

DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING ABOUT
THE POLITICS OF HEALTH POLICY CHANGE
IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES

A PhD mentoring programme
for LMIC students registered in LMIC universities

Fellowship programme in Health Policy Analysis (HPA fellows) 2019-21

Health policy analysis, seeks to understand and explain the process of policy change, paying particular attention to actors and power. It is in, essence, about “process and power [...] it is concerned with who influences whom in the making of policy, and how that happens” (Walt, 1994:1). As these important issues remain under-studied in LMICs, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research is supporting a fellowship programme in HPA for 2019-2021.

This will be the second Alliance HPA Fellowship Programme.

Is this you?

We are looking for PhD students, or those registered for an equivalent degree, based in LMICs, whose PhD project seeks, at least in part, to research the **politics of health policy change**. The focus might be, for example, on agenda setting, or on an aspect of policy formulation, an experience of policy implementation, the politics of policy evaluation/learning, or another, relevant, area. The relevant PhD ideas must also be nested in policy, political science, public administration and/or organisational theory.

Health policy analysis (HPA) of this kind seeks to understand and explain the policy process, recognizing the primacy of socio-political and economic forces in shaping the process and in turn influencing policy outcomes. To do so, it analyses the role of factors such as institutions, interests, ideas and ideologies and how these interact with each other to influence policy actors and processes. For further insights into this area of work, see the Alliance HPA Reader at

<https://www.who.int/alliance-hpsr/resources/publications/Alliance-HPA-Reader-web.pdf>

To apply for this Fellowship call, you must be a national of an LMIC already registered or currently finalising registration for a PhD, or equivalent, in an LMIC university, and you should NOT yet have finalized your study protocol or started data collection.

What are the goals and activities of this programme?

The overall goals of this programme are

1. to ***develop capacity to conduct HPA*** among doctoral level students who are registered at universities in low- and middle-income countries, and so
2. to ***create a network of HPA researchers based in LMICs*** who can take the field forward.

Those selected as HPA fellows under this programme will be ***supported to conduct their PhD research*** and will

- be required to attend two, one week workshops during this time – broadly, to support the finalization of their protocol (year 1) and a related paper (year 2)
- receive distance learning support between workshops
- receive bursary support for their PhD research, linked to the preparation and completion of workshop-related outputs
- be required to commit to support each other during and beyond the programme lifetime, to support the development of an LMIC HPA network.

We will also seek to engage with the fellows' supervisors during this programme, as is feasible and appropriate.

Who are we?

The programme will be supported by a group of HPA researchers.

The mentoring team is led by Professor Lucy Gilson, University of Cape Town, South Africa and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK.

The other team members are:

- Prof. Irene Agyepong, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and Ghana Health Services, Ghana
- A/Prof. Johanna Hanefeld, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Professor Jeremy Shiffman, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA
- Dr. Zubin Shroff, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, World Health Organization, Switzerland
- A/Prof. Maylene Shung-King, University of Cape Town, South Africa

The programme is funded by the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, WHO.

How will fellows be selected?

A maximum of **twelve** awards will be made under this programme, and selection will be made through a two-round review process, based on all of the following criteria:

- academic excellence
- relevance of proposed PhD study to this call, and its potential significance to the field of Health Policy Analysis
- expressed support of the PhD supervisor
- evidence of registration (completed or in progress) as a PhD student from a university based in an LMIC
- if studying for a degree equivalent to a PhD, adequate justification of its equivalence to a PhD
- age under 45 years at the time of application
- applicant's availability to attend **TWO** workshops in **South Africa** (to be held in 2020 and 2021).

Preference will be given to women candidates, those under 40 years of age and to candidates from low-income countries (LICs).

How do I apply?

Submit ALL of the following by **31 October 2019**

to Eleanor Whyte at Eleanor.whyle@uct.ac.za - using the email header 'Application for HPA Fellows 2019'

1. A full and complete CV, with details of past experience, qualifications and of publications or other writing outputs
2. A maximum 1-page outline of your topic area, with proposed title
3. A maximum 2-page motivational statement, indicating why you are applying for the Fellowship, including
 - how this programme will fit with your PhD plans - including, specifically, the timeline for your PhD and your current thoughts on your future career
 - how your past training and/or experience is relevant to the overall topic area AND to work on the politics of policy change (ie. Health Policy Analysis)
4. A letter of support from your PhD supervisor (on their university letterhead), and a brief CV of your supervisor.
 - If you are studying for a degree equivalent to a PhD, your supervisor's letter should explain what the degree is and how it is judged equivalent to a PhD.

Any questions or queries should before application submission should also be directed to Eleanor.whyle@uct.ac.za

If successful in the first round of review, you will be asked to provide further information to support the second round of review.