

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR TRAINING SUPPORT IN BEHAVIORAL AND SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH (BSSR)



The Makerere University-Behavioral and Social Science Research (Mak-BSSR) in HIV Training Program, in partnership with the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), invites applications for Master's and Fellowship-level training opportunities in Behavioral and Social Sciences Research (BSSR) with a focus on HIV. This is a five-year research training program focused on the HIV cascade, funded by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

Research priority areas for the training opportunities are;

1) Intersectional stigma; 2) Alcohol/substance use; 3) Mental health (psychosocial health); 4) Limited social support, social isolation and loneliness and impact on HIV outcomes; and 5) Ageism and HIV.

Who Should Apply

The program is designed to benefit trainees across disciplinary backgrounds. For those with behavioral and social science training, it offers an opportunity to advance and specialize their research careers in health. For trainees with biomedical or public health backgrounds, it provides foundational training

in behavioral and social science theories, frameworks, and methodologies to facilitate effective interdisciplinary collaboration in HIV research.

What You Will Learn

Through this program, trainees will develop core competencies in behavioral and social science research and learn how to apply these approaches rigorously to HIV-related research and practice. The curriculum emphasizes how behavioral and social sciences interface with epidemiology, public health, and medicine to address complex HIV challenges and broader public health problems.

1. Master's eligibility

Nationality and Enrollment

- Must be a Ugandan national
- Must be enrolled at Makerere University in a health-, or behavioral and social sciences-related discipline such as; Social Sciences: MA in Sociology, Anthropology, Gender Studies, Social Work and Social Administration, Counselling Psychology, Clinical Psychology; Master of Organizational Psychology; Master of Medicine in Psychiatry, Public Health and Epidemiology; MSc in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics; MPH; Masters of Health Services Research.

Academic Progress

- Must have completed at least one full academic year of the master's program
- Must have an HIV-related research concept (**strictly 2-pages**) with a BSSR component in any of the above-listed research priority areas. (Applicants with approved concepts or proposals will have added advantage).
- Must be willing to conduct the dissertation project under rigorous mentorship as part of the training program.

Commitment

- Demonstrate strong interest in BSSR in HIV, care, and prevention.
- Show commitment to developing a long-term research career in BSSR in HIV.

2. Fellowship (2 Years)

Eligibility Requirements

- Must be a Ugandan national
- Must hold a Master's degree in Biomedical or Behavioral sciences.

Institutional Affiliation

- Must be junior faculty at Busitema University, Mountains of the Moon University, or Makerere University

Research Experience and Commitment

- Demonstrate strong interest in BSSR.
- Provide evidence of participation or leadership in HIV prevention, treatment, care, or research
- Submit **strictly a 2-page** concept with clear objectives addressing a BSSR problem in HIV in the above-listed research priority areas (Applicants with approved concepts or proposals will have added advantage).

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants must address their applications to: Training Coordinator, Mak-BSSR Project and submit the following documents as a **single PDF file (Max. 6 MB)** to: **makbssr@gmail.com**

Required Documents:

1. Cover letter (Max. 1 page) expressing interest in the program.
2. Curriculum vitae (Max. 4 pages)
3. Concept note (Max. 2 pages) focusing on BSSR in HIV aligned with any of the listed research priority areas.

Important Notes:

- Recommendation letters are **NOT** required at this stage.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:

FRIDAY,
DECEMBER 19, 2025
@ 06:00 PM (EAT)