

 **CREATE**
PhD PROGRAMME

CREATE PhD Stage 1 UK fellowship Applications Webinar

Friday 10th October 2025

12-1pm BST

Panel:

Dr **Sean Wasserman** (Programme Co-Director) - CSGUL

Prof **Priscilla Harries** (Strategic Advisory Board member) - Kingston University/Hon. Professor CSGUL

Dr **Sarah Barber** and Ms **Kate Mattick** (Current fellows) - KCL /CDT-Africa, Ethiopia and BSMS/BRTI, Zimbabwe

Ms **Katherine Barrett** (Programme Manager) – LSHTM

Purpose:

Information session about the CREATE PhD Programme - in light of the Stage 1 UK fellowship applications (currently open until 7th November 2025).

Format:

Presentations on the programme and fellowship lifecycle, how to submit a quality application, perspective from a current fellow.

A moderated Q&A

Follow-up:

Please feel welcome to send questions for the panel afterwards via create-phd@lshtm.ac.uk

Housekeeping:

- This session will be recorded and will be made available afterwards
- Only nominated panelists can be seen, heard or screen share
- The audiences' mics & videos are turned off
- The Q&A function is available in this session – please ensure messages are respectful and in line with LSHTM's values
- Questions will be answered after all panelists' presentations

Presentation:

Sean Wasserman: CREATE PhD programme

AFRICA HEALTH RESEARCH TRAINING PROGRAMME

CREATE

PhD Programme

Vision

To build a transformative programme that nurtures a new generation of **diverse world class** researchers who will address existing and emerging global health challenges, **working across professional and research disciplines**, with **equity** as a core value

Collaborative partnership between UK and African institutions

LONDON
SCHOOL of
HYGIENE
& TROPICAL
MEDICINE



CITY
ST GEORGE'S
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

 brighton and sussex
medical school

 Queen Mary
University of London



MRC/UVRI and LSHTM Uganda Research Unit



Overview of the Programme:

- Wellcome Trust funded programme: 25 (3-year) PhD fellowships (5/year)
- Open to UK/Republic of Ireland registered health professionals
- Fellows will register at one of the partner UK Institutions (UKI)
- Fellows will be based at an African Partner Institution (API) for 18-24 months

Overview of the Programme:

Research focus:

- Health needs of sub-Saharan Africa
- Interdisciplinary (rather than exclusively biomedical) research

Research culture:

Wellcome Trust: A culture that is creative, inclusive and honest.

**Transformation of Research Culture and improving
Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) central to programme's aim**

How CREATE differs from previous programme(s):

- Defined 6 API with 5 UKI
- Modified recruitment process
- API cohort
- Joint API and UKI supervision
- Formal training & cohort activities
- Research culture and EDI focus
- Formal monitoring of fellows/impact
- 2-level programme oversight

EDI and research culture roadmap:

Improve Diversity and inclusion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruitment of NMAHPs → diversify recruitment strategy & role models • Supporting application processes & Revised selection process • Fully integrating API & UKI fellows: training, supervision, mentoring and monitoring
Interdisciplinarity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouragement of interdisciplinary research projects
Training and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Digital Global Health Academy • Cohort cohesion • Mentorship <u>programme</u> • Formal progress monitoring
Collaboration & Partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peer-Pairing • Training activities at APIs
Environment & culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bullying & Harassment policies and pathways for reporting • Metrics of “success” • Supervisor training
Share best practice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase diversity – testimonies, case studies • Report metrics • Collaboration with PhD Programmes at HEIs

Digital Global Health Academy:

- Modular, participatory programme
- To integrate into core doctoral training across institutions
- Rolling programme
- Across UKI & APIs

THEME	TRAINING COMPONENTS
Conducting research effectively	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project / Data / Financial Management • Working in resource-limited settings
Enterprise and leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research Leadership Programme • Balancing clinical and academic careers • Cross-disciplinary working
Contribution to Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research for Impact • Public Engagement & community partnerships • Engaging policy makers • Open Access, Research commercialisation & IPR
Transforming Research culture	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching, supervising & mentoring • Research Integrity: Beyond ethical approvals • Bullying and Harassment • Personal effectiveness
Global citizenship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decolonising Global Health • Cultural Hegemony • Global Health Governance

