



CALL FOR PHD AND POST-DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIPS IN APPLIED HEALTH AND HEALTH EDUCATION RESEARCH

I. Background

All children and adolescents (CA) have a right to enjoy their childhood as well as being able to attain their full potential and lead productive adult lives. Moreover, the benefits from preventing mental illness to individuals, their families and societies are high, meaning that there is a strong economic as well as moral case for promoting mental wellbeing, including that of children and adolescents. The importance of universal interventions to foster CA's positive development and promote their mental wellbeing is increasingly recognised as a global priority, with schools seen as a good place to deliver them because of the amount of time CA spend in them, and the economies of scale that can be achieved.

This project titled "Promoting children's and adolescents' mental wellbeing in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)" sets out an ambitious trans-disciplinary, gender transformative applied health project to enable the governments and peoples of two developing countries, Rwanda and Ethiopia, to realise their ambition of improving the mental wellbeing of CA. The project will be delivered by an equitable partnership between the University of Rwanda (UR) in Rwanda, Addis Abba University (AAU) in Ethiopia and the University of Aberdeen (UoA) in Scotland.

The overall objective of this project is to develop, implement, and evaluate an affordable, effective, and trusted whole school mindfulness intervention to improve the mental well-being of children and adolescents in Rwanda and Ethiopia.

II. Description

In order to achieve the above-mentioned objective, the project has planned among other activities to provide capacity building and promote action research undertaken by academic staff from the implementing partners' institutions: University of Rwanda (UR) in Rwanda and Addis Abba University (AAU).

Both PhD students and postdoctoral researchers will be trained in undertaking interdisciplinary/transdisciplinary research to improve the health and wellbeing of people living in SSA. They will be supervised by experienced researchers from the University of Aberdeen, UK, the University of Rwanda, Rwanda, and Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be a stylized 'D' followed by a horizontal line.



Particularly, the postdoctoral researchers will conduct research as part of the research team under the supervision of experienced researchers from the above three named Universities, while also supervising PhD students and research assistants working on the project. The PDRs will have dual goals, contributing to the NHIR research project and developing their own career.

III. Funding

The funding of 2 PhD by research has been planned under the implementation of the project:

- (i) 1 PhD by research in Education (Educational Psychology) from UR-CE
- (ii) 1 PhD by research in Global Health from UR-CMHS

Similarly, the funding of 2 postdoctoral researchers has been planned under the implementation of the project:

- (i) 1 Postdoc from UR-CE on Health Education
- (ii) 1 Postdoc from UR-CMHS on Applied Health Research

The duration for both programmes is three years. The possible extension is of 1 year based on accepted reasons. All costs related to these PhD and Post-Doctoral offers being here advertised will be fully covered by NIHR project.

IV. Application requirements

- Being an academic staff member of the University of Rwanda.
- Rwandan by nationality.
- For PhD candidates, Bachelor's degree with distinction and a Master's degree in public health, medicine, education and psychology
- For postdoc candidates, PhD in public health, medicine, psychology and education

VI. Application file

The interested candidates should submit the following documents in soft copies as one zipped document:

- An application letter addressed to the Director of UR CPGS of for the position, addressed to the Director-UR Centre for Postgraduate Studies
- A motivation letter which demonstrates commitment and reasons for applicant's interest in this programme,
- A detailed curriculum vitae (CV),
- Notified copies of previous degrees,



- Three recommendation letters from academic senior staff members, one preferably from the university/lecturer/supervisor for PhD degree programme.

VI. Specific eligibility criteria

- Be fluent in English, both orally and in writing
- Female applicants will be given a competitive advantage in line with UR gender policy and UR's commitment to bridge the gender gap in research and teaching
- Applicants should not be above 40 and 45 years of age respectively for male and female applicants. An exception can be made for candidates with prior experience in participatory action research (PAR) methods that are used for conducting qualitative studies.

Selection methodology

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to the interview on dates that will be communicated through their respective emails.

VIII. How to apply and key dates

A complete application file in a zipped folder should be sent to UR-CPGS officer through email: ur-cpgscholarship@ur.ac.rw with copy to Email: wzabalirwa@gmail.com

Applications should be submitted not later than June 23rd, 2023 at 5:00 pm

IX. For further information, please contact:

Prof. Wenceslas Nzabalirwa, NIHR Project Country Lead Tel: +250788428454 Email: wzabalirwa@gmail.com.

Done at Kigali, on 07/06 / 2023



Dr. KAYIHURA Muganga Didas, PhD
Acting Vice Chancellor