



# APCDR Studentships & Fellowships

2015-16

## APPLICATION PACKAGE

Thank you for your enquiry about the new APCDR Studentships and Fellowships call.

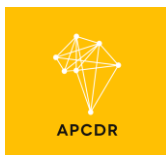
The African Partnership for Chronic Disease Research (APCDR) is offering a number of highly prestigious scholarships to support outstanding and highly motivated applicants from African countries to pursue post-graduate education or a research fellowship in the field of chronic disease research in Africa and within African populations.

The APCDR is dedicated to supporting the growth of biomedical research capacity in Africa and therefore seeks to award a number of Studentships and Research Fellowships to be undertaken at partnering institutions in Africa, the UK and the USA. The aim of the Studentships and Research Fellowships is to support the future leaders of African chronic disease research.

Studentships and Fellowships are available to support completion of a three year PhD programme or a 12 month fellowship. The awards will fund a PhD maintenance stipend (which covers living expenses) and full university and college fees or a full junior research post-doctoral fellowship stipend which is aligned to the host institution's stipend scales.

These Studentships and Fellowships will be awarded on a competitive basis and applicants will be expected to demonstrate both a strong academic background and an aptitude and enthusiasm for research. Applicants are expected to be a citizen of an African country.

Applications, including all required documentation, should be sent to [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org) by 16:00 (BST) 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.



## APCDR Studentships and Fellowships

### Application Process

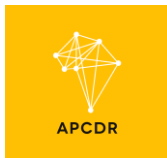
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## Summary Information

The African Partnership for Chronic Disease Research (APCDR) is offering a number of highly prestigious scholarships to support outstanding and highly motivated applicants from African countries to pursue post-graduate education or a research fellowship.

The APCDR seeks to promote collaborative, multi-centre research projects that produce unique and substantial evidence to underpin health interventions within the field of non-communicable and chronic infectious disease research. The APCDR is dedicated to supporting the growth of biomedical research capacity in Africa as part of this work, and therefore seeks to award a number of Studentships and Research Fellowships to be undertaken at partnering institutions in Africa, the UK and the USA. The aim of the Studentships and Research Fellowships is to support the future leaders of African chronic disease research.

### ***PhD Studentship Scheme***

Each PhD Studentship provides support for African students to undertake a three year PhD at an associated APCDR institution within Africa, the UK or the USA. The proposed research project must be aligned with the research objectives of the APCDR (visit [www.apcdr.org](http://www.apcdr.org) for specific information).

The scheme is open, through a competitive process, to citizens of African countries who have demonstrated a strong academic background, an aptitude and enthusiasm for research and the potential to become research leaders in the field of chronic disease.

Each award will cover a PhD maintenance stipend (which covers living expenses) and full university and college fees. Studentships are conditional on the successful candidate obtaining a place at the host institution and would be expected to start within six months of receiving the award letter from APCDR.

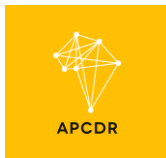
Applications must be received by **16.00 hours (BST) on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**, having been submitted to [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org). Only applications that are complete and received by the deadline will be considered eligible.

### ***Fellowship Scheme***

Each Fellowship provides support for African junior researchers to undertake a twelve month post-doctoral research project at an associated APCDR institution within Africa, the UK or the USA. The proposed research activities must be aligned with the research objectives of the APCDR (visit [www.apcdr.org](http://www.apcdr.org) for specific information) and should aim to provide the basis for future funded research projects.

The scheme is open, through a competitive process, to citizens of African countries who have completed a PhD in a related area, have demonstrated an aptitude and enthusiasm for research and the potential to become research leaders in the field of chronic disease.

Each award will cover a full junior research post-doctoral fellowship stipend which is aligned to the host institution's stipend scales and some research support costs for the twelve month Fellowship.



Fellowships are conditional on the successful candidate obtaining a place at the host institution and would be expected to start within six months of receiving the award letter from APCDR.

Applications must be received by **16.00 hours (BST) on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015**, having been submitted to [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org). Only applications that are complete and received by the deadline will be considered eligible.

### ***Benefits of the APCDR Studentship and Fellowship Programme***

Successful candidates will have the opportunity to expand their research expertise and scientific knowledge of chronic diseases in Africa; advance their professional development including their management, leadership and communication skills; enhance the impact of their research; and establish a competitive position from which to seek follow-on funding for further global health research. Successful candidates will benefit from the APCDR's shared resources and the expertise of our members, who are world-leading researchers in the field of chronic disease, by providing opportunities to network and collaborate with researchers beyond their host institution.

