



PhD Fellowships at Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Background

The Department of Global Health and Infection at Brighton & Sussex Medical School (BSMS), in collaboration with the University of Rwanda, has obtained a grant from the UK National Institute for Health Research, to conduct research on severe stigmatizing skin diseases from social science perspective (2019-2023).

This project entitled: **Social Sciences for Severe Stigmatizing Skin Diseases (The 5-S Foundation)** aims to end neglect of two stigmatizing skin diseases (podoconiosis and scabies) in Rwanda through bringing the social sciences to bear on these conditions, by identifying interventions informed by social science perspectives at the level of the patient, the community and national and international policy.

As part of this partnership, we will be able to offer two PhD Scholarships for candidates, one of whom will work on the lived experience, health-seeking behavior, stigmatization or social differences related to podoconiosis, and the other on these related to scabies, in line with supervisors' interests. The successful PhD candidates will register for their PhD studies with Brighton and Sussex Medical School but be based within Rwanda to conduct the research.

Call for application

In the perspective described above, the applicants must meet the requirements of Brighton & Sussex Medical School entry into a PhD program. There will also be an interview in which BSMS and University of Rwanda members will participate. Given the duration of the project, only full-time PhD candidates can be accommodated.

Funding

The funding will be guaranteed by the project "**Social Sciences for Severe Stigmatizing Skin Diseases (The 5-S Foundation)**" and will include: tuition, stipend, research and travel costs.

Requirements

- Applicants must have previous MA or MSc degree in social or health sciences or a related field. Prior research experience in health and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) is desirable, but not required.
- English Language Requirement: Applicants will need to demonstrate IELTS qualification not less than 7 in each skill (listening, reading, writing and speaking). An applicant who already achieved this score within the last two years will have priority.

Women are strongly encouraged to apply.



Application file

The applicant must submit the following documents (well numbered)

1. Application letter addressed to the Director of the University of Rwanda Centre for Postgraduate Studies (UR CPGS); the letter should demonstrate commitment, motivation and reasons for interests in this PhD Program. A special section should be devoted to demonstrating how the applicant meets the above requirements;
2. Curriculum Vitae
3. Copy of the degrees and grade report (Masters degree in the mentioned area)
4. Recommendation letter
5. One-page statement of intent (Motivation for application)
6. IELTS result

How to apply

Interested and qualified applicants can send their documents as described above by email to Gloriose Gashaija Umulisa, the scholarship officer at UR (gashaijagloriose@gmail.com) and copy to the project coordinators: Dr Peter J. Mugume (jonmugume@gmail.com), Dr Shahaduz Zaman (s.zaman@bsms.ac.uk) and Professor Gail Davey (g.davey@bsms.ac.uk).

Key dates (Timeline):

1. The deadline for application is 7th May 2020 at 5:00pm.
2. Not later than 12th May 2020, the list of shortlisted applicants will be published on UR Website and invited for interviews.
3. Interviews will be organised not later than 22th May 2020
4. Successful applicants will receive the nomination letters for scholarships not later than 28th May 2020

For more information:

Applicants can contact the Project PI, Dr Peter MUGUME (email: jonmugume@gmail.com)

Done at Kigali on 10th April 2020



Dr. Emile BIENVENU
Ag. Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Research
University of Rwanda