NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
MASTER'S STUDENT AND DISEASE MODELLING FELLOW UNDER THE AFRITRAC PROJECT

Date of Advertisement: 13th November 2026

1. BACKGROUND

The National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR) is a parastatal organization under the Ministry of Health, established by Parliamentary Act No. 23 of 1979 (Cap. 59, R.E. 2002) and operational since 1980. The Institute's mandate is to conduct, promote and coordinate medical research aimed at generating scientific evidence to improve disease prevention, management and control in Tanzania. In fulfilling its mandate, NIMR collaborates with national and international partners to undertake research that informs evidence-based policies, guidelines and public health interventions.

NIMR is currently implementing a three-year project funded by the European Union through the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint undertaking, titled *African Training Network for Biostatistics, Epidemiology and Infectious Disease Modelling (AFRITRAC).* The project aims to strengthen epidemiological expertise in sub-Saharan Africa through the application of mathematical modelling for control and understanding infectious diseases of epidemic potential and integration of socio-cultural factors influencing disease transmission.

The AFRITRAC programme brings together universities, national public health institutes, research institutions and international partners from Central, East and West Africa, with support from the University of St Andrews and the Africa Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC). It seeks to develop a new generation of African professionals equipped with the scientific, analytical and practical skills needed to address public health priorities.

Capacity building through short-term and long-term training, academic development and practical experience is a key component of the project. In this regard, NIMR invites applications from qualified, competent and self-motivated candidates for the following training opportunities under the AFRITRAC Project.

2. AVAILABLE OPPORTUNITIES

2.1. MSc Epidemiology and Infectious Disease Modelling (one post)

2.1.1. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

i. Hold a bachelor's degree in public health, medicine, statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology, life sciences, health-related social sciences, mathematics, computer science or a related field.

ii. The candidate will be enrolled at Makerere University, a partner institution with the AFRITRAC.

2.1.2. Fellowship Coverage

The successful candidate will receive sponsorship covering university tuition fees in accordance with the applicable university fee structure, for a maximum period of three academic years. Fellows will also participate in complementary AFRITRAC training activities designed to strengthen their technical skills, scientific and professional competencies.

2.2. Disease Modelling Fellow (one post)

NIMR also invites applications for one Disease Modelling Fellowship under the AFRITRAC Project. The fellowship is intended to strengthen expertise in infectious disease modelling and the application of quantitative methods to public health research, epidemic preparedness and response.

2.2.1. Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

i. Hold a Master or PhD degree or equivalent qualification in a relevant discipline, including public health, medicine, statistics, biostatistics, epidemiology, life sciences, health-related social sciences, mathematics, computer science or a related field.

3. TRAINING OBJECTIVES

The AFRITRAC training programme aims to:

i. Develop expertise in biostatistics and epidemiology.
ii. Strengthen African capacity in health data analysis and interpretation.
iii. Build technical skills for epidemic preparedness, detection and response.
iv. Promote the application of data science, digital tools and mathematical modelling in public health decision-making.
v. Strengthen scientific collaboration among African institutions.
vi. Promote academic mobility and collaboration between French- and English-speaking countries.
vii. Develop professionals capable of contributing to public health research and practice at national, regional and international levels.

4. COMPLEMENTARY TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Successful fellows will participate in complementary training activities covering infectious disease modelling, biostatistics, epidemiology, scientific communication, transferable skills, language training and behavioral sciences applied to public health. These activities are intended to strengthen fellows' analytical, research, communication and professional competencies.

5. INTERNSHIPS AND PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE

Subject to the provisions of the AFRITRAC Project, fellows may have opportunities to undertake practical internships with ministries of health, national public health institutes, Africa CDC, the African Population and Health Research Centre (APHRC) and other partner institutions. These placements are intended to facilitate the practical application of acquired knowledge and skills in real-world public health and research settings.

6. APPLICATION PROCEDURE

Interested and eligible candidates should submit an application letter accompanied by the following documents:

i. A one-page motivation letter explaining the applicant's interest in the opportunity and suitability for the position.
ii. A typed curriculum vitae (CV).
iii. Certified copies of academic certificates and other relevant qualifications.
iv. Names and contact details of at least three reputable referees, including their postal addresses, telephone numbers and email addresses.
v. Applications should clearly indicate the position being applied for: Master's Student or Disease Modelling Fellow.

7. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

AFRITRAC promotes equal opportunities and strongly encourages applications from women, persons with disabilities and professionals.

8. APPLICATION DEADLINE

Applications must reach the address below within 14 days from the first date of publication of this advertisement. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

9. SUBMISSION OF APPLICATIONS

Applications should be addressed to:

The Director General
National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR)
3 Capital Street
P.O. Box 2016
41115 Dodoma, Tanzania.

Applications may also be submitted electronically through the following email address: Email: dg@nimr.or.tz