

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

PhD Fellowship in Host Genetics of Pediatric HIV

Makerere University College of Health Sciences (MakCHS) in conjunction with Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas (BCM) and in collaboration with Baylor Foundation Uganda (BFU) under the **Scaling Up advanced genomics and bioinformatics Research training in Pediatric HIV/AIDS in Uganda (SURGE)** project invites applications for fully funded PhD training in Host Genetics and Genomics in Pediatric HIV and associated co-infections supported by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) USA.

Aims of SURGE

SURGE seeks to equip trainees with rigorous and methodical training in genomics and bioinformatics, nurturing essential skills for advanced HIV research in pediatric populations. It also seeks to nurture a culture of research and academic excellence in pediatric HIV research. Successful applicants will be admitted to the PhD in Bioinformatics programme and required to complete 1-year didactic and laboratory training at BCM before returning to MakCHS to complete their doctoral training. SURGE will utilize datasets, among others, used to generate the publications that can be accessed via this link (<https://url-shortener.me/A3M5>).

Why apply ?

- One-year didactic training at BCM
- Four years full tuition support
- An attractive monthly stipend
- Dual mentorship by faculty at both Makerere University and BCM
- Practical skills in genomics/bioinformatics for paediatric HIV/TB research
- Support for proposal development and career progression
- Access to a large host genetic dataset from African children living with HIV

Eligibility

Ugandans holding a Master's degree with a focus on genetics, genomics, bioinformatics, mathematical modelling, biostatistics and other related disciplines with an interest in human genetics, genomics or bioinformatics are eligible to apply. Programming and practical bioinformatics skills and current admission to the PhD in Bioinformatics at Makerere University are not necessary but would be added advantages.

Application process

Applications must be submitted to surge.ug2030@gmail.com. Applicants should upload one single PDF containing the following documents, in the order listed:

1. Cover letter (maximum 1 page)
2. Curriculum Vitae (CV) (maximum 3 pages)
3. Personal statement (maximum 1 page)
4. PhD research concept (maximum 2 pages). Research topics considered responsive to this PhD call include, but are not limited to: **Persistent differential response to ART, Pharmacogenomics of ART, Host-viral interactions, NCDs, and HIV-TB co-infection all in the context of children infected with HIV.**

Recommendation letters from two individuals conversant with the applicants' academic abilities. Referees should forward their letters directly surge.ug2030@gmail.com.

Please ensure you attach all the requirements for eligibility.
Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

Applications Closing Date: March 16, 2026, 5:00pm EAT

For additional information please contact the Program Manager at surge.ug2030@gmail.com.