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University of Ibadan Research Foundation

Call for applications for PhD Training Fellowships in Adolescents and Youths Health Research at University of Ibadan.

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With Support from

The

German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) on the Research Networks for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa (RHISSA).

The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-Research Foundation) with funding support from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) on the Research Networks for health Innovations in sub-Saharan Africa (RHISSA) invites outstanding postgraduate students to apply for a doctoral dissertation fellowship award to pursue PhD training at the University of Ibadan. The call for award is for doctoral students with strong commitment to a career in research and training particularly in the field of adolescents' and youths' health and policy imperatives in Africa. The PhD Fellowship is designed to enhance competencies and the research experience of the scholars while participating on the Research Network for Design and Evaluation of Adolescent Health in Sub Saharan Africa (DASH) during training at the University of Ibadan.

The UI-Research Foundation will award 2 fellowships to provide support for completion of the PhD training within three-years at the University of Ibadan. The fellowship period runs concurrently with the funding support on the DASH project from March 2024 to December 2027. The aim of this fellowship is to provide training and mentorship platforms for young scholars on the research initiatives designed to address critical challenges to adolescents' and youths' health and approaches to translate the research findings to innovations, strategies and policy options that could impact policy imperatives for adolescent and youth health in Africa. The postgraduate fellowship is part of the contributions of the University of Ibadan Research Foundation to contribute to the efforts of the future research leaders at the university to develop expertise in research areas relevant to the mission of the University of Ibadan and to articulate the "Knowledge for National Development Agenda (K4ND)" paradigm.

Expected Outcomes

Each recipient scholar is expected to become highly skilled with competencies to produce high-quality doctoral dissertations with applications from specialties to adolescents' and youths' health and policy imperatives in sub-Saharan Africa.

Successful applicants will be expected to publish at least one peer-reviewed article from the dissertation before the completion of their Ph.D. program.

Background

The gains from global investment in maternal and child health programs and initiatives continue to bring significant positive impacts on the health of neonates, infants, mothers, and women in general. These achievements have often led to the assumption that adolescence and youth by inference are a healthy period of life. Unfortunately, the gains in reduction of child and maternal mortalities have not been replicated in reducing deaths among adolescents and youths. Many adolescents, about 2,000, die every day across the globe from preventable causes (WHO <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/adolescents-health-risks-and-solutions>, 2023). A significant number of these deaths occur in Low Middle-Income Countries (LMIC) including Nigeria. The University of Ibadan Research Foundation is collaborating with 10 partner institutions in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Germany, Spain and the USA on projects and initiatives receiving international funding support to address these challenges in adolescents' and youths' life. The international award to support the PhD fellowship in this program is provided by the Funding Initiative of the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) on the Research Network for Health Innovations in Sub-Saharan Africa (RHISSA). The network project is titled "Research Network for Design and Evaluation of Adolescent Health in Sub-Saharan Africa (DASH)"

The UI- Research Foundation, a public, private, government partnership was created by the University of Ibadan to enhance the commitment of the university to promote cutting-edge research, foster generation of innovations, and nurture the next generation of scholars and leaders in Nigeria. The UI-Research Foundation is a founding member of the African Research Implementation Science and Education (ARISE) Network leading the research grant for the DASH project. The focus of the DASH project is to advance understanding and applications of asset-based impact-driven policy options for managing challenges and promoting adolescents' and youths' health in Africa.

The aim of the PhD fellowships offered by the UI-Research Foundation is to use the international network project to provide hands-on experiences to strengthen training of students at the University of Ibadan on efforts to address critical challenges to adolescents' and youths' health in Africa. The fellowships provide opportunities for prospective candidates to gain competencies in working with the leaders of an Africa Think Tank for Adolescents and Youth Health (ATTAYH) being created on the project. The ATTAYH is designed to promote efforts on Policy Imperatives platforms for developing frameworks and strategies to foster the use of research outcomes to 'Bridge the knowledge gap in efforts to foster pragmatic adolescents' and youths' health policies in Africa'. The ATTAYH, hosted by the UI-Research Foundation and the Africa Academy of Public Health (AAPH) Tanzania focus on translations of the research findings to innovations,

strategies and policy options that can impact policy imperatives for adolescents' and youths' health in Africa. This prestigious fellowship training program is being offered to prospective postgraduate students from various disciplines at the University of Ibadan with a strong commitment to working in a multidisciplinary environment.

Fellowship Details:

The Ph.D. fellowship will support outstanding postgraduate students at the University of Ibadan who are interested in participating on ongoing research on adolescents' and youths' health with efforts on translations of research outcomes to strategies, innovations and policy options on adolescents' and youths' health in Africa.

Fellows receiving the awards will have the unique opportunity to gain experiences from a multidisciplinary team of collaborating experts from a broad scope of disciplines. The opportunity would be beneficial to the fellows to develop holistic strategies and interventions to the challenges faced by adolescents' and youths' health in Africa.

Fellowship recipients will receive financial support for tuition fees at the University of Ibadan, research expenses, and a stipend to support living costs in Ibadan during the fellowship period at the University of Ibadan.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Applicants must have obtained admission and enrolled in a Ph.D. program at the University of Ibadan and have completed all coursework requirements for the degree.
2. Candidates from diverse academic disciplines, including but not limited to public health, nutrition, statistics, social sciences, policy studies, and related disciplines, are encouraged to apply.
3. Applicants with demonstrated strong commitment to interdisciplinary research and a dedication to addressing health and policy challenges faced by adolescents and youths in Africa will be highly considered.
4. Candidates who have research or programmatic experience on adolescents' and youths' issues will have an advantage.

Application Procedure:

Each applicant must complete an application form available from the UI-Research Foundation Office (available on request at uiresearchfoundation@hotmail.com). The application must include:

- PhD training Plan and Research Focus of the applicant during the 3-year fellowship period.
Proposed project(s) to be undertaken in area of adolescents' and youths' health and its relevance to

the objectives of DASH (not more than 8 pages). The proposal should clearly highlight the interdisciplinary nature of the research.

- Interest and a proposed plan for a 3-month international sojourn during the training.
- Plan and interest to participate in international research projects and proposal writing for grant(s) at workshops during the training period.
- A copy of current curriculum vitae (CV), certificates and transcripts
- Three (3) letters of support for the application. At least one (1) each from a distinguished faculty member at University of Ibadan, familiar with the applicant's PhD training and willing to serve as supervisor for the PhD training.
- Applications must include signatures of PhD scholar and Postgraduate College Office to confirm the registration and status of the applicant at the University of Ibadan.

Deadline for the submission:

Completed applications should be submitted via email to [uiresearchfoundation@hotmail.com] by the specified deadline.

Important Dates:

Call for Applications Release: Friday, 16 February 2024

Application Deadline: Friday, 5th April, 2024

Fellowship Award Announcement: **Friday, 5th April, 2024**

Fellowship Period: **2024-2027**

Address and Contact for Applications: An electronic copy and three (3) hard copies of the application must be submitted to:

UI-Research Foundation

Uduimo Itsueli Foundation Building

Ajibode Extension, University of Ibadan,

Ibadan, Nigeria

e-mail: uiresearchfoundation@hotmail.com