

**Call for DELTA Africa - Sub-Saharan Africa Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics (SSACAB) PhD fellowships in Biostatistics for 2017 Academic Year**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR PhD SCHOLARSHIPS - 31<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 2017**

**DESCRIPTION**

The Sub-Saharan African Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics (SSACAB) training, a consortium of twenty African and northern institutions with the University of the Witwatersrand as the lead; and KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programmes, Universities of KwaZulu-Natal, Northumbria University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as co-applicants, has secured funding from the Wellcome Trust/AESA through the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science (DELTA Africa). The full list of participating institutions is listed below. The funding will cover fellows undertaking a PhD programme in Biostatistics in participating training institutions to develop and improve biostatistical skills among researchers, with an ultimate goal of creating research nodes of excellence to grow the discipline and a biostatistical network to nurture researchers with advanced skills and expertise. The consortium is therefore calling for full time scholarship applications for PhD degrees.

The PhD scholarships are open to candidates with strong background in Statistics, Mathematics, Demography and any other quantitative fields, including competent candidates from the lab/health fields such as biomedical sciences, pharmacy, medicine who may benefit from a postgraduate course in biostatistics. The potential fellows should have applied for a place at one of the postgraduate biostatistics degree programmes being offered by partner institutions.

This PhD degree programme focuses on quantitative research in health-related fields with the aim of developing a career in Biostatistics, which is a growing field in low and middle-income countries due to increased biomedical research. Therefore, the goal of this financial support is to enhance Biostatistical graduate training capacity and boost the number of researchers and practitioners in low and middle-income countries.

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**ELIGIBILITY**

The scholarship is open to nationals of low and middle-income countries in the Sub-Saharan African Region that are resident in the region. [http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups#Sub\\_Saharan\\_Africa](http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups#Sub_Saharan_Africa) and partnering institutions in the consortium.

Applicants should normally be under 40 years for the PhD Programme.

Applicants should meet each of the separate University's admission requirements for the PhD degree before applying for the fellowship.

### **THE PhD SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE**

The scheme will provide full scholarships for 5 PhD Fellows in the 2017 academic year and covers the following:

- Tuition fees and basic medical and accident insurance
- A monthly stipend to cover accommodation and living expenses
- Reasonable support for the PhD research project and supervision
- Bench fees to research institution hosting the PhD student
- Travel costs to and from academic training institution and the host research institution

### **ADDITIONAL PhD SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

Applications must include research questions based on data from a recognised Research Institution, have a co-supervisor from that institution and or from an academic training institution. Potential PhD scholarship applicants should provide the academic training institution:

- ✓ A comprehensive curriculum vitae including relevant research and work experience
- ✓ Letter of motivation explaining why you want to pursue a PhD in biostatistics
- ✓ Certified copies of academic transcripts and degree certificates
- ✓ A concept note, **not exceeding 5 pages**, outlining the proposed area of research
- ✓ A sample of written academic work of which the applicant is the primary author e.g. Masters' research report or a journal article
- ✓ A letter from the proposed research institution supervisor indicating willingness to supervise
- ✓ **Evidence of acceptance or application to study Biostatistics at a partner institution**
- ✓ Two confidential referee reports should be sent directly to the training institution

PhD scholarships will be given to candidates who are likely to strengthen the SSACAB institutions either as academic staff members or affiliation to research institution within the consortium. Awarded Fellows will be tracked with the new SSACAB alumni to increase their visibility and to monitor the impact of the programme.

## **HOW TO APPLY**

**The application process is two-fold:**

1. Applications for places should be made to the preferred host training institution. Institutions and their contact persons are listed below.

