



---

**OFFICE OF THE COORDINATOR**

**JOB ANNOUNCEMENT**

**BACKGROUND**

The University of Rwanda is a public institution of Higher learning committed to support the development of the country through the generation and advancement of knowledge and innovation among other core activities. In that regard, the University of Rwanda is implementing a study that use Point of Care Viral Load (PoC VL) monitoring intervention to improve virological suppression among children and young people (age 0-24 years). To fulfil optimal functioning, UR-Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) calls for qualified and motivated candidates to apply on the Research Assistant position for a one-year renewable contract.

**1. Research Assistant**

**Summary of the post**

The UNAIDS developed the 95-95-95 strategy to end the HIV/AIDS pandemic by 2030. The third 95 focus on those on treatment having a viral suppression. To achieve the third 95, the WHO recommends six-month viral load (VL) monitoring for suppression. Monitoring of viral suppression enables appropriate use of ART and encourage adherence and prevent development of drug resistance. Rational use and adherence to ART preserves the more affordable first and second line of treatment options in resource-poor settings. One of the barriers to effective VL monitoring is the standardized care approach of centralized VL testing done at specialized laboratories. The turnaround time, for HIV VL test and result, related logistical challenges, can hinder early initiation or continuum of HIV healthcare. PoC/ VL monitoring is novel approach that has been validated and eliminates most of the challenges associated with centralized VL monitoring including potential delays and logistical challenges. The project aims to examine the feasibility, acceptability, and effectiveness of using point of care viral load (PoC/ VL) monitoring among children and adolescents living with HIV in East Africa. Additionally, perception and attitude of study participants to use PoC for HIV VL monitoring will be explored.

Reporting to the local Trial Coordinator, the Research Assistant will serve as one of a larger team of Research Assistants implementing day-to-day activities and participate in scientific research assessing effectiveness, feasibility, acceptability of PoC VL in additional to evaluate the perception and the psychosocial aspects of using this approach to monitor viral load. The Research Assistant will be required to frequently travel between investigative sites.

## **Overview of the tasks**

- Work closely with the Trial Coordinator to support implement PoC VL intervention at investigative sites
- Support the assessment team in evaluation of both PoC VL interventions and study components (effectiveness, feasibility, and acceptability).

## **Major roles and responsibilities:**

- Participate in formative research using qualitative methods to better understand and capture important cultural and contextual dynamics
- Support to conduct and administer surveys as part of interviews with study participants and healthcare workers either face-to-face or by phone
- Support assessment activities at site-level and ensure that data recorded, uploaded, and shared are complete and accurate.
- Ensure that follow-up data collection is carried out with the appropriate study participants at specified time intervals
- Participate in training assessment team and routinely share experiences and best practices to improve data collection processes.
- Ensure any gaps in the data collection and evaluation activities are identified, through routine review of data, resolve problems and clarify data collected
- Support the development and pilot test micro-interventions in the two Rwandan intervention sites.
- Provide logistical support to the local Trial Coordinator at the University of Rwanda and the different investigative sites
- Prepare information and reports for internal and external communication as required.
- Support in the analysis of the data collected
- Support in the transcription and translation of interviews conducted
- Perform other duties as assigned by the supervisor or their nominees.

## **Required Skills and Qualifications:**

- A minimum of bachelor's degree in clinical psychology or public health with at least two years of work experience.
- Proven experience in conducting quantitative and qualitative research
- Proven experience in data management and data collection monitoring.
- Proved work experience in quantitative and qualitative data cleaning and analysis using SPSS, Stata, and R.
- Proven experience in interpretation of results and reporting writing.
- Proficiency with Microsoft suite (Excel, word and PowerPoint).
- Ability to work independently and be flexible during teamwork.
- Excellent organization skills, and able to deliver the deadline.

- Fluent in speaking and writing English & Kinyarwanda is important.
- Having other certificates related to the other research design is an added value.

**Desired Skills and Qualifications:**

- Excellent organizational skills demonstrated by ability to deliver to deadline.
- Excellent skills in critical thinking
- Proficiency with Microsoft office suite (excel, word, PowerPoint, outlook)

**APPLICATION PROCEDURE:**

Interested and qualified candidates should submit their applications online to the link: <https://forms.gle/KRpswcjDCBLRBxvE9> and attach all required documents.

Documents required are:

1. An application letter addressed to UR/SPIU Coordinator. The letter should briefly indicate your motivation and how you meet all the requirements described in the position for which you have applied (max 2 pages);
2. A detailed Curriculum Vitae (max 4 pages);
3. Copy of academic degree(s), and Certificates of any relevant professional training;
4. Copy of Rwanda National Identity and/or Rwanda passport;
5. At least one service certificate from your former / current employers to prove the required experience;
6. Recommendation letter from one of your former / current employers

The deadline for submission of the application is set on 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Only shortlisted candidates will be invited to sit for the written test.

Done at Kigali on 27<sup>th</sup> January 2023

  
**Immaculate BUGINGO**  
 Coordinator  
 Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU)  
 University of Rwanda

