

Call for Applications

Doctoral Fellowship in Migration & Health in Africa

Deadline for Applications: (Extended) 15 November 2024

Applications are invited for a doctoral fellowship at the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) at Wits University. This fellowship is part of the NIHR **Global Health Research Group (GHRG) on Nurturing the resilience of mobile youth to navigate health and wellbeing crises in Southern Africa (Nurture4Youth)**

Nurture4Youth is a **Global Health Research** Group working on nurturing the resilience of mobile youth to navigate health and wellbeing crises in Southern Africa. Many young people in Southern Africa migrate in search of education and employment opportunities. Migration can limit access to health care for mobile adolescents and young people's (mAYP), including their access to sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) both in terms of information and services. This project will address this access for young migrants by working with them in selected sites in South Africa and Zambia to co-create and test interventions which can improve their access to SRHR services, responding to a demand from key stakeholders and drawing on past work. The Group is a collaboration between the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits), ZAMBART, and the Africa Health Research Institute (AHRI). This research is funded by the NIHR using UK aid from the UK Government to support global health research.

The successful applicant will have experience of both working independently and collaboratively as part of a diverse research team. The fellow will be enrolled in a PhD in Migration & Displacement at the African Centre for Migration & Society (ACMS) at Wits University and the successful applicant will benefit from support and mentorship from the research team and contribute intellectually to the project

Starting in February 2025, the successful applicant will join an interdisciplinary team of scholars aiming to develop a strong research partnership to conduct policy-relevant research to nurture mAYP's resilience to gain access to SRHR services, thereby contributing to their improved health and wellbeing.

The doctoral fellow will be supervised by Dr Langelihle Mlotshwa at ACMS, Wits University and another team member of the Nurture4Youth team from Zambia or South Africa.

Overview of key roles associated with the fellowship

- Undertake primary research in the Nurture4Youth study
- Actively contribute to the body of knowledge on the experiences of young people who migrate for work and education in southern Africa.
- Actively participate in activities of the ACMS, contributing to its vision and mission. This will include, but is not limited to:
 - Public engagement and outreach activities, including participation in relevant policy forums and migration and health governance processes
- Participate in other PhD activities within the school

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 Masters in Migration & Displacement, Health Sociology, Public Health or an associated discipline
- Prior experience in migration and health and/or adolescent health research in Africa
- Knowledge of public healthcare systems and responses to migration and health – with a focus on sexual and reproductive health - in the South African context
- A demonstrated ability to work both collaboratively and independently, including in undertaking fieldwork in challenging settings
- Experience in governance and policy research; qualitative research methods; and, data analysis.
- Ability to work across disciplines
- A record/emerging record of presenting research to diverse audiences
- Evidence of research methods training and ability to conduct research independently

Desired experience:

- Working knowledge of the global migration and health governance terrain
- In addition to English, fluency and experience of conducting research in isiZulu, Sesotho, Setswana, Tshivenda, chiShona, isiNdebele languages
- At least two years of research experience
- Experience in collaborating internationally as part of large and/or complex and diverse research teams
- A record/emerging record of publication of research in internationally-recognized, peer-reviewed journals

Timeframe: Three years

Stipend: The fellowship will cover fees, transport (air tickets, if required), a stipend for three years and research costs.

Application process: Please submit a completed application online [here](#) and email a copy to Langelihle.Mlotshwa@wits.ac.za and catherine.musuva@wits.ac.za by (extended) 15 November 2024. Only short-listed applicants will be contacted and invited for interview.

Anticipated start-date: 1 February 2025

Applications should include:

- cover letter outlining your reasons for applying for the fellowship. 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 research project and its links to the nurture4youth GHRG in which their doctoral work will be nested.
- full CV including a description of your contribution in the case of jointly-authored publications
- evidence of award of MSc, MPH or relevant masters degree and academic transcript
- An academic writing sample
- SAQA clearance for foreign degree
- 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: Langelihle.Mlotshwa@wits.ac.za
