus is interested in supporting research in these important areas.

MUII-plus funding opportunities are directed at two goals. First, to support training and career development for potential and emerging African leaders in Infection and Immunity research. Second, to support Infection and Immunity researchers at all levels in Uganda to undertake world-class research by providing grants which support collaborative initiatives and short-term technical and professional training.

Applications for funding through MUII-plus should propose research which (i) is based in Uganda, (ii) has a clear link to Makerere University or to the Uganda Virus Research Institute and (iii) involves translational science, linking epidemiological or clinical studies to laboratory investigations, or to bioinformatics and computational analyses. African scientists of any nationality are welcome to apply but the work must be based in Uganda.

Applications that promote collaborations between Makerere and UVRI, and with other partners in Uganda, are encouraged, as are collaborations with world-leading regional and international research partners. Potential applicants who would like help in identifying suitable collaborations are encouraged to contact the secretariat through the Programme Manager for support.

Co-funding from a second source is encouraged where this is available and will enhance the research or training opportunity.

The following are the current and planned grant calls for 2016. Candidates should submit their applications using the forms provided on the website. Further enquiries may be directed to the Programme Manager, Dr Damian Rutazaana ([drutazaana@uvri.go.ug](mailto:drutazaana@uvri.go.ug)) or Administrator, Mr Moses Kizza ([mkizza@uvri.go.ug](mailto:mkizza@uvri.go.ug); [moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org](mailto:moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org)).

## CURRENT CALLS: MASTERS FELLOWSHIPS

Fellowship Type	Objectives	Eligibility criteria	What's included	Timeline & submission
1. Fast track Masters' Fellowships at Makerere University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promote rapid progression of brightest undergraduates into research training</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>First class or upper second degree completed in the last two years (a longer interval is acceptable if there has been a career break, such as maternity leave)</li><li>A degree in Natural Sciences, Medicine and Surgery, Nursing, Pharmacy, Veterinary medicine or any related course</li><li>Awards will be conditional on acceptance for a Masters course at Makerere University in a discipline relevant to Infection &amp; Immunity research if this is not in place at the time of application</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Student stipend</li><li>Health insurance</li><li>University fees</li><li>Research costs up to £5,000</li><li>Bench fees for the laboratory project for one year</li><li>Award duration 2 years</li></ul>	<b>For all Masters' fellowships</b>  <b>Publication date:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb 2016  <b>This is a single-stage application process.</b>  <b>Deadline for applications:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2016  <b>Submission is by e-mail to:</b> <b>The MUII-plus administrator (see application form)</b>  <b>Interviews for shortlisted candidates will be held in</b> May 2016
2. Masters in Medicine research grants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Support to clinicians interested in translational basic science</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MBChB degree at a recognised University with cumulative grade point average above 4</li><li>Registered for MMed at Makerere University</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Research costs up to £5000</li><li>Bench fees for the laboratory project for one year</li><li>Award duration usually 1 year</li></ul>	
3. International Masters' Fellowships in Bioinformatics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Promote development of expertise in Bioinformatics for Uganda</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bachelor's degree in Natural Sciences, Mathematics, Physics, Biology, Biotechnology, Computer science, Information Technology or related discipline: this should be a first class or upper second class degree</li><li>This opportunity would also be suitable for individuals with a Masters degree in a related subject who now wish to specialise in bioinformatics</li><li>Awards will be conditional on acceptance for a relevant course if this is not in place at the time of application</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Student stipend</li><li>Health insurance</li><li>University fees</li><li>One return airfare, travel insurance, visa costs</li><li>Research costs up to £5,000 for a project on return to Uganda in year 2</li><li>Award duration 2 years</li></ul>	
How to apply for a MUII-plus Masters Fellowship!	<b>Submit a completed application form (available on the website) by the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016 deadline to Moses Kizza (MUII administrator):</b> <a href="mailto:mkizza@uvri.go.ug">mkizza@uvri.go.ug</a> ; <a href="mailto:moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org">moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org</a> . Ask two referees also to send reference letters directly to Mr Kizza by the same date.			