API vs UKI fellows/Institutions:

- Registration at UKIs or APIs
- Funding for research through existing research platforms
- UKI commitment: Fee waivers/Varied amount committed per fellow
- Access to UKI Resources
- Integrated into cohort- same training & support activities & mentorship
- Monitoring of progress by PMG

Presentation:

Katherine Barrett: Fellowship lifecycle

CREATE PhD Fellowship:

- Full-time 3 year fellowship
- Up to 24 months at API including:
 - Biomedical Research and Training Institute (Zimbabwe), CDT-Africa (Ethiopia), MRC-Gambia, MRC-UVRI LSHTM Uganda, Zambart (Zambia), Zvitambo (Zimbabwe)
- Registration at UKI including:
 - London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, City St George's University of London, Kings College London, Queen Mary's University of London, Brighton and Sussex Medical School

Overarching structure of CREATE PhD Fellowship:

1. Application (Sept – Nov, Stage 1 / Dec – April, Stage 2)
2. Offer (May)
3. People are required to take up their fellowship within 12 months of the award being made
4. Induction/onboarding period
5. Upgrading/PhD progression assessment around end of 1st year
6. Viva at end of 3rd year

Variations: no-cost extension / part-time option

Fellowship supports and resources:

- **Funded** by Wellcome – including PhD fees, salary, overseas allowances, research costs, travel and conferences/training
- **Individually supported** by 2/3 supervisors, as well as mentor (optional)
- Access to UKI/API **training and research resources**
- Member of the '*Digital Global Health Academy*' – training and resources tailored to fellowship
- Part of **wider cohort** of CREATE PhD fellows and other Wellcome-funded fellows

Fellowship application:

2 stage application process

- 1st stage – submit online application by 7th November 2025

www.jobs.lshtm.ac.uk

Reference - ITD-CRD-2025-05

- Person specification

We welcome applications from individuals, regardless of their background, who have the scientific rigour, drive and ambition to carry out world-class research that focuses on issues of public health importance in Africa.

CREATE PhD Programme Fellow (x5)

main content

CREATE PhD Programme Fellow (x5)

Department
Department of Clinical Research

Salary
£45,097 to £70,425 per annum, inclusive.

Closing Date
Friday 07 November 2025

Reference
ITD-CRD-2025-05

Applications are invited for this PhD training programme to commence in September 2026. Led by the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, this PhD Programme is offered by five UK and six African partner institutions bringing together the expertise of these institutions in global health research.

The focus of this PhD Programme is on research focusing on the health problems of African countries, centering on Zambia, Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, The Gambia, and Uganda. Successful applicants will develop their potential to become global health leaders within a structured and mentored training environment. Further information on the programme is available at: [PROGRAMME | CREATE PhD Programme \(create-phd.org\)](#)

This programme is aimed at supporting health professionals who wish to undertake rigorous research training. Support is for three years and includes a matched salary, research expenses, home rate tuition fees, and training and travel costs.

Applicants must be practicing healthcare professionals and be registered with a national professional regulatory body in the UK/Republic of Ireland (e.g. General Medical Council, Health and Care Professions Council). Those who have provisional registration or are pre-registration are not eligible to apply. Doctors should have completed their internship or Foundation training. Other healthcare professionals need to have at least 1 year of clinical practice. Applicants must have the right to work in the UK and be eligible for home fees.

Applicants should maintain their clinical skills, if applicable. Applicants must have an interest in global health research and be looking to develop their academic career.

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Fellowship application - eligibility:

- **Healthcare professionals** eligible to apply include: art therapists, chiroprpodists/podiatrists, chiropractors, clinical psychologists, dental hygienists, dental nurses, dental therapists, dentists, dieticians, drama therapists, health visitors, healthcare scientists (in life sciences, physiological sciences, physical sciences and biomechanical engineering, and bioinformatics), medical graduates, midwives, music therapists, non-medical public health specialists, nurses, occupational therapists, operating department practitioners, optometrists and dispensing opticians, orthoptists, osteopaths, paramedics, pharmacists, pharmacy technicians, physiotherapists, practitioner psychologists, prosthetists and orthotists, radiographers, social workers, speech and language therapists, vets, physician assistants.
- Applicants should hold **full registration** with UK professional regulatory bodies (such as the General Medical Council, Nursing and Midwifery Council, Health and Care Professions Council, General Optical Council, General Pharmaceutical Council, General Dental Council and others). All applicants must have completed their undergraduate degree and be registered with the relevant health professional regulatory bodies. Those who have provisional registration or are pre-registration are not eligible to apply. Non-medical healthcare professionals need to have at least 1 year of clinical practice.
- Applicants should be **eligible to work in the UK and qualify for home or UK-level fees**.

