

MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit



Uganda
Virus
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MEDICINE



PhD Fellowship Opportunities in Genetic Epidemiology

The MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit is an internationally recognised centre of excellence with dominant research themes in the areas of HIV and emerging infections, vaccines and immunity, chronic diseases and cancer. Through a multidisciplinary approach, intersecting basic science, epidemiological research, social-behavioural research and the conduct of new intervention evaluation studies, the Unit contributes knowledge on changing epidemics and diseases, the evaluation of innovative health care options, treatment and prevention and the development of health policy and practice in Africa and worldwide. Following the signing of strategic transfer agreements between the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM) and the Medical Research Council (MRC UK), the Unit formally joined LSHTM on 1st February 2018. The exciting new partnership will boost research capacity into current and emerging health issues in Africa and throughout the world. The Unit is based at the UVRI Entebbe campus with established outposts in Kalungu, Masaka, Wakiso and Kampala districts.

Applications are invited from individuals who are currently registered for a PhD programme in Bioinformatics in any of the accredited universities in Uganda. The PhD fellows will work under a project titled ***Genetic determinants of renal function in Africa*** at *The African Computational Genomics (TACG)* Research Group under the Non-Communicable Diseases Programme. The objectives of the project are:

- To examine the association between genetic variants and kidney function in individuals of African ancestry and assess how they relate to those seen in other ancestries.
- Refine (fine-map) association signals at new and existing kidney function loci.
- Develop a polygenic risk score (PRS) for kidney disease risk in Africa.
- Assess whether cardio-metabolic traits/diseases are causally related to kidney disease in Africans.

There are two PhD fellowship positions available. The fellowships are expected to expose the PhD fellows to techniques and practices of Genetic Epidemiology and Bioinformatics. The fellows will be integrated into the dynamic research group at *The African Computational Genomics (TACG)*. The PhD fellowship opportunities are expected to run for a duration of 12 months in the first instance with extension possible after annual performance review.

The PhD fellows will be expected to attend regular group meetings, journal clubs and 1-to-1 supervisory meetings covering genetics, bioinformatics and functional genomics. The fellows will also present their work at TACG group meetings to gain experience in formal presentations. Training in quantitative skills (statistics, data analytics and bioinformatics) and analysis of large-scale genomic datasets will be provided by the supervisory team led by Dr Segun Fatumo. Additional training and skills development opportunities will be provided through attendance and presentation of results at national and international conferences. There is opportunity to work remotely and flexible working hours.

Application Procedure

- An application letter expressing interest for the position.
- Curriculum vitae (highlighting your skills and relevant experience), including names, email addresses and telephone contact details of three (3) referees.
- Scanned copies of your professional and academic transcripts.

How to Apply

Applications should be addressed to the Head of Training and Career Development and submitted by email to training@mrcuganda.org and copy to segun.fatumo@lshtm.ac.uk. Combine all application documentation into one PDF document. Please specify the sponsorship opportunity (PhD2020-001) you are applying for in the subject line of the email. Only successful candidates will be contacted.

The closing date for receiving applications is 27th January 2020.