



Cancer Research Training Program in Tanzania

Advertisement for Biostatistics Scholar (Biostatistics Training Fellowship)

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 (CRTP-TZ), with funding from the U.S. National Institutes of Health (NIH). 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.

There is an existing shortage of Biostatisticians to support the growing research portfolio at MUHAS and specifically within the MUHAS-ORCI-UCSF Cancer Collaboration Program. As part of the training pathway under the awarded CRTP-TZ, the MUHAS-ORCI-UCSF Cancer Collaboration Program seek to address the biostatisticians shortage through training and mentoring of a Biostatistics Scholar who will function in a supportive role for the CRTP-TZ Scholars and other MUHAS-ORCI-UCSF Cancer Collaboration Program researchers.

The program is seeking for motivated individuals with strong interest and background in biostatistics and a passion for cancer research who aspires to develop a career as biostatistician supporting cancer and biomedical research. The selected scholar in this training program will benefit from:

- Intensive, structured training program designed to develop advanced knowledge and practical skills in statistics and biostatistics, with opportunities to apply these skills to biological, clinical and medical research.
- Strong, interdisciplinary, and longitudinal mentorship from faculty and researchers from MUHAS, ORCI and UCSF, providing individualized guidance in research and statistical methodology.
- Comprehensive career development support, to help the scholar develop and achieve short and long-term career goals, and build leadership and research capacity.

As part of the training, the scholar will spend one-year in residence at UCSF and/or University of California, Berkeley (UCB), where he/she will receive training in statistics and biostatistics theory, computer implementation of analytical methods, and the application of statistical methods to biological, clinical and medical research. Specific course selection will depend on the knowledge, skills, and interests of the selected scholar. The coursework will begin in mid-2027 (starting in July or September, depending on course selection).

As a critical component of the training, the Scholar will be **embedded within selected research studies** led by Clinical Research Scholars, PhD Scholars, and other members of the MUHAS-ORCI-UCSF Cancer Collaboration that are supported by UCSF Biostatisticians. Through this embedded shadowing, the Scholar will gain practical experience in applying biostatistical methods to real-world cancer and biomedical research, and best practices for providing collaborative support to investigators. The Scholar will not be expected to develop and implement an independent research study. Rather, the training will emphasize the development of strong biostatistical expertise and the ability to provide effective statistical support on real-world study design and methodology, data management and quality assurance, statistical analysis, interpretation of results and collaboration with multidisciplinary research teams.

The successful applicants will receive funding for: course fees, travel to and from UCSF (****pending USA visa approval**), accommodation and stipends for personal upkeep for 9-12 months.

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- A degree in Biostatistics, Statistics, Mathematics, Epidemiology, or a closely related quantitative discipline. Bachelor's degree required, Master's degree preferred.
- Demonstrated aptitude and intent to pursue a long-term career in **biostatistics supporting cancer and**

biomedical research.

- Strong analytical, problem-solving, communication, and teamwork skills.
- Demonstrated fluency in both spoken and written English language
- A commitment to fully participate and to all required coursework, seminars and mentor meetings, and other program activities, including spending 9-12 months in the US for coursework, visa permitting.
- Computer proficiency, including in Microsoft word, Excel, PowerPoint
- Proficiency in at least one **statistical programming/software package** such as R, Stata, SAS, or Python is desirable.

Selection Criteria:

Applicants will be evaluated based on:

- Demonstrated commitment to long term career in biostatistics, with a strong interest in statistically supporting and strengthening clinical and health research.
- Affiliation with MUHAS is highly desirable and will be considered as an added advantage.
- Strong institutional support, including recommendations from faculty or senior researchers at the applicant's home institution indicating possibility for granting dedicated time for the applicant to fully participate in the training fellowship.
- Relevant clinical, epidemiological, public health experience, with experience in cancer research strongly preferred but not required
- Experience with analyzing epidemiological, clinical trials or other clinical research data is highly desirable and will be considered as an added advantage.

Application Requirements: All interested scholars should submit the following information to globalcancer@ucsf.edu and Cc'd to tz.ucsfccancercollab@gmail.com by **December 1, 2026**.

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 mentorship program. Applicants should summarize research interests in this letter.
2. **Updated Curriculum Vitae (CV) or NIH-format Biosketch** (see attached template)
3. **Two letters of recommendation.** These letters should include telephone numbers, addresses and e-mail addresses of the referees. One letter must be from your institutional leadership acknowledging approval for your participation in this program, including time away from regular duties. The second recommendation should preferably be from someone in an academic, research, or cancer-related field.
4. **Personal statement.** This statement should outline how this program aligns with your training and career thus far and how it will advance your **long-term career goals**. Please be sure to explain your long-term career goals in this statement. (1-page maximum).
5. **Optional:** Sample publications or work demonstrating biostatistical/data analytical experience and capacity.

Selection Process:

All applications must be submitted by **December 1, 2026**. Final candidates will be selected based on the strength their application, recommendation letters. Final candidates will be invited for online interviews in **January 2027**. Selected candidates will be announced by **January 31, 2027**.

To apply: Send application via email to: globalcancer@ucsf.edu and cc'd to tz.ucsfccancercollab@gmail.com

Include: Application cover letter, CV/NIH Biosketch, two letters of recommendation, 1-page personal statement. **Please combine all materials into one PDF document; application will be disqualified if this format is not followed.**

Application Deadline: December 1, 2026

***Effective January 1, 2026, the USA has suspended issue of B-1, B-2, B-1/B-2, F, M, and J Visas to immigrants and non-immigrants from Tanzania. UCSF is following the situation closely with the International Students and Scholars Office (ISSO). The program will work closely with selected applicants to provide guidance, documentation, and coordination with ISSO to support visa applications; however, visa issuance or entry into the United States is not guaranteed. Alternatively, selected applicants will complete the program remotely.*