Fellowship application:

- **2nd stage** – shortlisted candidates will receive notice by mid-December 2025
- Documentation by 17th March 2026 including:
 - 1) A project details form
 - 2) A detailed budget
 - 3) Endorsement of application and budget from your proposed host UK and African Institutions

[A webinar for shortlisted candidates will be scheduled for January 2026 with further information]

- **Interviews** in w/c May 11th 2026
- **Entry** in 2026/2027 (i.e. from September 2026 onwards, within 12 months of the award being made in May)

Fellowship application:

- **Salaries** should be requested according to experience on the appropriate salary scale, including London weighting if relevant. Typically, consultant level salaries and NHS salaries above Band 7 will not be funded. If this issue arises, this should be discussed individually with the Programme Manager.
- Routine **clinical work** (not related to research) should be limited to no more than 8 hours a week (2 clinical sessions) full-time equivalent (FTE) (16 hours for craft specialities FTE, 4 clinical sessions) during the fellowship and the host institution must provide a signed statement agreeing to this restriction. Fellows working clinically or undertaking patient-facing research in the country where they are conducting their PhD research must ensure that they are registered with the appropriate health professional regulatory body, and are undertaking appropriate continuing professional education to maintain their registration.
- Projects must demonstrate a **clear relevance to the main aim of the CREATE Programme**.
- An unsuccessful candidate can reapply once, but should seek advice from the Programme Director prior to considering reapplication.

Fellowship application – next steps:

How to apply

Applications must be received through the online LSHTM application system via <http://jobs.lshtm.ac.uk> by **23.59 hours on Friday 7th November 2025**. No applications received after the deadline will be accepted.

The application needs to contain the following elements:

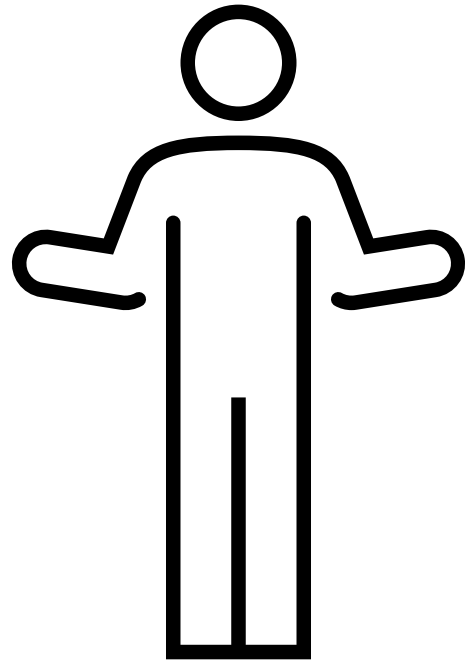
1. Application form
2. Supporting letter from academic referee
3. Completed Equal Opportunities Monitoring Form

The fellowship application is a two-stage process. The initial application assesses your career history to date, your achievements in research to date, your experience of working in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), your motivation to enrol in this doctoral training programme and a brief outline of your ideas for a PhD.

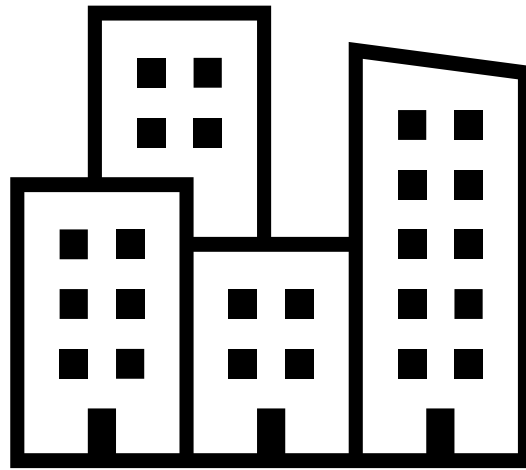
It is not expected that you have identified a definite PhD supervisor and developed a specific project by this stage, although it would be expected that you have some broad ideas for your research project, potential supervisory team, UK institution and African Partner Institution.