## **Detailed Information**

### **A. Aims of the Studentship and Fellowship Programme**

Part of the APCDR partnership funding grant is allocated to capacity building activities in Africa. Often research institutions in Africa do not have the resources to fund the development of scientists in the early stages of their development as independent researchers. The objective of the APCDR Studentship and Fellowship programme is to strengthen the pipeline of researchers from Africa by enabling outstanding individuals to move towards research independence and eventual leadership within the field of chronic disease.

### **B. Application Process**

#### ***Stage 1 – Application stage***

1. Candidates are to submit the following as PDFs documents:
  - An up to date version of their curriculum vitae (see Section E)
  - A research proposal outline (see Section F)
  - An electronic copy of the candidate's degree transcripts
  - Two academic references, submitted by referees independently (see Section G)
  - A letter of support and commitment from their proposed supervisor
  - Evidence of English language proficiency if required (see Section 15 & 16)
  - A photocopy of the candidate's passport

**All documents must be written in English.**



*Deadline for receipt:* **16.00 hours (BST) on 30<sup>th</sup> April** to [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org).

*Contact for queries:* All questions should be sent to [studentship-info@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-info@apcdr.org)

### **Stage 2 – Eligibility check**

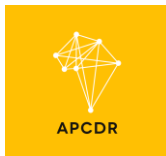
2. All applications will be checked for eligibility against the Eligibility Criteria (see Section C).
  - Eligible applications will go forward to Stage 3
  - Due to the number of applications, those who do not progress to Stage 3 will not be informed

### **Stage 3 – Short-listing**

3. Eligible applications will be reviewed by the Short-listing Committee, whose membership will comprise of members of the APCDR Capacity Building Sub-Committee. They will assess:
  - The strength of the candidate’s profile, including their previous experience, expertise, research outputs and potential to become leaders within the field of chronic disease research in Africa
  - The research proposal:
    - *For PhD Studentships:* the objectives, feasibility, regional relevance of the research question, research impact and the strategic relevance and fit of the research proposal within the remit of the APCDR
    - *For Fellowships:* the hypothesis and methodological plan, feasibility, regional relevance of research question, research impact and the strategic relevance and fit of the research proposal within the remit of the APCDR
  - The willingness of the candidate’s specified APCDR supervisor to take on the role of research supervisor for the period of the Studentship or Fellowship
4. Candidates will be short-listed to go forward to Stage 4. These candidates will be informed and invited for interviews by the end of May 2015.
5. The APCDR follows an equal opportunities policy and does not discriminate according to race, gender, sexual orientation, religion or disability.

### **Stage 4 – Interviews**

6. Interviews will be held in June 2015. Each candidate will give a short presentation on their research proposal as part of the selection process.
7. *Interview panel:* The panel membership will comprise members of the APCDR Short-listing Committee, with at least one selected member with expertise in the short-listed candidates’ areas of research interest.
8. *Criteria:* The interview panel will assess -
  - The strength of the candidate’s profile including their previous experience, expertise, research outputs and potential to become research leaders within the field of chronic disease research in Africa



- The candidate's research proposal including their research objectives or hypotheses and methodological plan; the feasibility; the regional relevance of the research question and research impact, in particular its strategic relevance and fit with the strengths of the APCDR; resourcing; management of ethical issues; timelines and milestones
9. *Outcome:* Candidates will be informed of the interview outcome within three weeks of the interview date. The interview panel will make a recommendation of appointment to the APCDR Scientific Steering Committee (SSC), who will make the final approval and appointment. If a decision cannot be made by the SSC, appointments will be made at the discretion of the APCDR Co-Directors.

### **Stage 5 – Appointment**

10. A conditional offer will be made to successful candidates in July 2015 based on the outcome of their English proficiency examinations, if required (section 15-16). Candidates will not be appointed until the English language competence criteria have been satisfied.
11. All offers are conditional and the final appointment is dependent on the candidate obtaining a place at the host APCDR institution. Applications for study at the host APCDR institution will need to be submitted by the applicant, independent of the APCDR studentship and fellowship call process.
12. PhD students and fellows must commence their appointments within six months of receiving the award letter from APCDR, with agreement of the APCDR host institution.
13. It is anticipated that APCDR PhD students and fellows will be administered/employed through the host APCDR partner institute, under standard institution terms and conditions of study and employment, respectively.

