



Cancer Research Training Program in Tanzania

Call for Applications for PhD Positions

The Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) - Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI) -University of California San Francisco (UCSF) Cancer Collaboration aims to reduce the cancer burden in Tanzania through research, education, and capacity building. The MUHAS-ORCI-UCSF Cancer Collaboration is leading the Cancer Research Training Program in Tanzania, with funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health. The goal of this program is to train and mentor a cadre of motivated and passionate investigators in Tanzania who are capable of conceptualizing, achieving funding for, implementing, analyzing and publishing original research focused on cancer.

This program will support two health professionals to participate in a 4-year PhD program. The Cancer Research Training Program PhD scholars will benefit from:

- Instruction in research methodology that is individualized to the learner and pertinent to cancer control continuum;
- Development of a research project with a cancer focus based upon a priority need in East Africa;
- Provision of strong, interdisciplinary and longitudinal mentorship; and
- Guidance in career development to support short and long-term career goals and to promote a transition to independence.

The selected candidates will be enrolled in a sandwich doctoral degree program at MUHAS and will spend one-year completing rigorous methodologic coursework at UCSF. Following completion of the year of coursework at UCSF, the scholars will return to Tanzania to implement mentored research projects as required for completion of the PhD thesis requirements. When possible, the scholars will attach to ongoing research projects at MUHAS, ORCI, and/or UCSF.

In addition to the coursework requirements, the scholars will be expected to adhere to the additional metrics for successful completion of the degree program as set forth by the PhD Program at MUHAS, including: publication of four papers in peer-reviewed journals; provision of mentorship to at least one junior researcher; participation in teaching of at least one course at MUHAS related to cancer research; and dissemination of results through presentation in at least two international conferences. Moreover, the scholars will be required to present abstract(s) during the annual MUHAS Scientific Conference or other conferences in Tanzania.

The successful applicant will receive a competitive stipend, laptop, and book allowance. Support for travel and lodging costs for the year at UCSF will be provided.

Eligibility:

- Hold a master's degree from a recognized higher learning institution (as per Tanzania Commission for Universities) with exceptional performance in a cancer-related field such as oncology, radiology, pathology, surgery, public health, epidemiology, etc.
- Meet other criteria for acceptance into the MUHAS PhD Program (https://muhas.ac.tz/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/1487330364-Postgraduate_Guidelines_Oct_2016-min.pdf)
- Aptitude and intent to become a future leader in cancer research
- Demonstrated fluency in both spoken and written English language
- Experience in a cancer-related field or research is preferred, but not required.
- A commitment to remain in Tanzania and seek employment as a cancer researcher following completion of training.

Application Requirements: All interested scholars should submit the following information tz.ucsfcancercollab@gmail.com and globalcancer@ucsf.edu by **30th June, 2025**.



1. **Application cover letter.** This letter should include your name, position, institution, email, telephone number, and a short statement summarizing your intent to apply to the PhD program. Applicants should summarize research interests in this letter.
2. **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**
3. **NIH-format biosketch** (<https://grants.nih.gov/grants/forms/biosketch.htm>)
4. **Scanned copies of academic transcripts and certificates**
5. **Two letters of recommendation.** These letters should include telephone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses of the referees. At least one letter of support must be from a senior faculty member of your home institution who can attest to your academic aptitude outlining your career and research goals and how the training program will assist you achieve the goals.
6. **Personal statement.** This statement should outline how this PhD program aligns with your training and career thus far and how it will advance your long-term career goals. A career development plan should be provided (1 page maximum).
7. **Research summary.** Please describe your cancer research interests. In addition, describe your proposed topic of research that you would explore during your PhD program as well as research questions the applicant would prefer to address. This summary is not binding, as you may change interests during your PhD studies but should outline your research interests. Only cancer-related research will be considered for this program. (5 pages maximum)

Selection Process:

All applications must be submitted by **30th June 2025**. Candidates will be short-listed based on their initial application and recommendation letters. Selected candidate will be contacted to schedule interviews by mid-July. Final decision will be announced by **25th July 2025**.

Applicants will be scored based on the following criteria:

- Relevant academic transcripts and certificates (10%)
- Rationale for applying to the program (20%)
- Relevance of proposed cancer research interests (15%)
- Commitment and plans to practice research long-term (20%)
- Previous professional and research experience (25%)
- References (10%)

The selected candidates will be required to complete the MUHAS PhD registration process. The successful candidate will matriculate to participate in UCSF courses.

How to apply:

Send application via email to tz.ucsfccancercollab@gmail.com and globalcancer@ucsf.edu before the deadline of **30th June 2025**

Include: Application cover letter, CV, NIH-format biosketch, academic transcripts and certificates, letters of recommendation, 1-page personal statement, and a summary on the description of cancer research interests, potential topic and research questions the applicant would prefer to address. *In your application cover letter, please state whether you currently hold an active US visa, specifying the type (i.e. B1, J1, etc.) and its expiration date.*

Please contact the Global Cancer Program at tz.ucsfccancercollab@gmail.com or globalcancer@ucsf.edu to request further information.