

PAMAfrica Master's Program, CALL for Application

Hosting Institution: The Sub-Saharan African Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics (SSACAB) training, a consortium of twenty African and northern institutions with the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg as the Lead.

Funding Level: 100 % eligible Costs

Funding Period: Approx. 2021-2024 \approx. 18 months

Open application Date: June 25, 2020

Close application Date: July 31/,2020

Final written assessments: Q4 2020

Possible starting date for the selected applicant: January 2021

PAMAfrica Project

The European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP) awarded a grant to the new PAMAfrica research consortium led by Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV). The consortium includes seven research organizations from Burkina Faso, Gabon, Germany, Mozambique, Spain and Uganda and a pharmaceutical company, Novartis. In addition to Novartis, other pharmaceutical company partners may join the consortium.

The consortium will support the development of new treatments for malaria in the most-at-risk populations. Over a period of 5 years, the grant will support three clinical trials.

The grant will also support efforts to build and strengthen human clinical research capacity and train scientists across Africa, including 5 Biostatistics Masters scholarships.

The Masters Programme

PAMAFRICA grant includes 5 Masters scholarships for students coming from the following partnering institutions (1 scholarship per institution):

- CISM/Fundação Manhiça, Mozambique.
- CERMEI, Gabon.
- Groupe de Recherche Action en Santé (GRAS), Burkina Faso.
- Infectious Diseases Research Collaboration (IDRC), Uganda.
- Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique et Technologique (CNRST) - Institut de Recherche en Science de la Santé (IRSS), Burkina Faso.

The Master's is hosted by University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg leading the Sub-Saharan African Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics (SSACAB). The goal is to develop and improve biostatistical skills among researchers. This MSc 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 sub-Saharan Africa 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. MSc students will be able to select a topic for the MSc thesis linked to PAMAfrica trials or more generally to malaria research.

Candidates and supervisors will jointly work on the topic according to interest and knowledge.

The PAMAfrica scholarship is intended for 18 months and offers a full package to support a candidate in Master's studies during this period.

1. Scholarship Package

- Single round-trip travel ticket in economy class from the research institution to the academic training institution.
- A monthly stipend to cover accommodation and living expenses.
- Tuition fees and basic medical and accident insurance.

2. Eligibility

- Candidates must have been employed by one of the above listed Consortium members for a minimum of two years prior to the Masters start and remain employed by a Consortium member for the whole duration of the programme.
- Applicants should meet admission requirements of the University of the Witwatersrand for the MSc degree.
- Be a national or citizen, and resident in the country in which your institution is based.
- Hold a medical degree, a degree in a relevant discipline, or related to life sciences and demonstrate an outstanding record of high grades.
- Very good knowledge of spoken and written English (if required additional English language training might be offered).
- Fellows must be committed to stay in their home organization for a **minimum of two years** after completion of the Masters studies.

3. Application Package

- Covering, motivational letter.
- Completed application form to study Biostatistics at University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg (on-line)
- Full and signed Curriculum Vitae.
- Authenticated University Degrees (SAQA Certificate of Evaluation (SCoE), for more information <https://www.saqa.org.za/>).
- 2 Contacts (Names, institution and Phone number and email) serving as a reference for the applicant including two confidential referee reports.
- English competency certificate OR evidence of prior undergraduate training in English

For more information: <https://www.wits.ac.za/publichealth/academic-programmes/postgraduate/master-of-science-in-epidemiology/>

Application for accommodation link: <https://www.wits.ac.za/accommodation/applications/>

The full application must be submitted online by following this link:

<https://www.wits.ac.za/applications/> by July 31, 2020.

If you have any questions regarding the application procedure, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Pascalia Munyewende, Pascalia.munyewende@wits.ac.za or Ms Lerato Podile, Lerato.Podile@wits.ac.za.

4. Selection procedure

Applications should be first evaluated by the partnering institution and best candidates will be presented to the University of the Witwatersrand's SSACAB programme. WITS will base its selection on completed applications that best demonstrate a candidate's potential to make a significant contribution to the development of health research capacity in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a written test to assess the competency into the programme. The final decision of acceptance belongs to the University of WITS program board based on satisfaction of all the requirements.

The program is managed by University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, School of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology & Biostatistics.



June 2020.