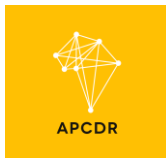
## **C. Eligibility**

### **Qualifications & experience**

14. The competition is open to clinical and non-clinical scientists from Africa (see Section 17). The qualifications required of each applicant type are as follows:
  - PhD Studentship candidates must have completed a Master's or equivalent degree from a recognised institution in a related field of study and have demonstrated academic excellence
  - Fellowship candidates must have completed a doctorate at a recognised institution in a related field. Applications from scientists with more than three year's post-doctoral experience will not be eligible
    - Periods of authorised absence, e.g. covering maternity or sickness, are not included for the purposes of calculating 'post-doctoral experience' but should be declared. The APCDR reserve the right to verify information provided if necessary

### **English language competence**

15. To benefit fully from the programme, awardees must have an excellent command of the English language. This means:



- They must be able to communicate a research paper clearly and understandably in spoken and written English
- They must also be able to work comfortably in English with an Anglophone research team – and the team members with them

16. If a short-listed candidate's first language is not English or if his/her previous university studies were not wholly in the medium of English, evidence that the candidate is fluent in English will be required. **A candidate selected for appointment by the interview panel may be required to take an approved English language test, achieving the minimum required scores before an appointment can be made.** Details of the approved English tests and their minimum required scores are available at:

<http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/international/requirements.html#english>.

### **African candidate eligibility**

17. To qualify as an African candidate, the applicant must be a citizen of a country located within the African Region as defined by the WHO.

### **Eligibility of employees of APCDR institutions**

18. Employees of partner APCDR institutions who meet the preceding eligibility criteria are welcome to apply.

### **Support from an APCDR supervisor**

19. All candidates must have the support of a supervisor who is a member of an APCDR institution and discussed the particulars of their proposed research project, before applying for the Studentship and Fellowship programme. Candidates must submit a letter of support and commitment from their proposed supervisor as part of their application. See Section J for a list of potential supervisors.

*Applications that do not meet the preceding eligibility requirements will be rejected at Stage 2 (above).*

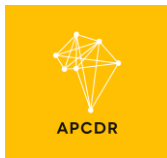
## **D. Person Specification**

20. Candidates should demonstrate the following:

### **Essential requirements for PhD students:**

- A strong Masters qualification or equivalent from a respected institution within a related field of research i.e. medicine, biomedical science, public health, epidemiology, statistics or the biological sciences
- Excellent written and spoken research communication skills in English
- Experience of working effectively in a research team and with colleagues from diverse backgrounds
- Demonstrated a desire and willingness to learn, expand their skills set and take on new challenges





### **Essential requirements for fellows:**

- A PhD or equivalent qualification from a respected institution, and no more than three year's post-doctoral research experience
- Excellent written and spoken research communication skills in English
- Experience of working effectively in a research team, conducting independent research, managing and supporting other team members, setting priorities and objectives and decision-making
- Experience of working effectively with colleagues from diverse backgrounds
- Competence in the key methods and techniques required to successfully execute their research proposal

### **Desirable for PhD students and fellows:**

- Experience of working in an African research setting
- A network of collaborators within Africa

### **Candidate profile and strengths**

21. In addition to the essential and desirable person specification requirements, candidates must:

- Be able to demonstrate they have an enquiring scientific mind, are able to probe and challenge scientific assumptions and knowledge; and specifically for research fellows be able to ask “the right questions” and design a methodological plan to address these
- Currently be studying or research active in the field of their research proposal
- Have a well-developed sense of personal and professional integrity
- Demonstrate potential to become global health research leaders and be able to demonstrate a clear, ambitious yet realistic vision of their career path beyond their PhD studies or research fellowship

## **E. Curriculum Vitae**

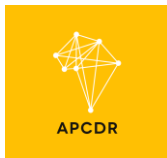
22. Candidates need to submit an up-to-date curriculum vitae which contains the following information:

- Full name and title; date of birth; gender; nationality; correspondence address until September 2015; occupation in the academic year 2014-2015; email address; previous degrees and grades; awards or scholarships received; names and addresses of referees

