

Call for Applications for Two PhD Positions

BACKGROUND

The University of Copenhagen (UCH) in collaboration with University of Southern Denmark (SDU), Ocean Road Cancer Institute (ORCI), Muhimbili National Hospital (MNH), Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS), and Hanoi Medical University (HMU) invite applications for two PhD scholarships under a project named *Cervical cancer Awareness, Resources, and Empowerment for Self-care – An intervention study among internal migrant women in industrial zones in the global south (CARES)*. The 5-year CARES project is funded by the Novo Nordic foundation and is implemented in Dar es Salaam-Tanzania, and Bắc Ninh-Vietnam. The selected Tanzanian PhD candidates will be enrolled at Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences (MUHAS).

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT

Cervical cancer is the most preventable type of cancer; however, it is also a disease of inequity – currently, between 84-90 % of new cervical cancer cases occur in LMIC and between 87-90% of the deaths occur in LMIC. In 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) launched a global elimination strategy for disease. The strategy is based on three interventions: HPV vaccination of girls, screening and treatment of women with precancerous lesions. Combining these three interventions is expected to reduce mortality by 34% and save 62 million women's lives.

This project focuses on internal female migrant workers in urban industrial zones of the global south, defined as those migrating from one region to another for work. They are crucial to national economic growth. Despite their crucial role in national economies, internal female migrants working in industrial zones are underserved in health service. They often face precarious conditions, limited access to social protection like health insurance and pensions, making them particularly vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections and lack of social support networks.

Against this background and to live up to WHO's global strategy to accelerate the elimination of cervical cancer, this project aims **to prevent cervical cancer among female migrant workers, who have migrated from rural to urban areas within a national context in the global south through good self-sample techniques**. The project is divided into six (6) work packages covering both qualitative and quantitative research methodology.

PhD FELLOWSHIP FUNDING

The selected PhD students will be involved in the project and offered three-years PhD scholarship covering tuition fees, stipend, and research expenses. Evaluation of the progress of PhD activities will be done according to regulations of MUHAS as well as participating institutions. Selected candidates will participate in the project; and involved in detailing of existing work packages to suit his/her PhD study.

PhD THEMATIC RESEARCH AREAS

For this application, the candidates are required to develop a mixed method concept note by choosing one of the thematic research areas outlined below:

- Cervical cancer prevention study through HPV self-sampling among migrant women in factories
- Implementation study of cervical cancer prevention among migrant women in factories

The successful candidates will work with the senior researchers of CARES project on his/her thematic study concept design in order to refine it during the first year of the study before submission to MUHAS for PhD registration.

APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

An applicant must have:

- MMED, MSc, MPhil, or MPH
- Interest in interdisciplinary collaboration and proven experience in scientific exploration in the areas related to women health and potentially cervical cancer.
- A strong ambition to accomplish the research goals and to pursue a scientific career path
- Willingness to work in a team
- Strong command of English in speaking and writing
- Willingness to conduct extensive field research in Tanzania
- Full time availability during the PhD period

Applicant expected outputs

- Enroll and complete a three-year PhD training according to MUHAS regulations
- Produce 4 publishable scientific papers in peer-reviewed journals
- Submit and defend a PhD thesis
- Produce policy briefs for utilization by the Government and general public

The Application document must include:

- An application letter with detailed address (including email and mobile number)
- Maximum of a 2-page concept design on your research relevant to this announcement and thematic areas
- Certified copies of academic certificates and transcripts
- Recent CV indicating position, employer, and including research and academic experience
- List of peer-reviewed publications (if any) and national/international scientific presentations (if any)
- Two letters of recommendation from a reputable referee with their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The application deadline is 15th June 2026.

Application must be submitted in a single PDF comprising all the above documents to: anja.simonsen@anthro.ku.dk and copied to jmwaiselage@yahoo.com. A candidate should submit only one application.

Please note that only the short-listed candidates will be required to attend a selection interview. The date will be communicated at a later date.