



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR TWO PHD POSITIONS

1. Background:

The School of Public Health and Social Sciences (SPHSS) at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS) is pleased to announce a call for applications for PhD scholarships under the NORAD-funded Project: *Fair Choices on the Path to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) 2026–2030*”. This project is being implemented by MUHAS in collaboration with the Bergen Centre for Ethics and Priority Setting in Health (BCEPS) at the University of Bergen in Norway with support from the Ministry of Health (MoH), Prime Minister’s Office Regional Administration and Local Government (PMORALG) and the National Health Insurance Fund (NHIF). The project aims to support institutional capacity building in Health Economics, Priority Setting and Health Technology Assessment, hence, directly contributing to improved health outcomes for the Tanzanian population.

2. Description of PhD Scholarships

MUHAS intends to offer two PhD scholarships, corresponding to seven thematic areas listed in section 4 below. The applicants must be from the collaborating partners; MUHAS, MoH, PMORALG or NHIF, where the scholarship focuses on generating local evidence and developing institutional experts in health economics and its related fields. The scholarship is expected to commence in **2026/2027 Academic Year**. The successfully applicants are expected to register their PhDs at the University of Bergen in Norway, where they are expected to spend **two to three months every year** as part of their training, and the remaining months are expected to be in Tanzania.

3. PhD structure and the training environment

The PhD will follow the Norwegian doctoral training model and will include:

- i. 36 months of full-time doctoral study
- ii. Approximately 3 months stay in Norway each year, spread across the PhD period. While in Norway, the candidates are expected to be involved in:
 - a. Completing required courseworks
 - b. Supervision meetings
 - c. Research seminars
- iii. Remaining time based in Tanzania, embedded within policy and research institutions

Dissemination is a critical component of PhD training programme at the University of Bergen; hence, candidates are expected to present their research findings in national and international conferences. Therefore, it is expected that successful candidates will have protected time to ensure they are fully involved in PhD training activities throughout the duration of the scholarship

4. PhD Thematic Research Areas (Concept Note Required)

Candidates are required to develop a concept note (as per section 4:vii below) within one of the following thematic research areas, which align with the fairchoices objectives:

- 1) Equity and fairness in health priority setting
- 2) Design and revision of health benefit packages (HBP/EHCP) using Fair Choices tool.
- 3) Health technology assessment (HTA) and formulation of standard treatment guidelines (STG)
- 4) Economic evaluation (cost-effectiveness, budget impact, financial risk protection)
- 5) Health financing and strategic purchasing reforms for UHC
- 6) Institutionalisation of evidence-informed decision-making (e.g. Fair Choices, DHIS2- linked analytics)
- 7) Stakeholder engagement and political economy of priority setting

The exact PhD topic will be refined jointly during the first year of study.

5. Expected academic outputs

The candidate is expected to:

- i. Complete a three-year PhD in accordance with UiB regulations
- ii. Produce 3–4 publishable scientific papers in peer-reviewed international journals
- iii. Submit a PhD thesis (article-based)
- iv. Present findings at local and international conferences
- v. Contribute to policy briefs and technical reports for Tanzania's health sector

6. Eligibility and Mandatory Requirements

Candidates must satisfy the general PhD admission requirements at the University of Bergen, as well as and the following specific requirements:

- i. **Academic Qualification:** Eligible disciplines include, but are not limited to: Health Economics, Public Health, Epidemiology, Health Systems, Implementation Science, Biostatistics, Pharmacy, Data Science, Monitoring and Evaluation, or related biomedical and social sciences.
- ii. **Research and analytical skills:** Experience in quantitative research methods, with or without modelling and analytical skills.
 - a. Experience in data analysis **using R software** and prior peer-reviewed scientific publication(s) will be considered as an added advantage.
 - b. Should exhibit knowledge in using Fairchoices Tool.
- iii. Show clear motivation and research potential to undertake doctoral-level research in health economics, priority setting, Health Technology Assessment (HTA), health financing, or related areas.
- iv. **Nationality and age limit:** Be a Tanzanian citizen with 40 years of age or below at the time of application.
- v. **Affiliation:** Must be a full-time employee with at least 4 years of experience at MUHAS, MoH, PMORALG, or NHIF.
- vi. **Support Letter:** Submission of a support letter from the applicants' employers. This letter must confirm the institutions' support for the candidate and explicitly state that, the candidate will be granted a protected time to undertake the PhD training and that, upon successful completion, the candidate will be supported to apply the knowledge and skills gained to strengthen the institution's evidence-informed decision-making process.
- vii. **Concept Note:** Submission of a PhD research concept note (Maximum of 3 pages) based on one of the thematic areas listed in Section 3. The concept note must clearly outline the working title, research problem, objectives, methodological approach, and expected outcomes.

7. Scholarship Benefits:

All costs related to the PhD training will be covered by the project including tuition fee, moderate stipend, travel expenses to Bergen and to attend scientific conferences.

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8. Required Application Documents

Interested applicants must submit the following documents:

- 1) Motivation letter specifying the thematic area.
- 2) Certified copies of academic certificates (Bachelor's and Master's) and transcripts.
- 3) Curriculum Vitae (CV) demonstrating research and academic experience.
- 4) Mandatory Support Letter from your institution (as per Section 6).
- 5) Copy of publication(s) merged in one file (if any).
- 6) PhD research concept note (Max. 3 pages) aligned with one of the thematic areas.

7) Two academic recommendation letters (or referee contact details)

All applications should be addressed to:

Project Manager

Fair Choices on the Path to UHC 2026–2030

Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS)
P.O. Box 65001,
Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania

9. Selection process and evaluation criteria

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an interview on dates that will be communicated through their registered email addresses.

Applications will be assessed based on:

- i. Academic merit and transcripts
- ii. Research potential and motivation letter quality
- iii. Relevance of experience to health economics and priority setting
- iv. Analytical and quantitative skills
- v. Publication record (if any)
- vi. Interview performance

10. Compliance and formal requirements (UiB)

Final admission is subject to:

- i. Formal enrolment at the University of Bergen PhD programme
- ii. **HK-Directorate of Higher Education** (formerly NOKUT) approval of prior education
- iii. Proof of English language proficiency
- iv. Approval of a 3-year PhD completion plan

11. Important timeline

- Call opens: 7th February 2026
- Application deadline: 13th March 2026 (23:59 EAT)
- Shortlisting and interviews: 13th April 2026
- Expected start of PhD programme: September 2026

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews (physical or virtual).

12. How to Apply

Interested applicants shall compile all the above-mentioned documents in a single compiled PDF and send them via https://redcap.link/PhD_MUHAS_BCEPS

- **Important naming:** Please name the application file/folder as: “**Candidate Name_PhD_Scholarship_Application_BCEPS**”
- **Deadline:** The deadline for submission of applications is **13th March 2026 (23:59 EAT)**.
- **Note:** A candidates should submit only one application
- **Contact email for enquiries:** alphoncina.kagaigai@muhas.ac.tz