23. It should not exceed two A4 pages and should include selected publications, as relevant.

## **F. Research Proposal**

24. The research proposal for PhD Studentship applications should be no more than 400 words and include:



- Research objectives that are both important to the field of chronic disease research in Africa and realistic to achieve within the three year programme
- An outline of the proposed study design including the study population
- A clear idea of the potential impact of the proposed research; i.e. how it could benefit the field of chronic disease research and its relevance to the health of communities within the African region
- A statement on how the PhD Studentship will enable them to achieve their career objectives

25. The research proposal for Fellowship applications should be no more than 1500 words and include:

- Original research question(s) or hypotheses with the potential to generate valuable new knowledge, and/or develop or evaluate advanced methodology, that are important to chronic disease research in Africa and in African populations
- A clear methodological plan that is realistic to achieve during the twelve month Fellowship and includes the proposed study design and research population, and an outline of the analysis plan
- A clear idea of the potential impact of the proposed research i.e. how it could benefit the field of chronic disease research and its relevance to the health of communities within the African region
- A clear idea of how the research project will provide the basis for other future funded research projects
- A statement on how the Fellowship will enable them to achieve their career objectives

## G. References

26. Applications require two academic references, and cannot include their proposed research project supervisor. Referees should send their references directly to [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org). Referees should be given adequate time to complete references before the application deadline.

27. Referees will need to explicitly state their relationship to the candidate; describe the quality of the candidate's work to date and the candidate's suitability for the proposed area of research, with examples.

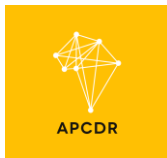
**28. References must be written in English.**

## H. What's on offer?

### Unique opportunities

29. Successful candidates will have access to the following:

- The complementary research, training, mentoring and networking capabilities of the host APCDR partner institutions



- Links and opportunities to collaborate and network with scientists at other APCDR partner institutions including opportunities to take part in conferences and training sessions hosted by APCDR
- Well-managed, sophisticated resources/facilities at our partner institutions and staff trained to high standards
- To a concentration of global health research expertise within the area of chronic disease research in Africa

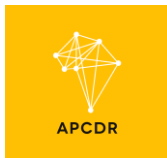
### **Studentship and Fellowship details**

30. The APCDR Studentship and Fellowship programme is funded by the APCDR MRC Partnership Grant and the H3A Diabetes Wellcome Trust Strategic Award. Additional funding comes from APCDR's funding partners; University of Cambridge (Cambridge Trusts).
31. Appointments are conditional on the candidate obtaining a place at their proposed APCDR host institution.
32. Ideally the APCDR Studentships and Fellowships will be awarded so that successful candidates can commence their appointment in 2015/16; however depending on the quality of candidates, Studentships and Fellowships may be appointed a year later.
33. Each PhD Studentship will be funded for a maximum of three years. Each PhD studentship award will cover a full PhD maintenance stipend (which will cover living expenses) and university and college fees. The exact amount is dependent on the host institution.
34. Each Fellowship will be funded for a maximum of 12 months and not less than 6 months. Each Fellowship award will cover a full junior research post-doctoral fellowship stipend which is aligned to the host institution stipend scales and some research support costs specific to the project for the 12 month period. The exact amount is dependent on the host institution.
35. Successful candidates may propose a well justified, short research/training visit to another APCDR institution.
36. Successful candidates are expected to participate in the academic life of the host institution, and will be required to participate in their graduate student/post-doctoral/staff development programmes and to undertake appropriate specialist research training.
37. PhD students and fellows are expected to plan for their next career transition and, towards the end of their programme, compete for prestigious research posts and /or fellowships.

## **I. Research Supervisors & Mentor roles**

### **Research Supervisors**

38. Candidates are required to independently approach potential supervisors from participating APCDR institutions to discuss their proposed research project. Candidates will need to submit a letter of support and commitment from their chosen supervisor as part of their application. A list of potential APCDR supervisors and APCDR host institutions can be found in section J.
39. Research supervisors are obligated to follow the guidelines of their institution when supervising APCDR funded PhD students and fellows.
40. The research supervisors will be responsible for enabling a PhD student to:



- Establish themselves and their project within the host institution and the wider APCDR network
- Access necessary equipment, IT, staff and logistics resources
- Participate fully in the academic life of their host institution
- Identify and access appropriate training where required
- Develop their research project and a plan of work, ensuring that all the necessary approvals are obtained and that the student is progressing as required to achieve the necessary milestones for their PhD programme

Research supervisors will also:

