



MAKERERE UNIVERSITY



University of California
San Francisco

HARNESSING HEALTH DATA SCIENCE CAPACITY TO STRENGTHEN EVIDENCE-BASED INTERVENTIONS, POLICY AND RESPONSE TO THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC IN UGANDA (H-DATA)

CALL FOR PhD STUDENT FELLOWSHIPS

Program overview

The Harnessing Health Data Science capacity to strengthen evidence-based interventions, policy and response to the HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Uganda (H-DATA) is a training grant funded by the NIH through Fogarty International Center (Grant Number D43TW013056). This grant is a collaborative effort of multiple principal investigators from Makerere University, Uganda and University of California, San Francisco, USA.

Grant period: 2026/2030 | Principal Investigators: David Patrick Kateete; Charles Batte; Joyce Nakatumba, Nabende; Efsthios Gennatas Dimitrios

H-DATA seeks to recruit qualified Ugandans for full-time PhD training in Health Data Science registered at Makerere University.

Thematic areas

Candidates should propose research studies or concepts that apply health data science approaches (AI and Machine learning) to the following thematic themes:



HIV risk stratification



Non-communicable Diseases (NCD) comorbidities in HIV [Specifically Chronic respiratory and cardiovascular diseases / hypertension]



HIV treatment outcomes, adherence, and long-term ART trajectories



Non-Canonical HIV resistance mutations



Digital medicine and real-world HIV data



Health systems and policy analytics for HIV programs

Fellowship package

The PhD fellowship support is for up to three (3) years (full-time), subject to annual performance reviews and progress milestones. Successful scholars will be registered at Makerere University and may undertake sponsored didactic health data science methods training at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), USA, to receive additional skills development and mentorship in health data science research.



Application Information

ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should meet the following minimum requirements:

- Master's degree in Computer Science, Statistics/Biostatistics, Mathematics, Electrical Engineering, Bioinformatics, Epidemiology, Public Health, or another data-intensive discipline.
- Demonstrated interest and/or experience applying data science methods/technologies to health research or health systems.
- Strong quantitative or computational skills (e.g., programming, statistical analysis, machine learning, data management).
- Ugandan citizenship and commitment to advancing health data science in Africa.
- Ability to enroll in and complete full-time PhD training at Makerere University.

Note: Additional program- or department-specific admission requirements may apply.

Note: Proof of admission is **not** required at the time of application. However, preference will be given to applicants who have already secured admission to, or are currently registered in, a relevant PhD programme.

APPLICATION PACKAGE & SUBMISSION

Submit the following documents by email as a single application package:

- NIH Biosketch (maximum 4 pages) including relevant publications (if any).
- Cover letter (maximum 1 page).
- 2-page research concept note highlighting: research problem, specific aims, research design, and analysis plan.
- Academic transcripts and certificates for the relevant Master of Science (MSc) degree.
- Statement of purpose / motivational letter (maximum 800 words) for undertaking doctoral training in Health Data Science.
- Two letters of recommendation with up-to-date contact details from academic referees.

Email subject line (recommended):

APPLICATION – Doctoral Scholarship – H-DATA PhD

File naming convention (recommended):

LastName_FirstName_DocumentName (e.g., Batte_Charles_CV.pdf)



Application
Deadline

SATURDAY 5pm EAT
28th FEBRUARY 2026

Program contact:

Dr Charles Batte

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