

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 **Post-doctoral and PhD-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. Post-doctoral training Eligibility (2 years)

Nationality and Enrollment

- Must be a Ugandan national
- Must have been awarded or defended their PhD thesis in a relevant field within the last five (5) years prior to the application.

Institutional Affiliation

- Must be either a junior faculty at Makerere University or an alumnus from the previous cycle of the BSSR training program or a recent PhD graduate from Makerere University or collaborating institutions or currently working in a relevant program at the Ministry of Health

Research Experience and Commitment

- Demonstrate a strong interest in BSSR and potential to develop into independent scientists.
- Have prior experience in conducting Behavioral and Social Science research or program-related activities.
- Submit strictly a **2-page** concept with clear objectives addressing an integrative and supportive BSSR problem in HIV in the above-listed **research priority areas**. (Applicants with approved concepts or proposals will have added advantage).
- Provide a 2-page career development plan highlighting short-term and long-term goals.

Fellowship Benefits

- Research support including fieldwork costs
- Mentorship from local and international leading scientists
- Training in scientific writing, grantsmanship and responsible conduct of research
- Funding support to present research at Local & International conferences
- A monthly stipend

2. Ph.D Eligibility (4 years)

Nationality and Enrollment

- Must be a Ugandan ready to enroll and pursue a 4-year, full time Ph.D Program in Health Sciences or a behavioral and social sciences related discipline.
- Hold a Masters' degree in a health, or behavioral & Social sciences-related discipline.

Research Experience and Commitment

- Demonstrate interest in BSSR and potential to grow into an independent researcher.
- Submit strictly a 2-page concept with clear objectives addressing an integrative and supportive BSSR problem in HIV in the above-listed **research priority areas**. (Applicants with approved concepts or proposals will have added advantage).
- Show commitment to developing and maintaining a productive career to BSSR in HIV.
- Potential to handle rigorous academic requirements of the PhD program.
- Provide a **2-page** career development plan highlighting short-term and long-term goals.

Institutional Affiliation

- Must be either a junior faculty at Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) or Mak-College of Humanities and Social Sciences (MakCHUSS) or a staff of an HIV research/ implementing project or an employee working in a relevant Ministry of Health program.

Benefits

- Tuition fees
- Research support including fieldwork costs
- A monthly stipend
- Funding support to present research at Local and International conferences
- Mentorship from Local and International leading scientists
- Training in Scientific writing, grantsmanship and Responsible Conduct of Research

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested applicants must address their applications to: The 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. 5 pages)
3. Career development plan (Max. 2 pages)
4. Concept note (Max. 2 pages) focusing on BSSR in HIV aligned with any of the listed research priority areas

Important Notes:

- Ph.D Cohort in-takes at Makerere University are in **January & August** each year.
- Recommendation letters are **NOT** required at this stage.
- Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:



Friday, December 5, 2025 @ 06:00 PM (EAT)