

**Call for DELTA Africa - Sub-Saharan Africa Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics (SSACAB) MSc fellowships in Biostatistics for 2017 Academic Year**

**APPLICATION DEADLINE FOR MSc SCHOLARSHIPS - 31<sup>ST</sup> JULY 2017**

**DESCRIPTION**

The Sub-Saharan African Consortium for Advanced Biostatistics (SSACAB) training, a consortium of twenty African and northern institutions with the University of the Witwatersrand as the lead; and KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programmes, Universities of KwaZulu-Natal, Northumbria University and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as co-applicants, has secured funding from the Wellcome Trust/AESA through the Developing Excellence in Leadership, Training and Science (DELTA Africa). The full list of participating institutions is listed below. The funding will cover fellows undertaking a MSc programme in Biostatistics in participating training institutions to develop and improve biostatistical skills among researchers, with an ultimate goal of creating research nodes of excellence to grow the discipline and a biostatistical network to nurture researchers with advanced skills and expertise. The consortium is therefore calling for full time scholarship applications for MSc degrees.

The MSc scholarships are open to candidates with strong background in Statistics, Mathematics, Demography and any other quantitative fields, including competent candidates from the lab/health fields such as biomedical sciences, pharmacy, medicine who may benefit from a postgraduate course in biostatistics. The potential fellows should have applied for a place at one of the postgraduate biostatistics degree programmes being offered by partner institutions.

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 low and middle-income countries 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 in low and middle-income countries.

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**ELIGIBILITY**

The scholarship is open to nationals of low and middle-income countries in the Sub-Saharan African Region that are resident in the region. [http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups#Sub\\_Saharan\\_Africa](http://data.worldbank.org/about/country-and-lending-groups#Sub_Saharan_Africa) and partnering institutions in the consortium.

Applicants should normally be under 35 years for the MSc Programme.

Applicants should meet each of the separate University's admission requirements for the MSc degree before applying for the fellowship.

**THE MSc SCHOLARSHIP PACKAGE**

The scheme will provide full scholarships for 18 MSc Fellows in the 2017 academic year and covers the following:

- Tuition fees and basic medical and accident insurance
- A monthly stipend to cover accommodation and living expenses
- Reasonable support for the MSc research project and supervision

- Bench fees to research institution hosting the MSc student
- Travel costs to and from academic training institution and the host research institution

### **ADDITIONAL MSc SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION**

Applications must provide the academic training institution with:

- ✓ A comprehensive curriculum vitae including relevant research and work experience
- ✓ Letter of motivation explaining why you want to pursue an MSc in biostatistics
- ✓ Certified copies of academic transcripts and degree certificates
- ✓ **Evidence of acceptance or application to study Biostatistics at a partner institution in 2017 academic year**
- ✓ Two confidential referee reports should be sent directly to the training institution

MSc scholarships will be given to candidates who are likely to strengthen the SSACAB institutions either as academic staff members or affiliation to research institution within the consortium. Awarded Fellows will be tracked with the new SSACAB alumni to increase their visibility and to monitor the impact of the programme.

### **HOW TO APPLY**

**The application process is two-fold:**

1. Applications for places should be made to the preferred host training institution. Institutions and their contact persons are listed below.

#### **A. UNIVERSITY OF THE WITWATERSRAND, JOHANNESBURG:**

**Institutional lead:** Prof. Tobias Chirwa: [tobias.chirwa@wits.ac.za](mailto:tobias.chirwa@wits.ac.za)

Contact for MSc enquiries:

Mrs Busi Mamabolo: [Busi.Mamabolo@wits.ac.za](mailto:Busi.Mamabolo@wits.ac.za)

Please access the following website for more details:  
<http://www.wits.ac.za/academic/health/publichealth/18699/postgraduateprogrammes.html>

#### **B. UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA:**

**Institutional lead:** Prof. Henry Mwambi: [mwambih@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:mwambih@ukzn.ac.za)

Contact for MSc enquiries:

