



Call for Proposals

EDCTP Master's Fellowship in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics

Grant scheme	Training Awards (master's fellowships)
Disease	HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and neglected infectious diseases
Call identifier	MF.2013.40205
Total funding available	A minimum of 750,000 Euro
Publication date	21 August 2013
Number of awards	5-10
Deadline for applications	28 November 2013
Funding decisions	March 2014

Background

Clinical research and clinical trials for prevention and treatment of HIV, tuberculosis and malaria are the major priorities for EDCTP. An expanded scope is proposed for EDCTP2 to include [neglected infectious diseases](#) (NIDs) and implementation research on optimisation of health services. The strategy for planning and implementation of these studies is dependent on the availability of reliable data on the burden of diseases and their epidemiological trends in Africa. Reliable and sustainably updated epidemiological data in sub-Saharan Africa are limited. Moreover, there is a shortage of skilled personnel and training in the fields of epidemiology, medical statistics and data management to support these studies. This call, which is funded by the EDCTP participating states Sweden and UK, seeks to address these gaps.

Purpose

The EDCTP Master's Fellowship in Epidemiology and Medical Statistics aims to build research capacity in sub-Saharan Africa by supporting the training and career development of junior researchers in the fields of epidemiology and medical statistics. The scheme provides funds for the fellow to undertake a taught master's course in epidemiology or medical statistics at an internationally recognised centre of excellence and to conduct a field study of 6-12 months duration at an institution in sub-Saharan Africa to build practical skills. The maximum duration of the fellowship is two years. Proposals that include south-south and north-south partnerships between sites with established epidemiological research platforms and sites with limited capacity are encouraged.

Eligibility criteria

Applications should be submitted by an established researcher (the **Primary Supervisor**) to support a named fellowship candidate (the **Fellow**) who will undertake the fellowship under the supervision and mentorship of the Primary Supervisor. Applications may include **Secondary Supervisors** who provide input to the project and additional support to the **Fellow**.

The Fellow should fulfil the following requirements:

- Citizens or persons with permanent residency who are based in one of the following sub-Saharan countries: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo, Ivory Coast, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, Zambia or Zimbabwe
- Hold a first degree (bachelor's or medical qualification)



- Be at an early stage in his/her research career, but with some relevant work experience and a demonstrated interest and motivation in pursuing a research career in epidemiology, medical statistics or data management in sub-Saharan Africa
- Be based at a non-profit academic/research institution in sub-Saharan Africa that is able to comply with EDCTP's [General Contract Terms and Financial Guidelines](#) and to provide a post for the Fellow on completion of the award
- Have the support of a Primary Supervisor and, where applicable, Secondary Supervisor(s).

The Primary Supervisor should fulfil the following requirements:

- Hold a post for the duration of the fellowship at a non-profit academic/research institution in sub-Saharan Africa or an [EDCTP-EEIG participating state](#) where the award will be administered. The Primary's Supervisor's institution will be the Contractor with which EDCTP signs the grant contract
- Take responsibility for the overall management of the project and the EDCTP grant, including the administration of the grant in compliance with EDCTP's [General Contract Terms and Financial Guidelines](#)
- Have a track record and an active research programme in epidemiology and/or medical statistics, with appropriate expertise to supervise and support the training of the Fellow in epidemiological and statistical methodologies
- Have a track record in training and mentoring junior researchers
- Provide an appropriate research environment and high quality supervision of the Fellow. Primary Supervisors who are not based in the location where the research project will be conducted must provide details and assurance of appropriate supervision arrangements.

The Secondary Supervisor(s) should fulfil the following requirements:

- Hold a post for the duration of the fellowship at an institution that is able to comply with EDCTP's [General Contract Terms and Financial Guidelines](#).
- Provide support, guidance or mentorship to the Fellow in accordance with the training plan and research project. Supervisors based outside Europe and sub-Saharan Africa must demonstrate that their input is essential to the project.

All applications must include the following:

- CVs of the Fellow and Supervisors
- Details of the master's course to be undertaken
- Details of the research project to be carried out in sub-Saharan Africa by the Fellow
- Information on how the capacity built via this award will be implemented and sustained at the Fellow's home institution. This should include details of the activities that the Fellow will undertake upon completion of his/her training, how the Fellow will pass on knowledge and skills to colleagues and how the training will contribute to future epidemiological/clinical research activities at the home institution
- Details of the supervision arrangements for the duration of the fellowship. It is expected that the Fellow will have Supervisors based at each location where the training and research will take place. This may require identification of Secondary Supervisor(s) in addition to the Primary Supervisor.

