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Organization



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Call for applications from training institutions

Selection of universities to manage TDR International Post Graduate Training Scheme (2015 to 2019)

Submission deadline: 28 February 2015

TDR is pleased to announce a call for applications from universities in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to host and manage the TDR international post graduate training scheme on implementation research (IR). The long term goal is to strengthen capacity of disease endemic countries for identifying public health needs, develop appropriate solutions and translate them into policy and practice for improved health and well-being of their populations.

Specific objectives of the postgraduate training scheme are to:

- Strengthen the capacity within LMIC universities to select and manage postgraduate trainees in implementation research;
- Support postgraduate training for nationals of LMICs.

Background and rationale

The importance of research in identifying solutions and options for improved public health is widely recognised. Equally important is the development of a cadre of competent researchers to address implementation bottlenecks, identify optimal contextual approaches and promote the uptake of research findings. Postgraduate training is an important component that can make a significant contribution towards this process.

Research capacity strengthening and knowledge management (RCS/KM) is a cross-cutting programmatic area of TDR, the Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases. RCS/KM promotes and funds training, institutional development and networks to increase the participation of LMICs in the generation and use of new knowledge and tools for the prevention, control and elimination of infectious diseases of poverty. TDR supports strengthening LMIC scientists to conduct research aimed at implementation research to improve public health programmes. For additional information on current TDR strategy, please visit:

http://www.who.int/tdr/publications/strategic_plan/en/

TDR offers support for post graduate training in the form of fellowships to MSc and PhD students from LMICs in subjects or disciplines relevant to understanding and addressing barriers to effective and quality delivery of health interventions, strategies and policies¹. Recipients will be enrolled as postgraduate students of

¹ MEASURE Evaluation. Fundamentals of Implementation Research. <https://training.measureevaluation.org/certificate-courses/ir>

participating universities. Each university is expected to manage between 5-10 postgraduate fellowships supported by TDR per year.

The university will receive 10% of the total grant amount as a contribution towards administration of the fellowship. A request for funding for other learning activities outside the core postgraduate curriculum will be considered. Such activities must add value to the scheme.

The fellowship will cover the following:

- Return economy air fare (where necessary) between the home country of the student and the host university;
- Tuition fees and a basic medical and accident insurance (to be obtained through the university or WHO approved medical insurance scheme);
- An allowance towards the costs of recommended learning materials (reference text books and laptop);
- Support for research project thesis/ dissertation expenses and supervision;
- Payment for an intensive language course to improve the grantee's academic performance and integration in the host institution environment;
- A monthly stipend for foreign students to cover living expenses.

Eligibility

To be eligible, the university must:

- Be located in low- and middle-income country with accredited MSc and/or PhD programmes;
- Have established policies and processes for post graduate training programmes;
- Provide detailed documentation of the post graduate courses in subjects areas relevant to IR;
- Have the relevant courses in existence for at least 5 years.

Selection of universities

Only applications from universities based in LMICs with experience in managing post graduate courses will be considered. The selection of universities will be on a competitive basis. Applications will be reviewed by the TDR RCS/KM scientific working group (SWG). The SWG will make a short list of universities based on relevance of postgraduate courses offered to implementation research, track record of the institution's postgraduate programme and the institution's proposal for implementing the international postgraduate fellowship. Site assessments of the short-listed universities will be conducted for the selection of universities to participate in the scheme. A letter of agreement (LOA) will be established with each participating university to establish the partnership.

Selection of post graduate students

TDR and each participating university will issue a joint training grant call open to nationals of LMICs in May 2015. Applicants interested in specific training courses offered by the university must apply directly to the institution. Selection of applicants must be based on merit. A shortlist will be prepared by the institution. As much as possible the list must include applicants from countries other than where the university is located. The short list and summary information (CV, qualification, nationality, age, gender and proposed field of study) of applicants will be forwarded to TDR along with the estimated annual training costs. The profile of short

listed candidates must comply with WHO gender policy² and reflect the international nature of the scheme. An independent committee constituted by TDR will select recipients of the fellowship from the shortlist in consultation with the university. It is expected that each university will host 5 to 10 TDR supported postgraduate fellows. Transfer of funds to the university is anticipated for August 2015.

How to apply

Universities interested in participating in the scheme should prepare their applications as an electronic text document (word or pdf) A4 using Times New Roman font (12 pt) with 1.5 line spacing). The application, while respecting the stated page limits must include the following information in the order listed:

1. Full name of the university.
2. Full details of the main contact person for postgraduate training (and prospective primary contact / responsible for the scheme if the application is successful).
3. Contact information of other key individuals to be involved in the implementation of the scheme and their role(s).
4. A description of the institution mandate, structure, missions, collaborations and research infrastructure (*5 pages*).
5. An outline of the university's experience in running post graduate courses and organization of postgraduate supervision, (*5 pages*).
6. An implementation plan (*5 pages*), including a description of how:
 - a. Participating in the scheme is in agreement with the mission and philosophy of the university.
 - b. The university will add value to the scheme for example through exposure to research related skills not normally included as part of the academic curriculum.
 - c. Research programmes in the university will add value to the scheme.
 - d. The university will promote the postgraduate scheme to a wider audience in the region and globally.
7. Annexes
 - a. The curriculum vitae of all persons listed under item 3 above.
 - b. A list of current health related research programmes.
 - c. A list of post graduate courses relevant to this scheme offered in the past 5 years.
 - d. Provide the curriculum of the courses, number of registered students (segregated by gender) and the timetable (draft or actual) for the 2015/16 academic year.
 - e. Schedule of fees for resident and foreign students.
 - f. Other supporting documents such as prospectus, students handbook, study programme information (preferably as urls/links webpages).

² Gender perspectives are integrated in all areas of TDR's work. The goal of the organization's gender policy is to contribute to better health for both women and men, through health research, policies and programmes which give due attention to gender considerations and promote equity and equality between women and men.

The application (no more than 20 pages excluding annexes) must be submitted by email as a single pdf file to rcstdr@who.int by midnight Central European Time, 28 February 2015.

The email subject line must include "TDR postgraduate training scheme [university name]". TDR will acknowledge receipt of applications within 2 weeks of the submission deadline by email to the main contact person as indicated in the application. An acknowledgement of receipt does not imply that the application is eligible for review.

Applicants who do not receive an acknowledgement within the specified time should contact rcstdr@who.int.

For further information, please contact:

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<http://www.who.int/tdr/>