

Call for Applications

2x Post-Doctoral Fellowships in Migration & Health in Africa

Deadline for Applications: 8 March 2024

Applications are invited for two postdoctoral fellowships at the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) at Wits University. These fellowships are part of a newly-established **Cluster of Research Excellence (CoRE) in Migration and Health** supported by the African Universities Research Alliance (ARUA) and The Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities.

The **Cluster of Research Excellence (CoRE) in Migration and Health** is a joint initiative between the ARUA Centre of Excellence on Migration and Mobility (CoE-MM) hosted by the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) at Wits University and the Global Health and Migration Unit (GHM), Department of Women's and Children's Health at the University of University in Sweden. The GHM also hosts the WHO Collaborating Centre (WHOCC) on Migration and Health Data.

The **Cluster of Research Excellence (CoRE) in Migration and Health** will address the key scientific challenge of identifying and developing solutions, relevant to the social, cultural and political contexts, to address the root causes of poor health among migrants to enhance the positive health outcomes of migration across one of the largest migration corridors globally, the African Union (AU) – European Union (EU) corridor.

The corridor includes countries in Africa, Europe and the Middle-East and is associated with multiple risk factors for health, determined by varying structural and social contexts. These factors are experienced differently by diverse migrant groups and the communities through which they move, live and work; and change across time and places of origin, transit, destination; and, for some, return.

In an increasingly nationalist, xenophobic, and polarised world, the varied forms of population movements that connect origin, transit and destination countries, within and between, along the AU-EU corridor, and associated health concerns, need to be better understood to develop evidence-informed and contextually relevant interventions, including cross-border interventions.

These fellowships offer the opportunity to undertake research in Africa; priority regions are West, North, Central and East Africa.

The successful applicant will have experience of both working collaboratively as part of a diverse research team and successfully undertaking independent research. The fellowship will be based at Wits University and the successful applicant will conduct research in relevant African country or regional contexts. Additionally, the successful applicant will have the opportunity to be hosted by Uppsala University for a maximum of two months over a 2-year period.

Starting in May 2024 (negotiable), the successful applicant will join an interdisciplinary team of scholars exploring health and migration along the AU-EU migration corridor.

The postdoc will be supervised by Associate Professor Jo Vearey at Wits University with co-supervision from Dr Soorej Jose Puthooppambal at Uppsala University.

More about the project can be found here: <https://mighealth-au-eu.org/>

Overview of key roles associated with the fellowship

- Work closely with Jo Vearey (Wits), Soorej Jose Puthooppambal (Uppsala) and the CoRE coordinator (Uppsala) to (1) finalise a detailed workplan associated with the fellowship and (2) support development of the CoRE. This will include, but is not limited to:
 - Actively participate in CoRE-related activities and opportunities, including those offered by ARUA and The Guild
 - Participate in relevant policy forums and migration and health governance processes
 - Undertake primary research in the field of migration and health governance in the African context, including contribution of research to the allied project “governing migration and health in Africa” <https://mighealth-policy-africa.org/>
 - Publish a minimum of two academic articles per year. This can include jointly-authored pieces with other CoRE members
 - Take a leadership role in developing the Postgraduate and Early Career Researcher network of the CoRE, including support to the establishment of joint degrees
 - Explore fundraising opportunities and participate in research funding applications
- Actively participate in activities of the ACMS, contributing to its vision and mission. This will include, but is not limited to:
 - Postgraduate teaching and co-supervision in the field of migration & health. This will involve co-coordination (with Jo Vearey) of the HONS/MA module in migration & health in southern Africa that runs in the second semester annually (July – Oct)
 - Supporting postgraduate and postdoctoral professional development initiatives in collaboration with the ACMS postgraduate coordinator
 - Public engagement and outreach activities, including participation in relevant policy forums and migration and health governance processes

Essential qualifications and experience:

