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

APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR PhD SCHOLARSHIPS - 31ST 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 (DELTAS 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.

PhD SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE – 31ST MARCH 2017

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 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
      Contact for PhD enquiries:
      Mr. Paul Bohloko: 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

   B. UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA:
      Institutional lead: Prof. Henry Mwambi: mwambih@ukzn.ac.za
      Contact for PhD enquiries:
      Ms. Christel Barnard: barnardc@ukzn.ac.za
      If your supervisor will be based at the Pietermaritzburg Campus or
      Mrs Shereen Marimuthu: 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
      Contact for PhD enquiries:
      Dr. Jupiter Simbeye: 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
      Contact for PhD enquiries:
      Dr. Nelson Owuor Onyango: 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
      Contact for PhD enquiries:
      Mr. Victor Selenga: vselengia_2006@yahoo.com
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 and copied to Dr. Eustasius Musenge: eustasius.musenge@wits.ac.za
Full list of collaborating institutions in the SSACAB training programme

LEAD INSTITUTION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institutional Lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of the Witwatersrand</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Tobias Chirwa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CO-APPLICANTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Institution</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Institutional Lead</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Jim Todd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of Northumbria</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Ngia-Bakwin Kandala</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University of KwaZulu Natal</td>
<td>South Africa</td>
<td>Henry Mwambi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme</td>
<td>Kenya</td>
<td>Sam Kinyanjui</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS

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