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**MUHIMBILI UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH AND ALLIED SCIENCES AND THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA SCHOOL OF NURSING NIH FORGATY TRAINING PROGRAM – “Educating and Developing Bioethicists in Tanzania**

**-ENGAGE-**

**Call for Applications for a PhD Program in Bioethics Research at MUHAS - 2021**

**Introduction:**

The ENGAGE Program is inviting applicants for the doctoral program in Bioethics Research following the NIH grant award (**Fogarty NIH Grant: 1D43TW011809**). The program will be offered in collaboration between Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) and University of Pennsylvania (UPENN). The program is seeking to prepare the next generation of Bioethics scholars who will be at the forefront of scientific inquiry and advancement of the public’s health in Tanzania. These dedicated trainees will focus their dissertations on a research ethics related topic, regardless of the post graduate program enrolled in at MUHAS or elsewhere. Selected trainees will engage in empirical Bioethics research to help improve the quality of research produced and address critical questions that affect all Tanzanians. This may include research such as informed consent, research participation of vulnerable populations, vaccine trials, experimental treatments in clinical trials, genetics-genomics research, blood banking, IRBs, mistrust and stigma, compensation in research, and much more. The registration will be done in accordance to MUHAS Postgraduate guidelines for PhD training. This research based program will require the candidate to have four manuscripts (two published and two submitted) by the time of PhD defence; fulfilling the conference presentations; and course credits as per the MUHAS guidelines. Courses and supervision will be offered jointly by MUHAS and UPENN.

**Eligibility criteria:**

1. Aptitude and intent to become a future leader in Bioethics research and training
2. Applicants must hold a Master’s degree in a relevant health field (Clinical, Bioethics, Social Sciences, and other health related fields).
3. Be fluent in both spoken and written English language
4. The applicant must demonstrate basic experience health related research using basic level quantitative or qualitative statistical models.
5. Having prior learning or training in Bioethics is an added advantage.
6. Committed to the ENGAGE program and willingness to work with mentoring team, attend all meetings and workshops with approval (as needed) for work release
7. Permission from the current employer to engage in PhD training

**Personal attributes:**

The ENGAGE program seeks applicants with strong interests in Bioethics research, who can work independently, highly motivated, able to work with others and ready to be mentored in Bioethics, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills. Further, the program seeks for individuals who are ready to be leaders in bioethics, that entails mentoring others, teaching junior students and faculties, and taking part in ongoing research in addition to their planned and executing researches.

**Applications:**

The application for this PhD program will follow MUHAS standard guidelines for postgraduate students. However, to be shortlisted for the scholarship, candidates must submit the following documents:

1. Application cover letter
2. NIH formatted biosketch (containing academic and employment history, teaching/professional work, awards, publications/contribution to science)
3. Certified copies of academic transcripts and other relevant certificates
4. Two letters of support from potential academic supervisors from research or training institutions (indicating name, institution, e-mail, telephone number and relationship to the candidate) – see MUHAS guidelines for eligibility criteria for PhD supervisors

5. Letter of support from your current or former employer (If employed), indicating a willingness to provide study leave to allow for participation in all training activities
6. A 1-page personal statement
7. A 4-page research concept note

#### **What ENGAGE offers:**

1. Opportunity to train and become a global leader in Bioethics research through coursework, international experiential learning, mentorship, and independent research in one of relevant bioethics areas of research
2. Courses that will give you advanced learning and competencies in research and bioethics at MUHAS and UPENN
3. Dual Mentorship from experts Bioethics and Research at MUHAS, UPENN, and other international sites
4. Opportunity to present your research findings in local and international conferences relevant to your research
5. A good academic and research environment with dedicated and enthusiastic colleagues and mentors
6. Ability to work independently while enjoying free interaction with research leaders within the two institutions
7. Opportunity to engage in ongoing researches in both institutions suitable to further build your research competencies
8. Full scholarship for training and research at MUHAS, financial support for UPENN courses, Conference and publications support, and a students' stipend for the registered students.

#### **What is expected from you:**

1. To work and finish the PhD requirements within the 4-year period of the scholarship
2. Competencies to develop and run your own research in bioethics and supervise/mentor others behind you
3. Published 4 manuscripts emanated from your PhD research
4. Engage in training of others in bioethics and research
5. Adhere to MUHAS and UPENN guidelines, rules, and regulations

#### **Assessment plan for applicants:**

There will be a two-tier assessment: 1) Document review of all applicants and shortlisting those who fulfilled the minimum criteria. The shortlisted candidates will undergo oral interviews for final selection and agreement for the scholarship 2) The ENGAGE scholars will undergo two steps PhD application process, that is, provisional registration and full registration within the stipulated timelines as per MUHAS PhD guidelines.

#### **Submission process:**

Applications should be submitted to:

Ms. Nana Mgimwa (Project administrator)  
Directorate of Research and Publications, MUHAS  
Email: [nanamgimwa@googlemail.com](mailto:nanamgimwa@googlemail.com); Phone: +255 683 322 221

AND copy to or send any queries to:

1. Dr. Bruno F. Sunguya ([sunguya@gmail.com](mailto:sunguya@gmail.com), +255 685 217 272)
2. Prof. David P Urassa ([durassa2@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:durassa2@yahoo.co.uk), +255 754 279 553)
3. Prof. Ulrich M Connie ([culrich@nursing.upenn.edu](mailto:culrich@nursing.upenn.edu), +1 215-898-0898)

**Deadline for Application is Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 5:00pm**