- Fluency and experience of conducting research in English and at least one local language relevant to the proposed research context
- A PhD in Migration & Displacement, Health Sociology, Public Health or an associated discipline. The doctorate must have been awarded no longer than 5 years previously at the time of application.
- Working knowledge of the global migration and health governance terrain
- Prior experience in health systems research in Africa and/or the Middle-East. This may include research in help-seeking and with plural healthcare systems, diverse healthcare users, public and NGO healthcare providers, and policy makers
- Knowledge of African public healthcare systems and current responses to migration and mobility, including in the proposed research context
- A demonstrated ability to work both collaboratively and independently, including in undertaking fieldwork in challenging settings
- Firm grounding in governance and policy research; qualitative research methods; and, data analysis. Experience in quantitative research and analysis will be an advantage.
- Prior experience in postgraduate teaching and/or supervision
- Ability to work across disciplines
- A record/emerging record of publication of research in internationally-recognised, peer-reviewed journals commensurate with experience
- A record/emerging record of presenting research to diverse audiences commensurate with experience
- An ability to travel to other countries required for fieldwork and/or CoRE meetings
- Experience in international research collaborations and partnership building

Desired experience:

- In addition to English, fluency and experience of conducting research and academic writing in Arabic, French, Portuguese and/or Arabic
- Two-five years of research experience after completion of doctorate
- Experience in working in other migration and health contexts, for example in the Middle-East, Asia, Latin America, Europe
- Experience in collaborating internationally as part of large and/or complex and diverse research teams
- Successful fundraising for research
- Prior experience in postgraduate teaching and/or supervision
- Experience in quantitative research and analysis

Timeframe: one year with possibility for a second year dependent on performance

Remuneration: ZAR 395,000 per year, plus Wits medical aid and ZAR 10,000 research funding per year

Application process: Please submit a completed application to jo.vearey@wits.ac.za by 8 March 2024. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted and invited for interview.

Anticipated start-date: 1 May 2024 (negotiable)

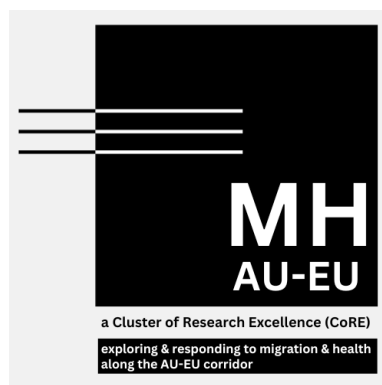
Applications should include:

- cover letter outlining your reasons for applying for the position. This should include an overview of your experience working in the field of migration and health in Africa (and, where relevant, elsewhere) and outline how you meet the essential (and desired where applicable) requirements for the position
- brief concept note (max 1500 words including references) outlining your proposed postdoctoral research project and its alignment with the ambitions of the CoRE in migration and health
- full CV including description of your contribution in the case of jointly-authored publications
- evidence of award of PhD
- 2 academic writing examples. These should be single-authored or first-authored and not a chapter from doctoral thesis. In the case of a jointly-authored piece, you should describe your contribution.
- details of two referees: in the case of shortlisted applicants, the referees will be contacted and asked to provide a short report commenting on the applicant's suitability for the position

Further information: jo.vearey@wits.ac.za

The African (ARUA) co-lead for the CoRE in Migration & Health is Associate Professor Jo Vearey, Director of the ARUA Centre of Excellence on Migration and Mobility (CoE-MM). The CoE-MM is hosted by the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) at Wits University, the leading institute for postgraduate training, research and outreach in the field of migration in the AFRO region. The ACMS is home to the Migration and Health Programme Southern Africa (maHp).

The European (Guild) co-lead is Dr Soorej Jose Puthooppambal, Director of the WHO Collaborating Centre (WHOCC) on Migration and Health Data and Evidence at Uppsala University in Sweden. The Uppsala CC is one of the three WHO CCs that work with WHO globally, through activities such as producing policy guidance and conducting trainings, to promote migrant health. The WHO CC is hosted at the Global Health and Migration Unit, Department of Women's and Children's Health at the University. The department has decades of experience in capacity building (including joint PhDs) in the AU context in the field of public health.



<https://mighealth-au-eu.org/>