

**PHD OPPORTUNITY**

The Kamuzu University of Health Sciences, in collaboration with the University of Strathclyde (UK) and the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences is implementing a research project "NIHR Global Health Research Group on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing in Malawi" which focuses on the health and wellbeing of adolescents in Malawi from 2022 to 2026. The Project will work hand in hand with adolescents (10–14 years old) from rural (Mchinji) and urban (Blantyre) backgrounds to understand their lived experience, and the challenges they face in their day to day lives. The Project will then work with adolescents, parents and guardians and other interested parties to develop promising approaches to improve their health and wellbeing. These interventions will focus on gender, sexual and reproductive health rights; aspirations and wellbeing including mental health; and water, sanitation and hygiene. Work in these areas will be supported by research on the policy and economic environment in which adolescent health and wellbeing sits. The project is inviting suitable candidates interested in pursuing a PhD to apply.

**PhD in Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights**

**Summary:**

We are offering a PhD scholarship for a student to work with experts and stakeholders from Malawi on topics related to adolescent sexual and reproductive health in Malawi. The PhD will focus on understanding the Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights challenges and opportunities affecting adolescents in both rural and urban settings in Malawi. The aim is co-create and implement the interventions/ health strategies that can improve adolescent health, wellbeing and protect their rights

**Opens:** 25th April 2023

**Deadline:** 31 May 2023

**Duration:** Three years

**Funding:** Funded

**Funding towards:** Tuition fee and stipend

**Funding details:** The studentship covers tuition fees and a stipend for living costs.

**Number of places:** Based in the School of Global and Public Health and working with the Centre for Reproductive Health at Kamuzu University of Health Sciences

**Eligibility:** This opportunity is open to Malawian nationals resident in Malawi only.

Students must have an attained a relevant Masters degree and must be able to communicate fluently in English (speaking and writing).

**Study modes eligibility:** The primary workplace will be the Centre for Reproductive Health at the KUHeS, Blantyre Campus.

**Project Details:** PhD in adolescent sexual and reproductive health and rights in Malawi

Youth in Malawi face a range of barriers to realising their potential, particularly relating to sexual and reproductive health, access to clean water and sanitation, and mental health and well-being. We are offering a PhD scholarship for a student to work with experts and stakeholders from Malawi, with the primary objectives of: understanding the link between adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) among adolescents and reproductive health outcomes; co-creating and piloting interventions with selected populations of adolescents, parents and the wider community; testing the acceptability, feasibility and appropriateness of pilot interventions among adolescents, parents and the wider community; and developing informed long-term interventions which require more complex framing with adolescents and other stakeholders

Candidates for this scholarship should be interested in how educational and public health evidence can inform policy in a low-income setting, sympathetic to the challenges faced by Malawian young people, and committed to contributing to Malawi’s development goals.

This PhD forms part of the NIHR Global Health Research Group on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing, an interdisciplinary research project with a focus on the health and wellbeing of adolescents in Malawi. This PhD will support an examination of policy and economic frameworks that are needed to support long term change in the lives of adolescents, to bring immediate benefits, as well as benefits throughout their future adult lives and for the next generation of children. This involves taking an all-round approach to understanding young people’s lives in both urban and rural settings, and includes a focus on (1) gender, sexual and reproductive health rights, (2) aspirations and wellbeing including mental health, and (3) water, sanitation and hygiene areas.

**Primary Supervisor:** Dr Effie Chipeta

**Additional Supervisor/s:** With co-supervision from NIHR Global Health Group partners based at the University of Strathclyde (UK) and Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS), Malawi.

**Further information:** To be considered for this scholarship, eligible applicants must write the name ‘Malawi Adolescents Project Scholarship’ in the Funding section of the application, and apply formally online.

Please submit your application with the following documents by midnight **on 31 May 2023:**

Suitable candidates should submit their applications to the University Registrar, through the address shown below. The application package MUST comprise:

1. Cover letter
2. Completed KUHeS Postgraduate Application form. The forms are available on the KUHeS website at [www.kuhes.ac.mw](http://www.kuhes.ac.mw)
3. Duly filled reference forms (one academic and one professional). Forms can be found on the KUHeS website
4. Authenticated academic/degree copies (by a lawyer, magistrate, or registrar of the awarding institution)
5. Sealed or certified copies of academic transcripts

The University Registrar

Attention: ACADEMIC

Kamuzu University of Health Sciences

Private Bag 360, Chichri

Blantyre, MALAWI

Subject; PhD Application

Email address: [admissions@kuhes.ac.mw](mailto:admissions@kuhes.ac.mw)

Applications will be ranked by a selection panel and shortlisted applicants will be notified by **5 June 2023.**

Interviews will take place **mid-June 2023 online**, with the studentship starting in **October 2023***.*

The successful candidates at interview will be asked to complete the University’s online application form and submit their degree certificates and English language qualification (if required).

**Contact for further details:**  Dr Effie Chipeta