

## Call for two PhD Scholarships on mosquito-borne diseases and their control at school/community level as part of the Building Stronger Universities Project (BSU-IV) at the State University of Zanzibar.

### Project Outline

The Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs has granted full support to the fourth phase of the Building Stronger Universities project (BSU-IV) at the State University of Zanzibar (SUZA). The project is a partnership between SUZA and a consortium of Danish Universities led by University of Copenhagen. The aim of BSUIV is to strengthen SUZA's capacity to cocreate and conduct participatory intervention studies that can identify effective and context-specific solutions to societal challenges of Zanzibar within environmental public health (EPH) and marine ecosystems health (MACES). The support includes funding for a total of five PhD Scholarships with a focus on participatory school/community-based mosquito control interventions (2 positions), participatory approaches to marine ecosystem restoration (2 positions), and application of educational technologies in research-based teaching and learning (1 position). Successful candidates will be offered a full-time academic position at SUZA following completion of the PhD.

### PhD Research

In this call, we offer two (2) PhD positions focused on the EPH challenge of mosquito-borne diseases and their control at school/community level. With a background in entomology and/or social sciences, the two PhD fellows will collaborate closely to develop methodologies for the integration of mosquito control interventions that are applicable to selected community settings of Zanzibar. This includes a participatory research process engaging local stakeholders in the selection and integration of relevant mosquito control approaches that can be undertaken by school-aged children and community members as for example certain types of environmental management for larvae source reduction. The PhDs will conduct a small-scale intervention to assess the effect of selected control approaches based on relevant entomological indices as well as behavioural, and knowledge-based parameters of study participants. If warranted by intervention findings, the PhDs will develop educational materials for integration in school curricula. The PhD fellows will conduct all research activities in close collaboration with community and institutional stakeholders, BSU project staff from SUZA, and Danish consortium partners.

### Eligibility criteria

- Candidates must be citizens of Tanzania not exceeding 40 years of age at the time of application.
- Candidates are required to hold a relevant Master of Science degree within the field of natural or social sciences with a minimum GPA of 3.5.
- Experience with entomological fieldwork AND/OR qualitative and participatory research processes and methodologies is considered essential.
- Willingness to commit **full-time** effort to the PhD program is a requirement, including staying in Zanzibar for the study period.
- Willingness to work in a multi-disciplinary and multicultural team is a requirement.
- Experience from an international research environment is considered an advantage.
- Candidates must have strong communication skills in English, both oral and written.
- Author or co-authorship on publications related to the relevant research theme is considered an advantage.
- Female candidates are encouraged to apply.



### PhD enrolment, duration, supervision, and evaluation

Successful candidates will be enrolled at an institution recognized by the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) within Tanzania or alternatively, the African region. The PhD program is scheduled to commence during the academic year of 2023/24. The duration of the PhD scholarship is full-time for three (3) to four (4) years, subject to the requirement of the enrolling university. The PhD supervision will be a joint effort between faculty at the University of enrolment, SUZA, and UCPH. Evaluation of the progress of the PhD activities will be done according to current regulations at the University of enrolment.

### PhD scholarships

Available funding for each scholarship covers the following:

- Monthly stipend aligned with local tariffs
- Tuition fees, publication fees and dissertation costs
- Conference participation (w. oral/poster presentation)
- Air tickets, visa, and other travel costs related to the PhD project
- Overseas travel allowance, as may be deemed appropriate

### Application procedure

*Applications must include the following documents:*

- Cover letter describing your research interests and motivation for applying for the PhD position (max. 1 page)
- Concept note addressing the subject of the PhD call (max. 2 pages, excluding references)
- Recent CV including brief educational background, previous and/or current employer(s) and position(s) held, as well as a list of peer reviewed publications - if any (max. 2 pages, excluding publication list)
- Copies of academic transcripts and relevant certificates issued by accredited educational institutions and authenticated by credible educational bodies
- Letters of recommendation from two academic referees including phone numbers and e-mail addresses

All application documents must be submitted electronically to project leads Dr. Fatma Saleh ([fatma.saleh@suza.ac.tz](mailto:fatma.saleh@suza.ac.tz)) and Dr. Karin Schiøler ([ksch@sund.ku.dk](mailto:ksch@sund.ku.dk)) with cc. to SUZA Vice Chancellor ([vc@suza.ac.tz](mailto:vc@suza.ac.tz)), and Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies, Dr. Abdalla Sendaro ([abdallahally@suza.ac.tz](mailto:abdallahally@suza.ac.tz)).

### Application deadline

The closing date for this call is **29.09.2023**. Applications received later than this date will not be considered.

### Selection interview

Please note that all shortlisted candidates are required to attend a selection interview and to give a 10 min. presentation of their concept notes as part of this interview. If necessary, the interview may be conducted online via Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or Skype. The date of the interview will be communicated within three (3) weeks of the application deadline. The final selection of the candidate will be determined by the interview committee and communicated to candidates directly via email. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.

