

Doctoral (PhD) Fellowship in Key Population Health: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis against HIV among Key Populations in Tanzania (2 position)

Position Description

Applications are invited for two full-time three-year PhD positions at the School of Public Health and Social Sciences (SPHSS), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS). The positions are part of the PREPTA project, which will focus on Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis against HIV (“PrEP”) among key population for HIV in Tanzania.

The project which is funded by the Norwegian Research Council and led by Prof. Elia Mmbaga and Prof. Kåre Moen, will be implemented in close collaboration between MUHAS and the University of Oslo, Norway (UiO) between 2019 and 2023.

PREPTA will have a total of four PhD candidates, two of whom will be recruited by each of the two collaborating universities. Close interaction and collaboration is expected between all four PhD candidates throughout the life of the project. Much training and supervision will occur in groups involving all PhD candidates. The fieldwork for the project will take place in the cities of Dar es Salaam and Tanga.

The project will employ a mix of qualitative and quantitative research methods and will first endeavour to explore perspectives on HIV prevention in general and PrEP treatment in particular at a point in time when PrEP scale up is planned in Tanzania. It will thereafter follow a cohort of study participants over time in order to study uptake of, experiences with and adherence to PrEP in two Tanzanian cities. In one of them, an intervention aiming to improve uptake of and adherence to PrEP will be implemented and evaluated. The intervention combines a peer education approach with a mobile application through which study participants can access information and interact with peers as well as with health personnel.

The PhD candidates will be part of an interdisciplinary and multicultural team of researchers in Tanzania and Norway, including persons with backgrounds from medicine, public health, epidemiology, and the social sciences.

At MUHAS, PhD candidates will be part of the HIV and Key Population Research Group at the SPHSS, MUHAS.

Starting date 1 August 2019.

More about the position

The appointment is a full time position for a period of 4 years. A main purpose of a PhD position is to complete advanced level research training leading to the successful completion of a PhD degree. The fellowship therefore requires fulfilment of admission requirement to the PhD programme at MUHAS (See https://www.muhas.ac.tz/uploads/documents/en/1487330364-Postgraduate_Guidelines_Oct_2016.pdf page 32-44).

Qualification Requirements

- Applicants must hold a master's degree or equivalent in a relevant field (e.g., medicine, public health, anthropology, sociology or epidemiology).
- Fluent oral and written English language skills.
- Education or experience from the health sector, prior research experience on HIV Epidemic or working with HIV key and vulnerable population will be considered an advantage.

Personal Attributes

We seek persons who are highly motivated, able to work both independently and as part of a team, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills, including the ability to work with a diverse range of individuals and organisations with highly different backgrounds.

How to Apply

The application must include

- A cover letter (including a statement of motivation)
- A CV (summarizing education, positions held, relevant experience (e.g. research, teaching, administration) and other qualifying experience and skills)
- Copies of educational certificates (academic transcripts only)
- A list of publications (if any)
- A list of 2 to 3 references (name, institution, e-mail, telephone number and relation to candidate)

Assessment Plan

Applications will be assessed in a two-step process. First, documented qualifications and the candidates' motivation and personal suitability will be assessed. Shortlisted candidates will thereafter be invited to develop a short concept note for their doctoral work and to take part in an interview about the position. The final selected candidates will then undergo formal PhD registration process at MUHAS.

Address for Application

Send your complete application package or questions regarding the project/ position to:

eliajelia@yahoo.co.uk

copy to:-

kare.moen@medisin.uio.no

mleshabari@gmail.com

gerryleyna@yahoo.com

Deadline for Application

The Deadline for application is **Friday April 12th, 2019 at 5:00pm EAT.**