

Full-time funded AWACAN-ED PhD 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. To advance the early diagnosis of these cancers in Southern Africa, the AWACAN-ED Project intends to:

- Assess the time intervals from symptom awareness to referral and diagnosis and factors influencing these intervals in Zimbabwe and South Africa (Workstream 1).
- Develop two e-Tools that promote more timely presentation and referral: a symptom assessment and management e-Tool for primary care providers and a symptom appraisal and help-seeking e-Tool for the public (Workstream 2)
- Evaluate the e-Tools to ensure that they are operationally and economically feasible and equitable, socio-culturally acceptable and support timely referral (Workstream 3).

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 doctoral students with interests in public health and primary care oncology to join its interdisciplinary research group. The successful candidate will receive a fully-funded PhD scholarship to complete the PhD and support the coordination, conduct, data management, analysis and reporting of relevant aspects of the Project as related to their PhD. The candidate may also contribute to other aspects of the Project as necessary.

Conditions of Award:

The successful candidate will be required to:

- Register for full-time study as a PhD student at the Faculty of Health Science, School of Public Health and Family Medicine, University of Cape Town.
- Undertake research, embedded in the AWACAN-ED project that will include collecting data or over-seeing data collection, data management, reviewing data quality, conducting analyses.
- Write up of results for publication in peer-reviewed manuscripts.
- Contribute to stakeholder and other reports.
- Present research results at scientific conferences and stakeholder meetings.
- Participate in the annual one-week AWACAN-ED Southern African School for Cancer Research as part of the candidate's professional development.

- Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with their UCT doctoral 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 R254 000. The tenure of the scholarship is for three years, renewable annually depending on satisfactory academic progress.

There are no fringe benefits associated with the scholarship.

Requirements

Eligible candidates will:

- Be in possession of a Master's degree in Public Health; Social and Behavioural Sciences; Psychology, Epidemiology, or a relevant discipline from a recognised institution.
- Have evidence of excellent written and communication skills in English.
- Demonstrate commitment to working and improving health in Africa upon completion of PhD study.
- Have experience and proficiency in qualitative research methods and data analysis.
- Be eligible to register as a PhD student in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, UCT in 2022.
- Be willing to learn new research skills and methodologies.
- Be willing to travel between the Western and Eastern Cape provinces.
- Be eligible to register as a PhD student in the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, UCT in 2022.
- May undertake part-time work (not exceeding 20 hours/week) alongside the scholarship.

Advantageous:

- Have an interest in or experience with mixed-methods research
- Have demonstrable experience analysing and writing up results for peer-reviewed publications.
- Have current or previous work experience or training in the field of public health and/or social sciences, in the context of primary care, oncology, surgical oncology and/or gynaecological oncology.
- Have experience with mobile health research or interventions

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
- An application/cover 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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