### **A. UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG:**

**Institutional lead:** Prof. Tobias Chirwa: [tobias.chirwa@wits.ac.za](mailto:tobias.chirwa@wits.ac.za)

Contact for PhD enquiries:

Mr. Paul Bohloko: [paul.bohloko@wits.ac.za](mailto:paul.bohloko@wits.ac.za)

Please access the following website for more details:  
[http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/health/publichealth/phdgraduateprogrammes/10542/how\\_do\\_i\\_apply.html](http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/health/publichealth/phdgraduateprogrammes/10542/how_do_i_apply.html)

### **B. UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA:**

**Institutional lead:** Prof. Henry Mwambi: [mwambih@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:mwambih@ukzn.ac.za)

Contact for PhD enquiries:

Ms. Christel Barnard: [barnardc@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:barnardc@ukzn.ac.za)

If your supervisor will be based at the Pietermaritzburg Campus or

Mrs Shereen Marimuthu: [Marimuthus@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Marimuthus@ukzn.ac.za)

If your supervisor will be based at the Westville Campus in Durban.

Note: The PhD programme at UKZN will be by research and thesis

### **C. UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, MALAWI**

**Institutional lead:** Dr. Jupiter Simbeye: [jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw](mailto:jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw)

Contact for PhD enquiries:

Dr. Jupiter Simbeye: [jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw](mailto:jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw)

Please access the following website for additional information:  
<http://www.science.chanco.unima.mw/index.php/stu/postgraduateprogrammes?layout=edit&id=47>

### **D. UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA**

**Institutional lead:** Prof. Patrick Weke: [pweke@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:pweke@uonbi.ac.ke)

Contact for PhD enquiries:

Dr. Nelson Owuor Onyango: [onyango@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:onyango@uonbi.ac.ke)

Please access the following website for more details: <http://www.mathematics.uonbi.ac.ke>

### **E. KILIMANJARO CHRISTIAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TANZANIA**

**Institutional lead:** Dr. Michael Johnson Mahande: [jmmahande@gmail.com](mailto:jmmahande@gmail.com)

Contact for PhD enquires:

Mr. Victor Selengia: [yselengia\\_2006@yahoo.com](mailto:yselengia_2006@yahoo.com)



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



**SSACAB**

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA CONSORTIUM  
FOR ADVANCED BIOSTATISTICS TRAINING

**DELTA** Africa

Please access the following website for more details: [www.kcmuco.ac.tz/index.php/admission](http://www.kcmuco.ac.tz/index.php/admission)

## **APPLICATION FOR THE DELTAS AFRICA SSACAB SCHOLARSHIP**

- F.** The application for the DELTAS Africa SSACAB scholarship should be made separately and in writing, as outlined in the PhD scholarship section above. Scholarship applications should be sent to: Dr. Pascalia Munyewende: [pascalia.munyewende@wits.ac.za](mailto:pascalia.munyewende@wits.ac.za) and copied to Dr. Eustasius Musenge: [eustasius.musenge@wits.ac.za](mailto:eustasius.musenge@wits.ac.za)

## Full list of collaborating institutions in the SSACAB training programme

### LEAD INSTITUTION

Name of Institution	Country	Institutional Lead
University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa	Tobias Chirwa

### CO-APPLICANTS

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	United Kingdom	Jim Todd
University of Northumbria	United Kingdom	Ngianga-Bakwin Kandala
University of KwaZulu Natal	South Africa	Henry Mwambi
KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme	Kenya	Sam Kinyanjui

### PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

University Medical Center Utrecht	The Netherlands	Rene Eijkemans
Stellenbosch University	South Africa	Taryn Young
Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College	Tanzania	Michael Mahande
University of Malawi	Malawi	Jupiter Simbeye
Makerere University	Uganda	Nazarius Tumwesigye
Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research	Ghana	Kwadwo Koram
University of Nairobi	Kenya	Patrick Weke
University of Zambia	Zambia	Patrick Musonda
University of Kinshasa	Democratic Republic of Congo	Kalambayi Kayembe
University of Namibia	Namibia	Lawrence Kazembe
Medical Research Council	South Africa	Samuel Manda
INDEPTH Network	Ghana	Osman Sankoh
Human Sciences Research Council	South Africa	Khangalani Zuma
Centre for AIDS Programme of Research	South Africa	T.B.A.