



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

2011-2012 CARTA PHD FELLOWSHIPS

1.0 BACKGROUND

The Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA) is an initiative of nine African universities (listed in Section 2.0), four African research institutes (listed in Section 3.0), and select northern partners (listed in Section 4.0). CARTA aims to develop and deliver an innovative model for doctoral training in sub-Saharan Africa and to strengthen the capacity of participating institutions to conduct and lead internationally-competitive research.

The CARTA program draws together disciplines required to address the complex processes that influence health. These disciplines include Epidemiology, Psychology, Biostatistics, Anthropology, Health Economics, Health Promotion; Demography, Sociology, Health Systems, Health Policy, Development Studies, and their interfaces with the biomedical sciences. The CARTA multidisciplinary approach will prepare its graduates to better address questions of contemporary policy relevance such as the social determinants of health, and the limited impact of technological advances on health in Africa.

Over the medium-term, CARTA aims to produce a critical mass of high-quality graduates trained to address the complex issues surrounding health and development in Africa, retain them in the region, and provide them a vibrant intellectual environment, as well as viable and challenging research and growth opportunities. CARTA aims to achieve reforms in higher education by:

- 1) Assisting universities to develop enriching and vibrant academic and research environments; and
- 2) Supporting promising African scholars who teach at affiliated universities to obtain high-quality doctoral training in public and population health-related fields.

CARTA is currently offering a fully-funded, collaborative doctoral training program in public and population health. This program has been developed in response to the great challenges faced by Africa's institutions of higher education in addressing the training and retention of the next generation of academics in the region. Women are particularly encouraged to apply. CARTA has also reserved a small number of scholarships specifically for doctoral students conducting research on issues of sexuality and reproductive health and rights.

Specifically, CARTA seeks to fund candidates who will be future leaders in their institutions; that is, young, capable, and committed individuals who, in time, will ensure that their universities will be the institutions of choice for future generations of academics and university administrators wishing to make a positive impact on public and population health in Africa.

CARTA will host a series of Joint Advanced Seminars (JAS) for cohorts of doctoral students admitted and registered in the participating African universities. Both the development and delivery of these courses will be jointly-led by regional and international experts. The seminars will consist of didactic sessions, discussions, demonstrations, and practice labs. It is envisaged that these activities will collectively serve to:

- 1) Expose students to key theories and concepts, seminal readings, and research methods of disciplines relevant to public and population health,
- 2) Train students in critical research skills, and
- 3) Build and maintain a network of researchers for scientific collaborations, professional support, and mutually beneficial exchange of scientific resources.

The advanced seminars will be offered about once annually for four years to each cohort and will build skills and conceptual depth from year to year. Each JAS will run for 3 to 6 weeks. Specific topics to be covered in each JAS will minimally include the following:

- JAS-1 will build critical thinking, technical skills, and other core research competencies, and introduce students to the essential concepts and seminal articles of the disciplines brought together under CARTA
- JAS-2 will focus on data management and analysis. Fellows will learn to use software packages for qualitative and quantitative data management and analyses. Practice sessions will use real research data and current software packages for hands-on training
- JAS-3 will focus on data presentation, the doctoral dissertation, and scientific writing and communication skills to facilitate results dissemination and policy engagement
- JAS-4 will address professional development including skills necessary to manage and teach large class sizes, raise and manage research funds, grant writing and research management. JAS-4 will also be designed to serve as an opportunity for senior fellows to practice mentoring of junior fellows through discussions and laboratory sessions, software training, and general information sharing

During the 2011/2012 academic year, the CARTA program is planning to offer up to 25 PhD fellowships. The Fellowship, which is tenable at one of the participating African universities, will include modest monthly stipends; small grants for research activities, laptops and relevant software; funds for travel to conferences, as well as costs for participating in joint program activities. The fellowship will run for four years.

2.0 PARTICIPATING AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

- Makerere University, Uganda
- Moi University, Kenya
- National University of Rwanda
- Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
- University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
- University of Ibadan, Nigeria
- University of Malawi
- University of Nairobi, Kenya
- University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

3.0 PARTICIPATING RESEARCH INSTITUTES

- African Population & Health Research Center (APHRC), Kenya
- Agincourt Population and Health Unit, South Africa
- Ifakara Health Institute, Tanzania
- KEMRI/Wellcome Trust Research Program, Kenya

4.0 NORTHERN PARTNERS

- Canadian Coalition for Global Health Research (CCGHR)
- Monash University, Australia
- University of Umea, Sweden
- University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- Swiss Tropical Institute, Switzerland
- University of Colorado, USA
- University of Warwick, UK
- WHO Special Programme for Training and Research in Tropical Diseases (TDR)

5.0 ELIGIBILITY

- A Masters degree in a relevant field.
- Prior admission into a PhD program is not required for application but awards are contingent on such admission being obtained at one of the participating African universities.
- Applicants for this program **must be teaching or research staff at one of the participating African institutions** and should be committed to contributing towards building capacity at their institutions.
- Applicants' PhD research proposal must be related to public and population health or to sexuality studies.
- Fellowships are only open to people who have not yet registered for a PhD or are in the very early stages (first year) of the PhD program
- Applicants must commit to participation in all four annual residential Joint Advanced Seminars (JAS), and to engage in inter-seminar activities designed to keep fellows actively engaged and in continual communication with peers and mentors.
- Male applicants must be under the age of 40 years and female applicants under the age 45 years

6.0 TO APPLY

1. Contact the CARTA focal person (listed in Section 7.0) at your institution to discuss your interest and obtain application materials. Application forms may also be downloaded from the CARTA website (www.cartafrica.org)
2. Submit your application to the local CARTA committee in your institution (also email a copy of all application materials to carta@aphrc.org), which will conduct the initial screening process and submit successful applications to the CARTA secretariat. The deadline for submissions is **April 15, 2011**.
3. If successful at the university selection level, the CARTA secretariat will inform and contact you to proceed to the next level
4. Successful applicants at the university selection level will be expected to:
 - Complete an online-based pre-JAS, Part I competency course (**June 1, 2011 – July 15, 2011**)
 - Send a full application to the CARTA secretariat. The deadline for submission of the full application is **July 15, 2011**.
5. Final fellowship decision, which is independent of the university application, will be communicated by CARTA secretariat by **August 30, 2011**.



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7.0 CARTA FOCAL PERSONS

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