



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Master's Sponsorship in Genomics and Bioinformatics for Pediatric HIV

Makerere University in partnership with Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) and in collaboration with Baylor Foundation Uganda (BFU), is pleased to invite applications for a one-year Master's sponsorship under the Scaling Up advanced genomics and bioinformatics Research training in Pediatric HIV/AIDS in Uganda (SURGE) project. The sponsorship, funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) USA, is open to students enrolled in the Master's Degree programme with specialization in Genomics and Bioinformatics at Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS).

Aims of SURGE

The SURGE programme trains the next generation of Ugandan scientists in genomics and bioinformatics, with a specific focus on paediatric HIV. Selected students will be supported through the dissertation year of their Master's with a focus in Genomics and Bioinformatics at MakCHS, working under the guidance of faculty from both MakCHS and BCM. Sponsored students are expected to draw on datasets developed under CAFGEN see related publications at this link (<https://url-shortener.me/A3M5>). Please note that research proposals drawing on other relevant datasets may also be considered. Innovative research proposals that go beyond prior approaches/methods (one of population genomics, machine learning, artificial intelligence polygenic risk, network analysis, computational structural biology, or multi-omics integration) are highly encouraged and will be considered very competitive. All proposed projects must, be feasible for completion within a 9-month period.

Why Apply?

- Support for dissertation research during the final year of the Master's programme
- A monthly stipend for the duration of the sponsorship period (12 months)
- Hands-on training in genomics and bioinformatics as applied to paediatric HIV research
- Mentorship and guidance in dissertation proposal development, scientific communication, and career planning
- Access to one of the largest host genetic datasets from African children infected with HIV.
- Mentorship and support to publish research findings in a peer-reviewed journal

Eligibility

This sponsorship is open to Ugandan nationals currently in the penultimate year (Year 1 or 2) of a Master's programme with specialization in Genomics and Bioinformatics at Makerere University, who are about to begin their dissertation research. A cumulative GPA of at least 3.8 is required. The programme is seeking candidates with a strong interest in pediatric HIV research. A background in bioinformatics and/or genomics is an added advantage but not a requirement. All sponsored students will be required to conduct their dissertation research at MakCHS.

Application Process

Send your application to surge.ug2030@gmail.com as a single PDF file, with documents arranged in the order shown below:

- Cover letter (1 page maximum)
- NIH Predoctoral Fellowship Biosketch (4 pages maximum, the format is accessible at <https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/predoctoral-fellowship-biosketch-sample-2021.docx>, emphasis should be placed on Sections B [1 page] and D)
- Academic undergraduate transcript and Master's testimonial emphasis
- A research concept note of not more than 2 pages with a title, background, problem statement, objectives, conceptual framework (if applicable), methodology including sample size or power calculations, and 10 references. The concept MUST be formatted as follows: A4 page size, normal margins, 1.15 line spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font (including the title), and fully justified text alignment. *Proposals should not focus on LTNP vs. RP as previously investigated in CAFGEN.*

One reference letter is required from a person familiar with your academic work. The referee should send their letter directly to surge.ug2030@gmail.com

Please ensure you attach all the requirements for eligibility.

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

For additional information please contact the Program Manager at: surge.ug2030@gmail.com

Application deadline: June 30, 2026, 5:00pm EAT