

Else Kröner-Fresenius Center for Advanced Medical & Medical Humanitarian Studies Würzburg – Mwanza

PhD Programme

The Else Kröner-Fresenius Center for Advanced Medical & Medical Humanitarian Studies Würzburg – Mwanza is a collaborative programme between the Julius Maximilians University Würzburg/ University Hospital Würzburg (UKW), the Leprosy and Tuberculosis Relief Association, Würzburg (DAHW), the Medical Mission Institute, Würzburg (MMI), the Catholic University of Health and Sciences, Mwanza (CUHAS)/Bugando Medical Centre, whose Mission is to:

- i. Implement a structured exchange program at different levels (undergraduate and postgraduate students, and faculty/clinicians),
- ii. Develop joint study curricula,
- iii. Conduct bilateral research projects through various PhD programmes
- iv. Improve hospital-based medical care and medical infrastructure in the community.
- v. Train young academicians and clinicians,

The programme offers PhD using a sandwich model between the Julius Maximilians University Würzburg and the Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences in the following areas:

- Infectious diseases focussing on:
 - a. Genomics driven multi-disciplinary approaches to understand the drivers and transmission of antimicrobial resistance in humans, animals and the environment, including studies on the influence of microbiomes in colonization of multidrug resistant pathogens and immune development. **The studies that will include clinical component will be given high priority**
 - b. Invasive fungal infections with a **focus** on diagnosis in special populations (cancer patients etc.) and emergence of resistance
 - c. Viral Diseases Threats to Human Health in the Lake Zone, e.g. Rift Valley fever, Yellow fever, Dengue, Chikungunya, Zika etc. **Focus** should be in understanding the epidemiology of these viruses in the Lake Zone and the development of rapid assays for their diagnosis
 - d. Neglected Tropical Infectious Diseases, with a focus on those that cause chronic disease and disability. **Focus** should be on **social drivers** of these diseases, basic medical parasitology, soil-transmitted helminths and vaccination responses. **Priority will be given to projects associated with the schistosomiasis control program within the Else Kröner Center.**

- Non-communicable diseases:
 - a. Hypertension and Cardiac Disease with a **focus** on innovative studies related to epidemiological gaps, pathogenesis, diagnosis , risk stratification, or novel approaches in prevention, optimal therapies , prognosis and outcome
 - b. Diabetes and other endocrine / metabolic diseases with a **focus** on innovative studies related to pathogenesis or novel approaches in treatment and clinical management
 - c. Cancer with a **focus** on innovative studies related to pathogenesis, diagnosis or novel approaches in treatment and clinical management
 - d. Other non-communicable diseases may be targeted, provided eligible supervisors are present in Mwanza and Würzburg.
 - e. Studies that **integrate** these diseases and other chronic communicable diseases will be given **priority**.
 - f. **Longitudinal studies/Clinical trials** in NCDs including the Lake zone NCD cohort will be given **high priority**
 - g. Mining/fishing activities and health, **focus** on basic studies on the effect of heavy metals in the developmental pathology

PhD Selection criteria

1. Candidate must be employed at CUHAS/BMC at the time of application or guaranteed employment at CUHAS/BMC at the time of start of PhD.
2. The best candidate:
 - a. Undergraduate performance with GPA not less than 3.5
 - b. Postgraduate performance based on GPA or grade to become academician.
 - c. Area of specialization in relation to the topic.
 - d. Track record of research / research interest.
3. Thesis concept in line with relevant topics with potential of innovation to advance a specific field and sciences in general.
4. Availability of the specialized supervisors (both sites) to ensure the student is well mentored to acquire relevant knowledge and skills.
5. Potential of the candidate as future leader in academics, research and mentor in CUHAS/BMC.
6. Skills, motivation, preparedness for a long stay abroad (up to one continuous year).
7. Age not more than 45years.
8. Must have completed a relevant degree (Masters) not more than 4 years before application.
9. This is an equal opportunity program and we aim to provide an equal share of positions to female students.
10. Meeting the requirements of CUHAS to join PhD programme.

Selection Procedures:

Selection into the programme will be carried out by the selection committee consisting of the EKF Centre Executive Board, plus the PIs, the Director of Postgraduate Studies (CUHAS), the Dean, Weill Bugando School of Medicine (CUHAS) and one representative from Bugando Medical Centre (BMC). During the recruitment meeting, the PhD candidates will give a short presentation on their concept and have face-to-face interviews with at least three members of the Selection Committee.

Applications should be submitted to:

1. The Catholic University of Health and Allied Sciences, Directorate of Postgraduate Studies, P.O. Box 1464, Mwanza, Tanzania, e-mail: vc@bugando.ac.tz
2. Please submit copies of application plus copies of certificates Secondary School and University to vc@bugando.ac.tz
3. Application deadline is 30th June 2021.