



# Joint Clinical Research Centre

## Call for Applications: Master's Research Scholarship

### Background:

The Joint Clinical Research Centre (JCRC), in collaboration with Makerere University (Mak), Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), and the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School, is pleased to announce a competitive Master's Research Scholarship in Cell and Gene Therapy (CGT) focused on HIV cure research. This training program, supported by the Fogarty International Center of the U.S. National Institutes of Health, aims to build a new generation of African scientists equipped with advanced knowledge and practical skills in CGT for HIV cure and related translational research. The scholarship will provide advanced research training, mentorship, and professional development to strengthen the capacity of early-career scientists and prepare them for future leadership in biomedical research and innovation.

### Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be Ugandan nationals
- Be currently enrolled in a Master's programme at Mak or MUST in one of the following or related disciplines: Medicine, Biochemistry, Immunology, Molecular Biology, Bioinformatics, Microbiology or other relevant biomedical sciences
- Have completed their first year of training under normal academic progress and are ready to begin their research, supported by a stamped testimonial from their institution
- Demonstrate a strong interest in training and research in Cell and Gene Therapy for HIV cure, with a clear commitment to developing a productive career and leadership in this field
- Be willing to undertake and complete all training activities required under the programme
- Be willing to publish research conducted under this scholarship in reputable, open-access, peer-reviewed journals
- Be willing to participate in multidisciplinary research, grant applications, and international collaborations

### Fellowship Benefits

The scholarship provides:

- Full tuition fees at Makerere University or MUST
- Monthly stipend for one year

- Research support, including fieldwork costs
- Mentorship from leading local and international scientists
- Training in scientific writing, grantsmanship, and responsible conduct of research
- Support to present research findings at local and international scientific conferences

### Application Requirements

Applicants should submit the following:

- A **Cover Letter** (maximum 1 page) expressing interest in the programme
- A **Curriculum Vitae (CV)** (maximum 3 pages)
- A **Personal Statement** (maximum 1 page) addressing the eligibility criteria outlined above
- A **Research Synopsis** (maximum 3 pages) related to Cell and Gene Therapy for HIV cure
- Academic transcripts (Bachelor's degree and relevant Master's academic records) and other relevant academic documents/certifications
- Two reference letters, including at least one from an academic referee (to be submitted separately by the referees to the email address below by the application deadline)

### Application Timeline

- **Application Deadline:** 6<sup>th</sup> November 2026 (11:59 PM EAT)
- **Interviews for Shortlisted Applicants:** 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2026
- **Notification of Successful Applicants:** 30<sup>th</sup> November 2026

### Application Procedure

Applications must be submitted by email as **one consolidated PDF document** to: [training@jcrc.org.ug](mailto:training@jcrc.org.ug) with the subject line: "**Master's Research Scholarship Application 2026**"

For inquiries, please use the same email address. **Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.**

JCRC is an equal opportunity institution and strongly encourages applications from qualified candidates across diverse backgrounds.