- Promote the student's personal and professional development
- Monitor the student's scientific progress and performance and notify the APCDR's Capacity Building Sub-committee of successful completion

41. The research supervisors will be responsible for enabling a fellow to:

- Establish themselves and their project within the host institution and the wider APCDR network
- Access necessary equipment, IT, staff and logistics resources
- Participate fully in the academic life of their host institution
- Identify and access appropriate training where required
- Develop their research project and a plan of work, ensuring that all the necessary approvals are obtained

Research supervisors will also:

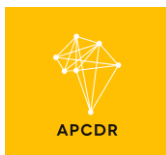
- Promote the fellow's personal and professional development
- Monitor the fellow's scientific progress and performance, reporting to the APCDR's Capacity Building Sub-committee, at six months and at the end of the Fellowship

### **Mentor(s)**

42. With the support of their research advisors, the student/fellow will identify and approach a mentor from within the APCDR network, who is working with a participating African institution but is independent of their project. The student/fellow and mentor will sign a simple agreement defining their relationship, and will hold regular meetings to discuss and develop the student/fellow's research and career plan.

### **Key differences between the Research Advisor and Mentor roles**

- *Mentoring* is a power-free relationship based on mutual respect, confidentiality and trust, and with the focus on supporting long-term personal, professional and career growth, development and maturity. Mentoring is less specifically about the student/fellow's specific research project, and more about asking, prompting and listening.

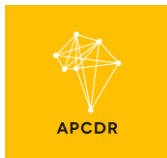


- *Research Advisor* is a power-based relationship, specifically linked to the student/fellow's research project, providing advice on project design, methodologies and specific skills, training, and managing challenges and performance expectations, in order to help the fellow to successfully complete the research project. They may also have the additional role of line manager.
- By the nature of the relationships, a research advisor will help guide the student/fellow to ensure s/he completes their research project, whilst a mentor helps the student/fellow do what s/he *wants* to do and to plan his/her future career.

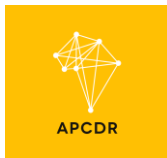
## J. List of APCDR institutions and potential supervisors

43. Below is a list of APCDR members from APCDR institutions who have expressed interest in supervising an APCDR funded PhD student or research fellow. This list is not extensive and any member with the appropriate qualifications working at an APCDR institution (section 43) in a related field of research may volunteer to supervise.

Potential Supervisor	APCDR Institution	Country	Email Address
Professor Jean Claude Mbanya	University of Yaoundé I	Cameroon	<a href="mailto:jcmbanya3@gmail.com">jcmbanya3@gmail.com</a>
Dr Felix Assah	University of Yaoundé I	Cameroon	<a href="mailto:kembeassah@yahoo.com">kembeassah@yahoo.com</a>
Professor Eugene Sobngwi	University of Yaoundé I	Cameroon	<a href="mailto:sobngwieugene@yahoo.fr">sobngwieugene@yahoo.fr</a>
Dr Branwen Hennig	MRC Keneba, The Gambia; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	The Gambia; UK	<a href="mailto:branwen.hennig@lshtm.ac.uk">branwen.hennig@lshtm.ac.uk</a>
Professor Moffat Nyirenda	Karonga Prevention Study/Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit	Malawi	<a href="mailto:moffat.nyirenda@lshtm.ac.uk">moffat.nyirenda@lshtm.ac.uk</a>
Professor Clement Adebamowo	Institute of Human Virology Nigeria; Greenebaum Cancer Center and Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland	Nigeria; USA	<a href="mailto:adebamowo@outlook.com">adebamowo@outlook.com</a> <a href="mailto:cadebamowo@ihv.umaryland.edu">cadebamowo@ihv.umaryland.edu</a>
Professor Joram Buza	Nelson Mandela African	Tanzania	<a href="mailto:joram.buza@nm-aist.ac.tz">joram.buza@nm-aist.ac.tz</a>