Ms. Christel Barnard: [barnardc@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:barnardc@ukzn.ac.za) or Mrs Shereen Marimuthu:  
[Marimuthus@ukzn.ac.za](mailto:Marimuthus@ukzn.ac.za)

#### **C. UNIVERSITY OF MALAWI, MALAWI**

**Institutional lead:** Dr. Jupiter Simbeye: [jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw](mailto:jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw)

Contact for MSc enquiries:

Dr. Jupiter Simbeye: [jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw](mailto:jsimbeye@cc.ac.mw) or Mr Tsirizani Kaombe: [biostat-unima@cc.ac.mw](mailto:biostat-unima@cc.ac.mw)

Please access the following website for additional information:  
<http://www.science.chanco.unima.mw/index.php/stu/postgraduateprogrammes?layout=edit&id=47>

**D. UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI, KENYA**

**Institutional lead:** Prof. Patrick Weke: [pweke@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:pweke@uonbi.ac.ke)

Contact for MSc enquiries:

Dr. Nelson Owuor Onyango: [onyango@uonbi.ac.ke](mailto:onyango@uonbi.ac.ke)

Please access the following website for more details: <http://www.mathematics.uonbi.ac.ke>

**E. KILIMANJARO CHRISTIAN MEDICAL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TANZANIA**

**Institutional lead:** Dr. Michael Johnson Mahande: [jmmahande@gmail.com](mailto:jmmahande@gmail.com)

Contact for MSc enquires:

Mr. Victor Selengia: [vselengia\\_2006@yahoo.com](mailto:vselengia_2006@yahoo.com)

Please access the following website for more details: [www.kcmuco.ac.tz/index.php/admission](http://www.kcmuco.ac.tz/index.php/admission)

**F. STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY, SOUTH AFRICA**

**Institutional lead:** Prof Taryn Young: [tyoung@sun.ac.za](mailto:tyoung@sun.ac.za)

**APPLICATION FOR THE DELTAS AFRICA SSACAB SCHOLARSHIP**

- G.** The application for the DELTAS Africa SSACAB scholarship should be made separately and in writing, as outlined in the MSc scholarship section above. Scholarship applications should be sent to: Dr. Pascalia Munyewende: [pascalia.munyewende@wits.ac.za](mailto:pascalia.munyewende@wits.ac.za) and copied to Dr. Eustasius Musenge: [eustasius.musenge@wits.ac.za](mailto:eustasius.musenge@wits.ac.za)



UNIVERSITY OF THE  
WITWATERSRAND,  
JOHANNESBURG



**SSACAB**  
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA CONSORTIUM  
FOR ADVANCED BIostatISTICS TRAINING

**DELTA Africa**

**Full list of collaborating institutions in the SSACAB training programme**

**LEAD INSTITUTION**

<b>Name of Institution</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>Institutional Lead</b>
University of the Witwatersrand	South Africa	Tobias Chirwa

**CO-APPLICANTS**

London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	United Kingdom	Jim Todd
University of Northumbria	United Kingdom	Ngianga-Bakwin Kandala
University of KwaZulu Natal	South Africa	Henry Mwambi
KEMRI-Wellcome Trust Research Programme	Kenya	Sam Kinyanjui

**PARTNER INSTITUTIONS**

University Medical Center Utrecht	The Netherlands	Rene Eijkemans
Stellenbosch University	South Africa	Taryn Young
Kilimanjaro Christian Medical University College	Tanzania	Michael Mahande
University of Malawi	Malawi	Jupiter Simbeye
Makerere University	Uganda	Nazarius Tumwesigye
Noguchi Memorial Institute for Medical Research	Ghana	Kwadwo Koram
University of Nairobi	Kenya	Patrick Weke
University of Zambia	Zambia	Patrick Musonda
University of Kinshasa	Democratic Republic of Congo	Kalambayi Kayembe
University of Namibia	Namibia	Lawrence Kazembe
Medical Research Council	South Africa	Samuel Manda
INDEPTH Network	Ghana	Osman Sankoh
Human Sciences Research Council	South Africa	Khangelani Zuma
Centre for AIDS Programme of Research	South Africa	T.B.A.