**CURRENT CALLS: PhD AND POST-DOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS**

Fellowship Type	Objectives	Eligibility criteria	What's included	Timeline & submission
<b>4. PhD fellowships at Makerere University</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the best candidates to undertake world-class research training in Infection and Immunity disciplines</li> <li>Provide exposure to international co-supervision and collaboration*</li> <li>Strategic focus on emerging &amp; re-emerging infectious diseases</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Masters degree in a relevant field</li> <li>Research proposal that applies immunological, molecular, bioinformatics or computational techniques in the context of clinical or epidemiological studies in Uganda</li> <li>Proposals involving emerging, re-emerging infectious diseases are particularly welcome as the intention is to award one or two fellowships in this field</li> <li>Awards will be conditional on acceptance for a PhD programme at Makerere University</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Student stipend</li> <li>Health insurance</li> <li>University fees</li> <li>One return airfare for student, one for overseas co-supervisor, travel insurance, visa costs</li> <li>Research costs up to £30,000; co-funding is encouraged</li> <li>Bench fees</li> <li>Conference attendance</li> <li>Award duration 3 years</li> </ul>	<p><b>For all PhD and post-doctoral fellowships</b></p> <p><b>Publication date:</b> 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 2016</p> <p><b>This is a two-stage application process.</b></p> <p><b>Deadline for preliminary applications:</b> 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016</p> <p><b>Proposal development workshop for short-listed candidates:</b> May 2016</p> <p><b>Deadline for full applications:</b> 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016</p> <p><b>Interviews:</b> August 2016</p>
<b>5. Post-doctoral fellowships</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support excellent PhD graduates to undertake international-level post-doctoral research, to develop or enhance their skills and publication record, and to develop new, or strengthen existing international collaborations* thus positioning themselves to apply successfully for substantive funding</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>PhD awarded in the last five years in a relevant topic (a longer interval is acceptable if there has been a career break, such as maternity leave)</li> <li>Infection &amp; Immunity research based in Uganda, with a clear link to Makerere University or the Uganda Virus Research Institute</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Salary</li> <li>Health insurance</li> <li>One return airfare each for fellow and overseas mentor, travel insurance, visa costs</li> <li>Research costs up to £20,000; co-funding is encouraged</li> <li>Bench fees</li> <li>Conference attendance</li> <li>Award duration 2 years</li> </ul>	
<p>*PhD and post-doctoral fellows are expected to undertake an international collaboration, with international co-supervision and mentorship. This collaboration may be within or outside Africa. This is intended to broaden and enhance the research experience and training. Some applicants may already have a suitable collaboration through their previous work or through the work of the research programme to which they belong, and this is acceptable. However, this is not a requirement at the preliminary application stage. MUII-plus will support candidates who are successful at preliminary application stage to identify suitable collaborators if this is required.</p>				
<b>How to apply for a MUII-plus PhD or post-doc Fellowship!</b>	<p><b>Submit a completed application form (available on the website) by the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016 deadline to Moses Kizza (MUII administrator):</b>  <a href="mailto:mkizza@uvri.go.ug">mkizza@uvri.go.ug</a>; <a href="mailto:moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org">moses.kizza@mrcuganda.org</a>. Ask two referees also to send reference letters directly to Mr Kizza by the same date.</p>			

## UP-COMING CALLS

Fellowship or Grant Type	Objective	Expected timelines
<b>Internships for disabled graduates</b>	To provide support and facilities for excellent young disabled graduates to undertake an internship at UVRI	<b>Expected call date:</b> 29 <sup>th</sup> February 2016 <b>Application deadline:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> April 2016
<b>Research group leader awards</b>	To allow emerging research leaders in Infection & Immunity research in Uganda to develop their research group by supporting a PhD student	<b>Expected call date:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> August 2016 <b>Application deadline:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2016
<b>Bioinformatics project grants</b>	To allow scientists in Uganda to undertake bioinformatics analyses at the Uganda Medical Informatics Centre at UVRI	<b>To be announced</b>
<b>Travel awards</b>	To offer short-term travel opportunities to promote international collaboration and to provide research opportunities – for example, to develop collaborative project proposals, to undertake experiments using equipment not available in Uganda, to undertake analyses in collaboration with international colleagues	<b>Expected call date:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 <b>Application deadline:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016
<b>Endeavour awards</b>	Funds to support the development of new ideas or collaborations – for example by running a workshop	<b>Expected call date:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 <b>Application deadline:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016
<b>Visiting scientist awards</b>	Funds to allow scientists from local, regional to international partner institutions to visit and work at Makerere University or UVRI	<b>Expected call date:</b> 15 <sup>th</sup> March 2016 <b>Application deadline:</b> 31 <sup>st</sup> May 2016

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