	Institute of Science and Technology		
Professor Ayesha Motala	Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal	South Africa	<a href="mailto:motala@ukzn.ac.za">motala@ukzn.ac.za</a>
Professor Michele Ramsay	University of Witwatersrand	South Africa	<a href="mailto:michele.ramsay@wits.ac.za">michele.ramsay@wits.ac.za</a>
Professor Stephen Tollman	Rural Public Health & Health Transitions Research Unit; University of Witwatersrand; South African Medical Research Council	South Africa	<a href="mailto:stephen.tollman@wits.ac.za">stephen.tollman@wits.ac.za</a>
Dr Xavier Goméz-Olivé	Rural Public Health & Health Transitions Research Unit; University of Witwatersrand; South African Medical Research Council	South Africa	<a href="mailto:f.gomez-olivecasas@wits.ac.za">f.gomez-olivecasas@wits.ac.za</a>
Dr Nasheeta Peer	South African Medical Research Council	South Africa	<a href="mailto:nasheeta.peer@mrc.ac.za">nasheeta.peer@mrc.ac.za</a>
Professor Naomi Levitt	University of Cape Town	South Africa	<a href="mailto:naomi.levitt@uct.ac.za">naomi.levitt@uct.ac.za</a>
Dr Kaushik Ramaiya	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences	Tanzania	<a href="mailto:kaushikr@intafrica.com">kaushikr@intafrica.com</a>
Dr Marina Njelekela	Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences	Tanzania	<a href="mailto:madaula@yahoo.com">madaula@yahoo.com</a>
Dr Heiner Grosskurth	Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit, National Institute for Medical Research; London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	Tanzania; UK	<a href="mailto:heiner.grosskurth@lshtm.ac.uk">heiner.grosskurth@lshtm.ac.uk</a>
Dr Saidi Kapiga	Mwanza Intervention Trials Unit, National Institute for Medical Research; London School	Tanzania; UK	<a href="mailto:saidi.kapiga@lshtm.ac.uk">saidi.kapiga@lshtm.ac.uk</a>



	of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine		
Dr Rob Newton	MRC/UVRI Unit	Uganda	<a href="mailto:rob.newton@mrcuganda.org">rob.newton@mrcuganda.org</a>
Dr Manjinder Sandhu	Cambridge University; Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	UK	<a href="mailto:ms23@sanger.ac.uk">ms23@sanger.ac.uk</a>
Professor Liam Smeeth	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	UK	<a href="mailto:liam.smeeth@lshtm.ac.uk">liam.smeeth@lshtm.ac.uk</a>
Dr Laurie Tomlinson	London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	UK	<a href="mailto:laurie.tomlinson@lshtm.ac.uk">laurie.tomlinson@lshtm.ac.uk</a>
Professor Eleftheria Zeggini	Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	UK	<a href="mailto:eleftheria@sanger.ac.uk">eleftheria@sanger.ac.uk</a>
Dr Inês Barroso	Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute	UK	<a href="mailto:ib1@sanger.ac.uk">ib1@sanger.ac.uk</a>
Professor Mark McCarthy	Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genomics, University of Oxford	UK	<a href="mailto:mark.mccarthy@drl.ox.ac.uk">mark.mccarthy@drl.ox.ac.uk</a>
Professor Andrew Morris	University of Liverpool	UK	<a href="mailto:a.p.morris@liverpool.ac.uk">a.p.morris@liverpool.ac.uk</a>
Dr Charles Rotimi	National Human Genome Research Institute	USA	<a href="mailto:rotimic@mail.nih.gov">rotimic@mail.nih.gov</a>

44. Full list of APCDR member Institutes:

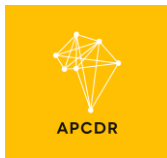
- University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon
- MRC Keneba, The Gambia
- University of The Gambia, The Gambia
- University of Ghana, Ghana
- University of Conakry, Guinea
- Moi University, Kenya
- Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust Unit, Malawi
- Malawi Epidemiology and Intervention Research Unit, Malawi
- University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Nigeria
- Institute of Human Virology, Nigeria
- University of Cape Town, South Africa
- University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa
- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
- The African Centre, South Africa
- National Institute for Medical Research, Tanzania



- Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences, Tanzania
- Nelson Mandela Institute, Tanzania
- MRC/UVRI Uganda Research Unit on AIDS, Uganda
- Makerere University, Uganda
- University of Cambridge, UK
- Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute, UK
- MRC Centre Cambridge, UK
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics, University of Oxford, UK
- MRC Centre for Global Health Genomics, , UK
- University of Liverpool, UK
- National Human Genome Centre, Howard University, USA
- National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, USA
- Case Western Reserve University, USA

45. Please note not all APCDR institutions or supervisors are able to host both PhD students and research fellows.





## APPENDIX 1. Guidance Notes for Applicants

### Application Summary

Applications and references should be sent by email to [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org) by the closing date **16:00 (BST) 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015**. Applications received after this date will be declined. The appointments will be made by the end of July 2015 and all successful candidates will be notified of the result.

