



Call for applications for funded Masters (MSc) by Research and Publication Scholarship Focusing on Molecular Diagnosis of Blood Cancer

Background

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) is calling for potential applicants to apply for MSc by Research and publication scholarships on molecular diagnosis of blood cancer. MUHAS in collaboration with the University of Oxford and the International Working Group for Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (iwCLL) will provide full training support to three MSc. by R&P students who will be registered at MUHAS, and supervised by experts from both MUHAS and the University of Oxford. The support aims to address the dearth of knowledge and evidence in molecular diagnostics particularly in the area of blood cancers, strengthen laboratory based research capacity, and produce evidence that will help to inform national policies and strategies toward improvement of diagnostic services for blood cancers in the county.

Eligibility criteria:

1. Aptitude and intent to become a future leader in blood cancer research and training
2. Applicants must hold a Bachelor degree in a relevant laboratory field (BMLS or BSc), with a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.7; a degree in molecular laboratory will be of added advantage.
3. Be fluent in both spoken and written English language

4. The applicant must demonstrate basic experience in health related research using basic level quantitative or qualitative methods.
5. Committed to the program and willingness to work with mentoring team, attend all meetings, and workshops, with approval (as needed) for work release.
6. Permission from the current employer to engage in Masters by Research and Publication training.

Personal attributes:

The program seeks applicants with strong interests in laboratory related work and blood cancer, who can work independently, highly motivated, able to work with others and ready to be mentored, and have excellent written and verbal communication skills.

Further, the program seeks for individuals who are ready to be leaders in blood cancer research that entails mentoring others, teaching junior students and faculties, and taking part in ongoing research in addition to their training and research goals.

Application:

The application for this MSc 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. Biosketch/CV (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 MSc by R&P supervisors
5. A 1-page personal statement

What the program offers:

1. Opportunity to train and become a global leader in blood cancer research through coursework, international experiential learning, mentorship, and independent research in blood cancer research

2. Courses that will give you advanced learning and competencies in research and blood cancer at MUHAS and the University of Oxford
3. Mentorship from experts in blood cancer and research at MUHAS, and other international sites within the partner institutions
4. Opportunity to present your research findings in local and international conferences relevant to blood cancer
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 research in both institutions suitable to further build your research competencies
8. Opportunity to work with Ministry of Health and PORLAG in addressing blood cancer research gaps and implementation research
9. Full scholarship for training and research at MUHAS; conference and publications support, travel to attend earmarked specific courses, and a students' stipend for the registered students.

What is expected from you:

1. To work and finish the MSc. By R&P requirements within the 2-year period of the scholarship
2. Competencies to develop and run research in blood cancer and supervise/mentor others behind you
3. Published 2 manuscripts emanating from your MSc research as per MUHAS guidelines (1 published/accepted, 1 submitted to an international peer reviewed scientific journal at the time of defending the thesis)
4. Attend and earn a minimum of 30 credits for mandatory foundation courses in research ethics, research methodology, biostatistics, scientific writing, philosophy/theory of science and communicating science
5. Attend elective courses as prescribed by supervisors
6. Present original research in at least 1 national and 1 international scientific conferences
7. Engage in the training of others in blood cancer research
8. Adhere to MUHAS 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. Only the shortlisted candidates will undergo oral interviews for final selection and agreement for the scholarship
2. The selected scholars will undergo a two-step MSc. By R&P application process, that is, provisional registration and full registration within the stipulated timelines as per MUHAS postgraduate guidelines.

Submission process:

Applications should be submitted to:

Mr. Abbas Mkila; Email: abzimky@gmail.com ; Phone: +255 656 411 297

AND copy to or send any queries to: Dr. Clara C. Chamba (cchamba@blood.ac.tz)

Deadline for Application is Monday, 20th June 2022 at 5:00pm