Presentation:

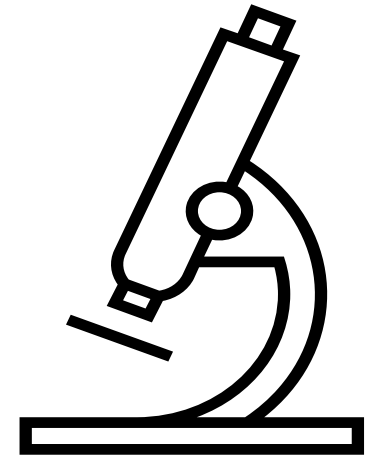
Priscilla Harries: How to submit a quality application.



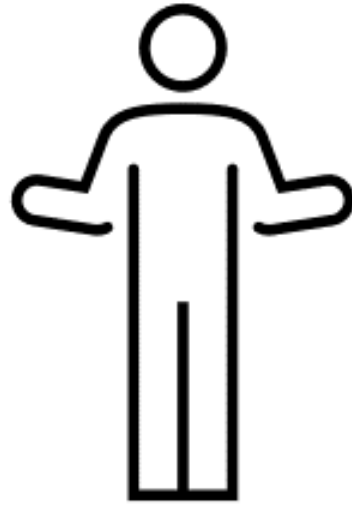
Person



Place



Project



Person

- Meets the eligibility criteria
- Demonstrable interest in research
- Timing



Place

- Institutional support and infrastructure
- Supervisory team



Project

- Topic
- Impact on patients and services
- Appropriate methods
- Tailored training plan
- Post doctoral career

Top Tips

- Think carefully and do your research
- Allocate sufficient to write your application
- Sell yourself and proposal
- Proof read for clarity (spelling & grammatical errors)
- Be brave

Presentation

Sarah Barber and Kate Mattick: perspective from current fellows.

Stage 1 application: person specification

Essential:

- **Commitment** to research in global health and a career in global health
- *Ability to develop an appropriate PhD project proposal (stage 2)*

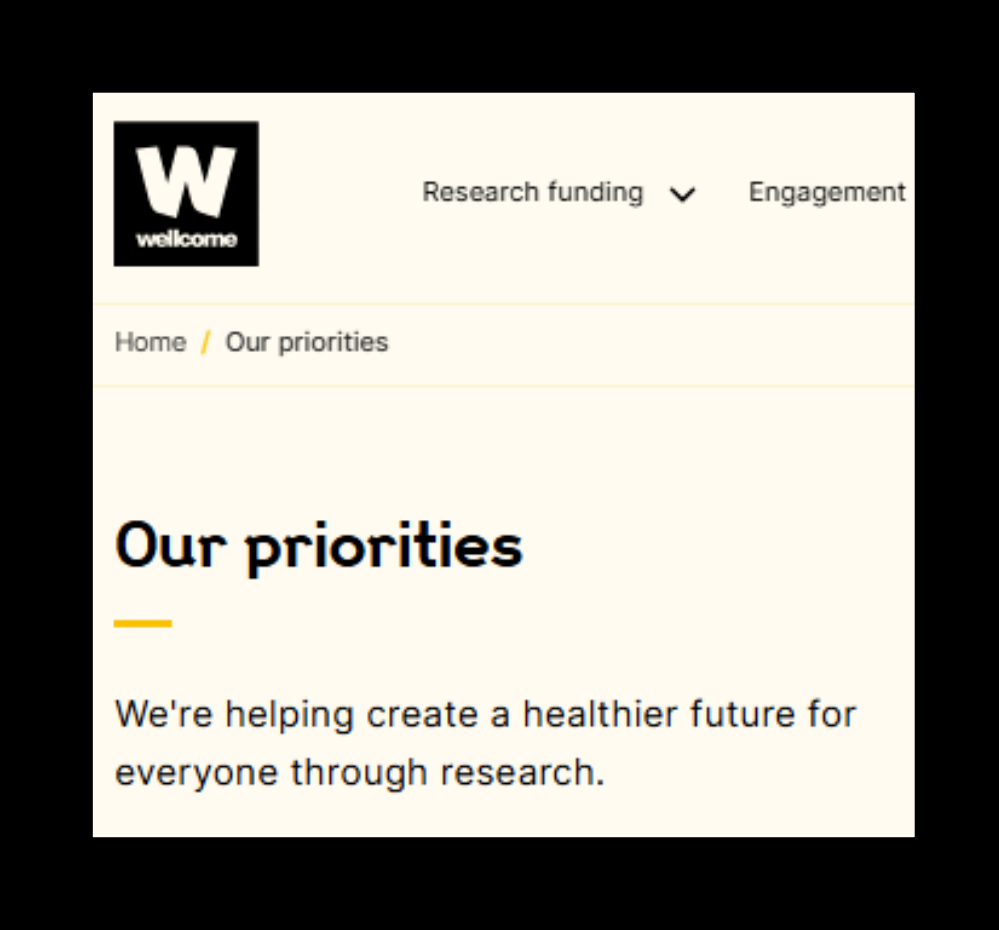
Desirable (not essential):

