



Call for Applications PhD Fellowships for 2024-2027

African Leishmaniasis Consortium (ALC)

First Round

The African Leishmaniasis Consortium (ALC) calls for applications for qualified students to apply for ALC PhD Fellowships to support training on research for applications towards the control and elimination of leishmaniasis in Africa. The fellowship support will be awarded for the academic year 2024/2025. The first round of the call for applications is designed to award 4 PhD fellowships for post graduate students planning to study in a ALC participating consortium institution in Africa. The PhD Fellowship award program emphasizes that the supported candidates should be committed to gaining competencies in applications and translation of research innovations to public health efforts towards control and elimination of leishmaniasis in Africa by participating in selected any of the seven Research Priority Project Network of the ALC.

The successful candidates will be supported with benefits including:

- Monthly stipend as approved in the grant for 3 years.
- Coverage of the fellow's participation in research training on the RPPN.
- Travel support from the host research institution to another RPPN institution
- Contribution to participation to one international conference
- Contribution to tuition fees within a limit up to 5000 USD for the 3 years

Research Project Priority Network (RPPN)

Four PhD fellowships will be awarded during the first round of the call. The proposed project for the PhD fellowship must focus on one of the Research Priority Projects Network (RPPN) listed below:

RPPN	PhD Position	Aims	Leader	Hosting Institution	Consortium Institutions
Novel biomarkers and assays for CL:	2	• Engage S&T advances towards validation of	Pr. Ikram Guizani	Institut Pasteur de	- Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

development and evaluation		DNA markers for sensitive detection and species identification of neglected CL causing species in Africa Engage S&T advances towards validation of DNA markers for CL causing species characterization in neglected transmission areas		Tunis, Tunisia	- University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako, Bamako, Mali - The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF) University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria - Institut Pasteur Maroc, Casablanca, Morocco
Vector dynamics and control	1	Bioassays and tests for insecticide susceptibility/ resistance of sandflies	Dr. Kamaledine Benallal	Institut Pasteur Algérie, Alger, Algeria	-Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia -Institut Pasteur Maroc, Casablanca, Morocco - University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako, Mali
Disease and risk factors distribution, socio-cultural determinants of dynamics, and persistence of transmission in the communities	1	- Conduct desk review of published and unpublished evidences on the distribution of VL and CL cases and Sandfly vectors - Develop spatiotemporal map of leishmaniasis - Identify the sociocultural and environmental driver or risk factors for establishment of leishmaniasis transmission	Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa	Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	- Institut Pasteur Algérie, Alger, Algeria - Bioscience Research Institute, Khartoum, Sudan -Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain - The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF), Ibadan, Nigeria

Supervisors for the ALC PhD training Fellowships

Each PhD fellow will be supervised by at least 2 ALC experts in the relevant fields of the PhD projects. Some of these could enroll the students into PhD programs as indicated in the following table.

RPPN	Principal Supervisor	Expertise
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Novel biomarkers and assays for CL: development and evaluation	Pr. Ikram Guizani* / Tunisia Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa / Ethiopia	-Genomics & Molecular biology - Epidemiology inc Spatial & Molecular Epidemiology
Vectors : control and impact on dynamics	Pr. Karima Brahmi* / Algeria Pr. Youmna Mghirbi / Tunisia Pr. Souheila Guerbouj / Tunisia	-Vector Biology - Molecular entomology - Molecular epidemiology
Disease and risk factors distribution, socio-cultural determinants of dynamics, and persistence of transmission in the communities	Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa Dr. Elisa Sicuri	-Epidemiology inc. Spatial & Molecular epidemiology -Social & economic determinants of health

*: capacity to enroll a PhD at the university in the country of residence

Eligibility

The PhD fellowships are open to candidates resident in an ALC institution country in Africa with a strong background in Molecular Biology, Epidemiology, spatial statistics/Biostatistics, Social sciences (Anthropology/sociology), Bioinformatics, health policy. Candidates, having completed studies in Social sciences, spatial epidemiology/geospatial health, or biological fields at the Master's degree level will have strong advantage. Other fields of relevance could be considered eligible according to the ALC leaders and relevance of the project to ALC objectives. Applicants should normally be under the age of 32 years and must meet the admission requirements for the PhD degree granting university in one of the ALC countries before applying for the fellowship. Applicants should not be currently enrolled in another PhD program.

Fellowship Contract Agreement

Each recipient of the fellowship will be required to sign a fellowship contract with the ALC predicated on the Grant agreement with the SFA (Science for Africa Foundation) guidelines on "Rules for Granting and Management of Grants". The contract can only be signed after receipt of all the documentation required according to the fellowship. Once all the documentation has been received, the contracting entity has a period of 60 working days to conclude the fellowship contract. Once received, the fellow must return the contract duly signed within 15 working days to the secretariat of the ALC. The activities under the fellowship can only begin after proper authorization by the RPPN hosting institution and the secretariat of ALC.

Terms and Cancellation of Fellowship Contracts

Each fellowship award ends with the completion of the assigned workplan, as well as with the expiration date for which it was granted or renewed without prejudice to the other causes. Each fellow is required to present regular reports according to the defined timeline in the contract, and a Final Report of the research project carried out, in accordance with the objectives and evaluation criteria defined with the Research Priority Project Network at the partnering institutions according to the timeline for the reports, and within 30 days of completion of the fellowship for the final report.

The reports must be prepared in accordance with a draft template that will be shared after signing the contract agreement. Reports must be endorsed by the supervisors and submitted by the fellow to the ALC secretariat.

Participation in the Signature 8-week training program for Public Health and Research Leaders

The training framework for the PhD fellowship includes a requirement for timely completion of a set of training courses on the Signature 8-week training program for public health and research leaders developed by the ALC. The prescribed formal courses and training workshops on the platform are designed to build competencies in:

- Science writing;
- Communications;
- Research management;
- Leadership skills building;
- Priority setting.

The Signature 8-week training platform is designed to provide a broad range of competencies necessary for establishing a successful collaborative research career by each PhD fellow. The 8-weeks course provides foundation and fundamental principles of interdisciplinary research for PhD fellows. The curriculum consists of two-week modules focusing on selected competencies relevant to the research specialization by each fellow.

Application Procedure

Prospective PhD fellowship applicants will be supervised by at least two experts from the RPPN, and could propose an academic supervisor having expertise related to their choice of field of study from the institutional team, or outside it if necessary. The host network reserves the right to decide on the choice of supervisors. Each applicant must complete the application form ([link to the application form](#)) and add the following documents. All documents should be sent to (infoALC@pasteur.utm.tn) by the deadline.

Documents:

- Application form duly filled ([Link](#))
- Comprehensive curriculum vitae
- Letter of motivation explaining the desire to pursue a PhD in one of the research topics proposed by the ALC
- Certified copies of academic transcripts and degree certificates
- Two confidential referee reports **to be sent directly to the ALC secretariat (infoALC@pasteur.utm.tn)**
- A signed engagement to certify the applicant engagement to travel from host research institution to other partner's institution for training.

Important Dates:

- Call launch: 27 August 2024
- Deadline for application submission: 07 October 2024
- Date of announcement of decisions: 20 October 2024
- Date of commencement of fellowship: 1 December 2024