



Call for applications for a PhD Scholarship

Strengthening Adolescent HIV Care in Uganda through Implementation Science: Co-developing and Embedding the Life Transition–Responsive Adherence (LiTRA) Strategy

Context: Adolescents living with HIV (ALHIV) in Uganda face poor ART adherence, especially during key life transitions such as entering boarding school, parenthood, employment, and transition to adult HIV care. Existing adherence support models are often static and insufficiently responsive to changing needs. The Life Transitions Responsive Adherence (LiTRA) project addresses this gap through participatory action research and implementation science by co-developing and embedding a transition-responsive adherence strategy in routine HIV care, while improving adherence outcomes and strengthening MMU's capacity in implementation science.

Position: This PhD scholarship is tenable at Makerere University College of Health Sciences with supervision from Dr. Nangendo Joan (MUK), Dr. Emmanuel Kimera (MMU), Dr. Sofie Vindevogel (HOGENT), and mentorship by Ms. Linda Grace Alanyo (MMU). The successful candidate will lead research on identifying life-transition barriers for ALHIV and co-developing, testing, and evaluating the LiTRA strategy. The scholarship covers tuition (up to 4 years), research costs, and a modest monthly stipend for related expenses.

Selection process: A selection committee comprising representatives from all participating partner institutions will shortlist applicants based

on qualifications, potential for success, and their prospective contribution to the Faculty of Health Sciences at MMU. Shortlisted candidates will subsequently be interviewed by the committee, and the highest-ranked candidate will be selected.

Profile and skills required

- MSc. in a health-related field (Nursing, Midwifery, medicine, pharmacy, Public Health)
- Strong interest in HIV research, or child health or adolescent health or implementation research
- Writing and reading proficiency in English and Rutooro
- Good writing, analytical and synthesis skills
- Demonstrate basic knowledge in participatory and implementation research
- Prior publication experience is an added advantage
- Females are encouraged to apply
- Available to spend time at MUK, MMU, and occasional trips to HOGENT, Belgium

Application procedure: Interested candidates are invited to submit their applications before close of business on **21st August 2026**. One Pdf file that includes a short concept (2-3 pages), short CV (3 pages max), copies of academic documents (masters and bachelor's degree) should be submitted by email to dean.fhs@mmu.ac.u with copies to Co-PI: Ms. Linda Grace Alanyo (lindalindrace@gmail.com)