



The Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical  
Research  
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## Invitation for application for the CAFÉ-SEA PhD program

The Capacity building for Female Scientist in East Africa (CAFÉ-SEA) is a project under the Eastern Africa Consortium for Clinical Research (EACCR), which is an EDCTP-funded network of excellence. The primary goal of CAFÉ-SEA is to build capacity for research among female scientists in infectious diseases in the Eastern Africa region.

Women are under-represented in academic science careers including health research. Less women win research grants; they tend to have fewer publications than their male counterparts and fewer women are appointed to senior academic positions. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of women scientists is even smaller than in other parts of the world with a huge disparity between men and women in higher positions in science and education achievements. Family and gender related responsibilities are among factors that hinder most women from undertaking higher education at MSc and PhD levels in Africa. Following the current challenges of increased epidemics of emerging/re-emerging diseases such as Ebola and COVID-19 among others, there is a high demand for high quality scientists and researchers equipped with skills and knowledge in the management of patients and preparedness of epidemic response as well as the required high quality clinical research.

With funding from the European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP), EACCR CAFÉ-SEA project will conduct a multidisciplinary PhD training programme to equip up to seven female scientists from under-represented countries in the Eastern Africa region with skills and knowledge in infectious diseases research.

## The PhD programme

This CAFÉ-SEA PhD programme will be delivered by five partners from the EACCR including Uganda Virus Research Institute (UVRI) in Uganda, National Institute of Medical Research (NIMR) and Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI) in Tanzania, Kenya Medical Research Institute and African Research Collaboration for Health in Kenya and University of Rwanda in Rwanda. This PhD programme has five tracks which include: **Implementation Science; Non-**



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Café-SEA is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) (PSIA2020-3073) using UK Aid from the UK government to support global health research, as part of the EDCTP2 programme supported by the European Union



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**Communicable diseases; Epidemiology and Biostatistics; Research and Development; and Health Economics.** Each track will have one PhD fellow, an MSc student attached to each PhD fellow and will be delivered by one of the partner institutions. **However, it is highly recommended that the research projects are focused on emerging diseases, especially COVID-19**

The programme will include specific courses prescribed by the enrolling Universities including cross-cutting courses in bioethics, research methodology, and biostatistics which will be coordinated through EACCR. In addition, each PhD candidate will be required to develop a research proposal, conduct his or her research and publish at least three manuscripts in peer reviewed journals in addition to a PhD thesis. The requirement for three manuscripts will be a minimum requirement regardless of the normal practice of the enrolling university. Each fellow shall train and co-supervise an MSc student under her research project and shall work with a team of experts across EACCR in many activities including attending networking meetings in the region and networking with other PhD fellows from other EDCTP networks of excellence.

Selected candidates will register at Universities within the Eastern Africa region and will be required to sign a fellowship agreement for expressing commitment to undertake and complete the training.

### Duration of training

The PhD fellowship will be for three years with a possible six-month extension.

### Eligibility Criteria

This programme is open to female candidates from all East African countries especially those with less established institutions within EACCR., East African countries underrepresented in previous EDCTP funding and/or disadvantaged due to political conflicts will be prioritised. Candidates from Djibouti, Eritrea, Burundi, Rwanda, Seychelles are particularly encouraged to apply.



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Applications from Disadvantaged groups within the society in the region such as people with physical disabilities are also encouraged.

Candidates will be selected based on the strength of their academic background and track record in research verifiable through documents like certificates, support letters about experience in research, evidence of at least one research publication, etc.

### How to apply

Applications must be submitted through email to Emily Nyanzi: [enyanzi@uvri.go.ug](mailto:enyanzi@uvri.go.ug) and copied to Elizabeth Kussaga: [e.kussaga@kcri.ac.tz](mailto:e.kussaga@kcri.ac.tz) and Josephine Nassali: [nj48288@gmail.com](mailto:nj48288@gmail.com).

The Application package should contain the following:

- A motivational statement of not more than 300 words indicating the professional development plan of the applicant during and after PhD studies
- One page concept notes of the proposed PhD research project by the applicant
- A recent CV indicating previous and/or current employer(s) and position(s) held, as well as a list of peer reviewed publications (if any). Maximum of 2 pages.
- Certified copies of academic transcripts and relevant certificates
- Evidence of a minimum of a pass in first degree with a minimum of upper second class (GPA 3.5 or above) and “B” grade or above at Masters level.
- Supporting letters from two professional referees, together with their telephone numbers, institutional addresses and e-mail addresses.
- Daytime contact details of the applicant including email, and telephone contacts.

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 5:00pm (EAT) on Friday 3rd September, 2021.**



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The selection of candidates will involve a 2-step process that will be based on review of motivational statement and assessment of the PhD concept note. Shortlisted candidates will be invited for virtual or face-to-face interviews if conditions allow.

**Final award of scholarship to selected candidates will be subject to successful university registration for the PhD by November 2021.**

Further particulars can be obtained from the EACCR consortium Secretariat at Uganda Virus Institute (Contacts: Josephine Nassali: [jnassali@uvri.go.ug](mailto:jnassali@uvri.go.ug) OR Emily Nyanzi [enyanzi@uvri.go.ug](mailto:enyanzi@uvri.go.ug) ).



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