EDCTP encourages fellowship applications that increase networking and collaborations with:

- Researchers based at publicly-funded, non-profit institutions in EDCTP-EEIG participating states: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxemburg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom



- Existing networks and initiatives in sub-Saharan Africa
- Pharmaceutical companies, Product Development Partnerships (PDPs) and other public or private partnerships.

Budgetary information

Available funding

The maximum duration of the award is 24 months. Funding is provided for:

- Master's training to support the Fellow to undertake a taught master's course at an internationally recognised centre of excellence. The Fellow will receive a stipend based on the cost of living in the country where he/she studies, as well as travel costs and course fees.
- Research project costs for the Fellow to carry out a small-scale project (6-12 months duration) in sub-Saharan Africa. Research project costs can include salary support for the Fellow, consumables, essential collaborative or project-related travel, small items of equipment, field work and data collection.

The majority of the requested funds (>75% of the grant budget) should support the Fellow's master's training and his/her research activities conducted in sub-Saharan Africa. All requested costs must be justified in the application. The project research costs (excluding the salary) should not exceed 20,000 Euro. It is recognised that the course costs will vary depending on the location of the master's training; however, it is expected that the total grant cost will not exceed 120,000 Euro.

Cofunding

Applications that leverage financial support in the form of cofunding to maximise the outputs from the fellowship are encouraged. Cofunding may take the form of cash contributions made directly to EDCTP or directly to the institutions where the fellowship research project will be conducted, as well as in-kind contributions, *i.e.* the provision of goods or services, including salaries and costs, supported by the project partners towards carrying out the research project. Project partners from EDCTP-EEIG participating states (with the exception of Sweden and UK, which have provided funds directly for this call) are encouraged to contact the national representatives and their deputies on the EDCTP [General Assembly](#).

Application process

The Primary Supervisor is required to submit a completed [MF.2013 Application Form](#) (in English, A4-sized PDF format) plus [Budget form](#) to proposals@edctp.org. Applications will be assessed by a Scientific Review Committee on the basis of the following criteria:

- Quality of the Fellow (academic qualifications, interest and aptitude for research, potential to complete successfully the master's training and develop his/her research career)
- Quality of the training and supervision component, including how the capacity will be sustained post-award
- Excellence, importance and feasibility of the research study, taking into consideration the feasibility and appropriateness of the methods, and how the study will use the skills obtained through the master's training
- Institutional support for the Fellow post-award, including details of how the candidate will be supported to develop his/her career
- Track record of the Primary Supervisor and any additional Supervisor(s) in research and research training, including details of current research activities and how the Fellow's research project fits within the research environment and activities at the institution
- Fit with the mission and objectives of EDCTP (scientific, networking, capacity building).

Additional information



- A Fellow may only submit/be part of one application. A Supervisor (Primary or Secondary) may submit/be part of up to two applications to support different Fellows, but he/she must demonstrate that adequate time will be committed to the support of the Fellow(s).
- Awards are conditional on the Fellow gaining entrance to the Master's course.
- Applications from individuals who are seeking financial support to undertake a Master's degree on its own and who do not have the support of a Primary Supervisor to carry out a research project will not be accepted.
- Applications for distance-learning Master's training will only be considered where the Master's course can be completed within the two year duration of the award.
- In exceptional circumstances, a Master's in Public Health or Tropical Medicine may be supported if the applicant can provide justification to demonstrate that the course is comparable to a Master's in Epidemiology.
- EDCTP reserves the right to alter the timelines of this call in case of unexpected events and to determine whether or not a proposal falls within the scope of EDCTP and is eligible under this call. EDCTP will make decisions on applications at its sole discretion and in conformity with its governing structure. Applications that do not comply with the submission guidelines or published deadlines will not be considered.

Deadlines

The deadline for submission of applications is midnight Central European Time **28 November 2013**.

Decisions on the full applications will be available in **March 2014**.

Successful applicants should sign the EDCTP Grant Agreement by **April 2014**.

Legal information

EDCTP is supported by EDCTP-EEIG Participating States and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission via Article 185 (Ex. 169 through the decision No 1209/2003/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 June 2003).

EDCTP conforms to the legislation of The Netherlands concerning the Personal Data Protection Act.

Information on EDCTP guidelines and financial requirements, including the General Contract Terms and the Financial Guidelines, can be found in the [Guidelines and Forms page](#).

Information on the EDCTP mission and proposed scope of the second EDCTP programme is available on the [EDCTP website](#).

If you do not have Adobe Acrobat, please download the [PDF converter](#).

For submission, please read carefully and use the following documents:

- [MF.2013 Application](#) (Word)
- [Instructions for the MF.2013 Application Form](#) (PDF)
- [Budget Form](#) (Excel)

Contact information

Please direct any questions to proposals@edctp.org.