

Full-time funded AWACAN-ED Masters Scholarship Opportunity (Public Health)

The African aWareness of CANcer & Early Diagnosis (AWACAN-ED) Project is an NIHR-funded Global Research Group project focussing on advancing the 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 and 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 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 primary care oncology to join its interdisciplinary research group. Successful candidates are invited to apply for a fully funded Master of Public Health (MPH) scholarship. 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 full-time study as an MPH student 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 for publication in peer-reviewed manuscripts and stakeholder reports.
- As part of the candidate's professional development, full participation will be required in AWACAN-ED Project activities and 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 scholarship will be an annual amount of R127 000, on the assumption that no paid work will be undertaken alongside the full-time studies. The tenure of the scholarship is for two years, renewable annually depending on satisfactory academic progress.

Academic Criteria:

Eligible candidates will:

- Be a current MPH student and willing to register for full-time studies in 2023.

- Have excellent English written and communication skills and strong analytic skills.
- Demonstrate commitment to working and improving health in Africa upon completion of MPH study.
- May undertake part-time work (not exceeding 20 hours/week) alongside the scholarship.

Advantageous:

- Competence in qualitative research methods and data analysis.
- Current or previous work experience or training in the field of public health and/or social sciences, in the context of primary care, oncology, gynaecological oncology or general surgery.

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 contacted.

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

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