- Previous research experience
- Previous research training
- Experience of working in Africa and / or a multicultural environment
- Published articles
- Other relevant experience e.g., teaching, quality improvement, public engagement

Year	Reference	Author	Definition
2009	1	Koplan <i>et al</i>	Global health is an area of study, research and practice that places a priority on improving health and achieving equity

What is global health?

2010	20	
2012		



Salm M, Ali M, Minihane M, Conrad P. Defining global health: findings from a systematic review and thematic analysis of the literature. *BMJ Glob Health*. 2021 Jun;6(6):e005292. doi: 10.1136/bmjgh-2021-005292. PMID: 34083243; PMCID: PMC8183196.

of global health based on six core principles: (1) cross-border/multilevel approach, (2) interdisciplinarity/transdisciplinarity, (3) systems thinking, (4) innovation, (5) sustainability and (6) human rights/equity.

My background and Stage 1 application

- Medical student elective placements
- Academic training pathway / research experience
- Teaching / mentorship
- Masters in Public Health (remember – not essential)
- Two years living in Uganda (F3/4) – clinical and research experience



Other thoughts

- Is this right for you?
- Pregnancy/Less than full time
- Adminageden

Kate Mattick

- Physiotherapist – graduated in 2013
- Clinical work in UK and overseas
- MSc in disability, design and innovation in 2020
- Some research exposure in NHS and working for global disability organization
- **Applied for CREATE in 2023**
 - ✓ Health professional registered with HCPC in the UK
 - ✓ Minimum of 1 year clinical experience
 - ✓ Right to work in the UK
 - ✓ Interest in global health and be looking to develop their academic career

Reflections on my experience

- Found out about CREATE through social media
- Limited contact with global health academics
- Didn't know anyone doing a global health PhD – or any PhD
- Doubted myself
- No specific project or supervisor
- Left it late to apply and had little opportunity to have my stage 1 reviewed...

Top tips

- If you meet the criteria, you have a right to be there
- Do not count yourself out
- Weave your story – why you, and why now
- Your strengths and diversity - what do you bring? how can you best share your achievements, commitment and passion for global health in African contexts?
- Not always through academic publications but think bigger – quality improvement projects, presentations at conferences, committee positions, voluntary work outside of NHS, any small grants or awards, leadership roles and development of others
- I had broad ideas of a project which I narrowed for stage 1 but then really refined and shaped during stage 2.

If you are shortlisted

- Your odds are good
- Can you give the time commitment required?
- This is a huge opportunity, and it requires a lot of work
- Annual leave, study leave, evenings and weekends
- Support of partners and family
- Speak to lots of people, take time to consider which institution and which supervisors

Moderated Q&A:

Please type questions to the hosts

We will group by theme

Kindly note that we may be unable to respond to all within the timeframe

Follow-up:

Please feel welcome to send questions for the panel afterwards via create-phd@lshtm.ac.uk

Portions of this webinar will be available for viewing on the www.create-phd.org website after this event.