

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

EAST AFRICAN HEALTH RESEARCH COMMISSION



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PHD TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

DIGITAL REGIONAL EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY HEALTH (DIGITAL REACH) INITIATIVE

EAST AFRICAN CROSS – BORDER HEALTH SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION SCIENCE PROGRAM

Digital technology is expanding rapidly in Africa. It has the potential to transform the health sector in East Africa and accelerate the attainment of Universal Health Coverage and the UN-Sustainable Development Goals.

Digital health, which is the augmentation of health services through the use of information and communication technology (ICT), is considered to be an effective means of improving health services delivery and health outcomes, and in reducing the cost of health services. Uptake of digital health in East Africa is still low. To accelerate the uptake and utilization of Digital Health, East African Health Research Commission (EAHRC), an Institution of the East African Community (EAC) has developed the Digital Regional East African Community Health (Digital REACH) Initiative to scale uptake and utilization of digital health. Among the areas that the Digital REACH Initiative's work streams is health programs, among which is the health services to cross-border and mobile communities in East Africa.

The populations that live along the East African Community (EAC) borders face health challenges that are unique to cross-border areas. EAHRC, and its partners is implementing an East Africa Cross Border Health Service (EA-CBHS) implementation science program. The goal of the EA-CBHS Program is to employ Digital Health to generate evidence and solutions to key challenges associated with provision of quality health services for mobile populations and communities residing along strategic border areas of East Africa.

To bring about sustainable changes EAHRC through the EA-CBHS program would like to train at PhD level a multi-disciplinary next generation of health scientists and leaders. The trained professionals will constitute a critical mass of experts in Digital Health, who will continue to work jointly as an EAC regional digital health core team of experts.

EAHRC is inviting highly qualified and motivated candidates for the PhD program.

PhD Study areas:

1. Social science (e.g. community health, anthropology, behavioural science, health economics, demography, epidemiology, etc.),

2. Data Science for Digital health (e.g. data analytics, Innovation, data security and interoperability, digital governance, innovation, biostatistics, bioinformatics, etc.)
3. Health science (Clinical science, basic science)
4. Information science (e.g. information access, architecture, management, retrieval, seeking, organization, ontology, taxonomy, technology, philosophy of information science, information society, etc.)

Selection criteria

1. Academic qualifications: Undergraduate and graduate degrees in the relevant field
2. Skills: Outstanding track record on research and publication (at least 5 relevant publications in peer-reviewed journals), project management, and ability to work as a team
3. Age: Not exceeding 40 years of age
4. Employment status: must be an employee of a national research or academic institution in the East African Community Partner States
5. Citizenship: A citizen of the East African Community Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, and Uganda)
6. Gender consideration: The program is cognizant of gender considerations in the selection process
7. Official signed letter of support from the employer (official headed-paper, name of the officer, signature, and stamp)
8. Letter of support from senior researchers/health experts recommending the applicant

The duration of the program will be three years starting from 2018. EAHRC and its partners will establish relevant PhD supervisory teams under the EA-CBHS Program. The candidates under the supervision of the supervisory team will develop their PhD projects. The candidates will be enrolled at identified university/ies and will conduct their research projects in the EAC cross-border sites. The PhD candidates will coordinate the ongoing EA-CBHS program, and work as a team on the overall program implementation.