

# **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR INTERNSHIP IN HEALTH RESEARCH**

## **GENERAL GUIDELINES**

### **I. Rationale behind the Internship Programme**

The Consortium for National Health Research (CNHR) was established to address a broad spectrum of issues affecting health research in Kenya. These include; research coordination, prioritisation of research activities, training, strengthening the legislative environment, and enhancing knowledge sharing. The overall aim is to strengthen the national capacity of health research in Kenya.

CNHR operates competitive grant schemes comprising of training scholarships, postgraduate research fellowships, and institutional support grants to institutions, all aimed at strengthening the national health research capacity. By closely working with a broad range of research and training institutions, the Consortium identifies and supports strategic research activities.

Through the Internship Programme, CNHR identifies promising young and recent graduates for further training and scientific exposure. The graduates are hosted within research laboratories and other facilities in some of the leading institutions that work in partnership with the Consortium. During the six-month period of internship, the interns are exposed to modern approaches of scientific research, and gain first-hand experience from performing scientific procedures with aid of varied sophisticated analytical or diagnostic equipment. Some of these interns join research teams carrying out field-based, epidemiological surveys or participate in the application of other health research tools such as mathematical modelling or Geographical Information Systems (GIS). This is done under the very close mentorship and supervision of senior research scientists.

The aim of the Internship Programme is to cultivate interest in research among talented young Kenyans and motivate them to choose life-long career paths in the field of health research. This is one way of building human resource capacity and retaining young scientists with the requisite skills to generate and utilize research knowledge within a multidisciplinary environment. It is expected that this will ultimately contribute to the achievement of the Consortium's long-term goals, as well as contributing to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the realisation of the 2030 Vision.

In the medium-to-long term, with support of funding opportunities available from CNHR and elsewhere, it is expected that high calibre research teams of scientists will emerge to form a pool that will continuously generate knowledge to inform policy and thereby positively impact on the overall development of the nation.

### **2. Eligibility Criteria for the Internship Programme**

Through the internship Programme, the Consortium seeks to engage with enthusiastic, motivated young graduates who understand the place of health research in the development of Kenya. Applicants are expected to be willing to dedicate their time fully to train in field or laboratory conditions. They need to be well versed in computer use, as they will be expected to often use the Internet to source information and scientific updates.

The successful interns will need to satisfy the following criteria:

- Be Kenyan citizens;
- Be recent (past three years) first-degree graduates in medical, biomedical or social science from a recognized institution. Graduates qualified in other disciplines that can contribute to aspects of health research are also encouraged to apply; and
- Have scored a minimum of an upper second (or credit for non-classified) in the first degree.

### **3. Application Procedure**

Applications are invited after the formal call is published on the Consortium's web site and in the daily newspapers. The procedure for application is through the completion of an Application form which can be obtained from the CNHR website [www.cnhrkenya.org](http://www.cnhrkenya.org). Applications should be submitted electronically through email, or sent to the CNHR Nairobi Office through the address provided. Applications need to be received by the date indicated on the call. Late applications are neither considered nor acknowledged.

### **4. Selection Procedure**

Applications are reviewed, short listed by CNHR and ranked on merit. Based on this ranking, the most suitable candidates are invited for interview.

### **5. Letter of Offer**

The Letter of Offer issued to successful candidates spells out all the terms and conditions of the Internship Programme. These include the name of the institution that will host the intern, the name of the supervisor/mentor, and the level of the monthly stipend to be provided by CNHR.

For further information on this programme, please contact CNHR through: [info@cnhrkenya.org](mailto:info@cnhrkenya.org).