

AWACAN-ED Masters (MMed) Research Bursary Opportunity

The African aWAreness of CANcer & Early Diagnosis (AWACAN-ED) Project is an NIHR-funded Global Research Group project focussing on advancing early diagnosis of cancer in Southern Africa. The AWACAN-ED team includes a multidisciplinary group of researchers from South Africa, Zimbabwe and the United Kingdom (UK) working together with collaborators to advance to improve care-seeking and address barriers to early cancer diagnosis in Southern Africa. The Project focuses on cervical and breast cancer in women and colorectal cancer in both men and women, as these are common cancers in African populations that have relatively easy methods for detection and treatment, especially in the early stages.

Alongside the research aspects, the Project also aims to strengthen research capacity in Southern Africa through training programmes and mentorship of emerging cancer researchers. It will offer scholarships/bursaries to fund and support Masters and PhD students in both South Africa and Zimbabwe and organise an annual AWACAN-ED Southern African School for Cancer Research. More information about the study can be found on the Project's [website](#).

AWACAN-ED is currently seeking motivated Masters students with interests in public health and oncology to join its interdisciplinary research group. Successful candidates are invited to apply for a Master of Medicine (MMed) bursary. The successful applicant will benefit from being involved in the Project and contribute to the design, implementation, evaluation and reporting/dissemination of the Project findings.

Conditions of Award:

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Be registered for an MMed programme in the Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Cape Town
- Undertake dissertation-related research that may include collecting data or over-seeing data collection, data management, reviewing data quality, conducting statistical analyses.
- Write up of results of their project for publication in peer-reviewed manuscripts and stakeholder reports.
- As part of the candidate's professional development, participation will be required in AWACAN-ED Project activities and in the annual one-week AWACAN-ED Southern African School for Cancer Research
- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with her/his UCT supervisor and adhere to the plans and agreements therein.
- Comply with UCT's approved policies, procedures and practices for postgraduate students.

Value and tenure:

The value of the bursary will be an annual amount of R127 000.00 The tenure of the bursary is for two years, renewable in the second year depending on satisfactory academic progress.

Academic Criteria:

Eligible candidates will:

- Be in possession of an MMed admission offer for 2023 or currently registered for an MMed at the University of Cape Town
- Have excellent English written and communication skills and strong analytic skills.
- Demonstrate commitment to working and improving health in Africa upon completion of MMed study.
- Current or previous work experience or training in primary care, in the context of oncology, gynaecological oncology or general surgery would be advantageous.

Advantageous:

- Have an interest in or experience with mixed-methods research
- Have current or previous work experience or training in oncology and/or gynaecological oncology.

Application requirements:

Please email the following in a single pdf file to Nicolé Cornelius (Email: nicole.cornelius@uct.ac.za):

- A CV including a full list of publications (if any)
- An application letter describing candidate's academic and research interests, relevant research and work experiences, academic/professional goals, and objectives, confirmed mentor, and how his/her research interests align with those of the AWACAN-ED Project.
- Certified copies of all academic transcripts and degree certificates.
- At least two letters of recommendation from academic and/or professional referees.

Selection Process:

Eligible and complete applications will be considered by an AWACAN-ED Scholarship Selection Team. Only shortlisted candidates will be selected.

Application deadline: 29 July 2022

Contact details for submission of applications and for enquiries:

Queries can be directed to Prof Jennifer Moodley, Prof John Ataguba and Dr Tasleem Ras: The Selection Committee c/o Ms Nicolé Cornelius, Telephone: 27 84 717 4158, Email: nicole.cornelius@uct.ac.za

The University of Cape Town is committed to the pursuit of excellence, diversity and redress in achieving its equity targets. It reserves the right to disqualify ineligible, incomplete and or inappropriate applications, and reserves the right to change the conditions of award or to make no awards at all.