In all instances, candidates must contact APCDR member supervisors from participating APCDR institutions in Africa, the UK and the USA to discuss their research project proposal. Applicants must obtain a letter of support and commitment from their potential supervisors stating that they are willing to supervise their research project. A list of potential supervisors can be found on pages 13-15.

### Documents for Submission

Applicants must submit all of the following documentation by the deadline, without which their application cannot be considered.

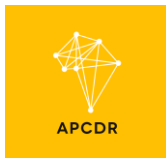
- An up to date version of their curriculum vitae – maximum of 2 A4 pages
- An outline of your research proposal:
  - Studentships – maximum of **400 words**
  - Fellowships – maximum of **1500 words**
- Evidence of English competency
- A photocopy of your previous degree transcripts
- A photocopy of your passport
- Two academic references to be sent directly to the Principal Investigators, African Partnership for Chronic Disease Research, [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org)

**All documentation should be written in English**

### Guidance for Curriculum Vitae

Please ensure that your curriculum vitae contains the following information in addition to the other information you wish to present:

- Your full name and title;
- Your date of birth;
- Your gender;
- Your nationality;
- Your correspondence address until September 2015;
- Your occupation in the academic year 2014-2015;
- Your email address;
- Your previous degrees and grades;



- Any awards or scholarships received;
- The names and addresses of the people you have asked to be your referees

Your curriculum vitae should not exceed two A4 pages and should include selected publications as relevant.

## Guidance for the Research Proposal Outline

There are different requirements for Studentships and Fellowships so please read the appropriate section carefully.

For Studentships please ensure your proposal outline includes the following:

- Your research objectives and how they relate to the APCDR remit of chronic disease research in Africa and African populations
- The regional relevance of your research question and the potential research impact
- The name of your proposed supervisor and the host APCDR Institution at which you would undertake your studies
- A brief outline of your proposed study design including the study population
- Your future career goals and how the Studentship will be beneficial to achieving these
- The proposal should not exceed **400 words**

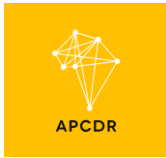
For Fellowships please ensure your proposal outline includes the following:

- Your research question and/or hypotheses, how they relate to the APCDR remit of chronic disease research in Africa and African populations and their regional relevance and potential research impact
- The proposed study design including your methodological plan, proposed study population and an outline of your analysis plan
- How the research project will provide the basis for other future funded research projects
- The name of your proposed supervisor and the host APCDR Institution at which you would undertake your studies
- Your future career goals and how the Fellowship will be beneficial to achieving these
- The proposal should not exceed **1500 words**

## Evidence of English Competence

If a short-listed candidate's first language is not English or if his/her previous university studies were not wholly in the medium of English, evidence that the candidate is fluent in English will be required.

**A candidate selected for appointment by the interview panel may be required to take an approved English language test, achieving the minimum required scores before an appointment can be made.** Details of the approved English tests and their minimum required scores are available at: <http://www.study.cam.ac.uk/undergraduate/international/requirements.html#english>.



## Referees

Applications require two academic referees, and cannot include your proposed research project supervisor. You should particularly note that you should, yourself, ask your referees to write in support of your application. You should ensure that you provide your referees with a copy of your curriculum vitae, project proposal and the guidance notes below.

Please give referees adequate time to complete references before the application deadline. Referees should send their references directly to [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org).

## Guidance for Referees

You have been asked by the applicant to write a confidential reference to the Principal Investigators of the African Partnership of Chronic Disease Research for a Studentship or Fellowship to begin in 2015/2016. The Principal Investigators wish to thank you in advance for your assistance which is crucial in maintaining the standard of the competition. The Principal Investigators would be particularly grateful if you would be kind enough to include in your reference your advice on the areas given below:

- Your relationship to the applicant;
- The quality of the applicant's work to date;
- The applicant's suitability for the proposed area of research (please give examples);

### References must be written in English.

References should be addressed to the APCDR Principal Investigators with the subject line containing the applicant's name and "reference".

References must be sent to: [studentship-applications@apcdr.org](mailto:studentship-applications@apcdr.org) and received by the closing date **16:00 (BST) 30<sup>th</sup> of April 2015**.