

SANTHE Training program at Makerere University

PHD FELLOWSHIP IN HIV CURE CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

BACKGROUND

- Makerere University College of Health Sciences (**MakCHS**) in partnership with the Sub-Saharan African Network for TB/HIV Research Excellence (**SANTHE**) Programme, with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), seeks to fund one (1) PhD candidate in the field of HIV Cure.
- The overall focus of this grant is to identify and support innovative HIV Vaccine Research with proximal partners that aligns with HIV strategy

“HIV Cure” Doctoral suggested focus of Research

- To investigate the size, distribution, and genetic characteristics of latent HIV reservoirs in Ugandan patients experiencing immunosuppression despite antiretroviral therapy (ART).
- The research could focus on individuals infected with HIV-1 subtypes (A and D), predominant in Uganda, with the overarching goal of informing cure strategies tailored to the country's unique viral landscape.
- The study could explore the development and functional testing of broadly neutralizing antibodies (bNAbs) specific to these subtypes, aiming to identify candidates with therapeutic potential.
- ✳ Where feasible, the project may incorporate a comparative analysis of antibody responses between elite controllers—identified through cohorts and ART-suppressed individuals, to uncover immune correlates of natural viral control and inform vaccine or immunotherapy design.



ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- ✓ Masters degree in any health science discipline from a recognized University.
- ✓ An innovative concept or cutting-edge research idea related to HIV cure
- ✓ Applicants must be ready to enrol for a PhD program at Makerere University.
 - University admission is an added advantage

The candidate should be ready to submit a completed PhD thesis for the final examination at the University in **3 years** and **submit a minimum of two (2) peer-reviewed publications** from their research. The scholarship will cover Research Costs, and a monthly stipend for 3 years.

Required application documents include;

Application letter, Concept note, CV, Recommendation letters from two supervisors, Relevant academic transcripts/certificates.

HOW TO APPLY

- ✓ Interested individuals should address their application to “The SANTHE Program manager”.
The documents should be submitted electronically as a single PDF file to santhe.mak@gmail.com clearly indicating “SANTHE HIV Cure PhD Fellowship Application 2025” in the subject line.

- ✓ **DEADLINE: FRIDAY 09TH, JAN 2026
AT 1700HRS.**

APPLY NOW 