



Call for Applications

PhD Fellowships for 2025-2027

African Leishmaniasis Consortium (ALC)

Second Round

The African Leishmaniasis Consortium (ALC) calls for applications for qualified students to apply for 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 2025/2026. The second round of the call for applications is designed to award 6 PhD fellowships for post graduate students planning to study in an ALC participating consortium institution in Africa. The PhD Fellowships 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 one of the seven Research Priority Project Networks (RPPN) of the ALC.

The successful candidates will be supported with funding benefits including:

- Monthly stipend as approved in the grant for 3 years.
- Coverage of participation on research training on the RPPN.
- Travel support from the host research institution for sojourn at another RPPN institution
- Contribution to participation at international conferences
- Contribution to tuition fees within a limit of up to 5000 USD for the 3 years
- Participation on the ALC *Signature 8-week training* program for Public Health and Research Leaders

Research Project Priority Network

Six PhD fellowships awards will be made by the ALC for the second round of the call. The research project proposed for the PhD fellowship must focus on activities of one of the RPPN listed below targeting one or two aims:

RPPN / Host Institution	Position	Aims	Consortium Institutions
1-Novel biomarkers and assays for CL: development and evaluation / Institut Pasteur de Tunis	1	- Engage S& T advances towards development and validation of biomarkers for CL in transmission areas or for patient management - To validate portable AI-based application for identification of skin lesions - To develop and validate direct detection and identification of parasites within lesions	- Institut Pasteur de Tunis - Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako, Bamako, Mali - The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF) University of Ibadan, Ibadan, Nigeria
2-Novel biomarkers and assays for VL diagnosis & patient management / Any African institution listed here	1	- Validate diagnostics antigens or tests for rapid diagnosis of VL - Validate markers and assays for Post kala-azar leishmaniasis (PKDL) and Visceral leishmaniasis (VL)	- Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia - Institut Pasteur d'Algérie, Alger, Algeria - The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF), Ibadan, Nigeria - Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Sudan
3-Diagnostics evaluation for Implementation / Any African Institution listed here	1	- Assays implementation in surveillance and control - Assays implementation for patient management - Economic evaluation for novel or enhanced diagnostics options in selected settings	-Institut Pasteur de Tunis - Institute for Global Health, Barcelona, Spain - Institut Pasteur d'Algerie, Algeria -Institut Pasteur Maroc, Casablanca, Morocco -
4-Genomics for vector and reservoir investigations / University Clinical Research Center	1	- Validate sensitive tests for cycle investigation - Validate biomarkers for vector exposure in humans in different settings	- University Clinical Research Center, USTT Bamako, Mali -Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia - Institut Pasteur d'Algérie, Alger, Algeria

			-Institut Pasteur de Maroc, Casablanca, Morocco - The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF), Ibadan, Nigeria - Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Sudan
5-Vector dynamics and control / Institut Pasteur d'Algérie	1	- Bioassays and insecticide susceptibility/resistance assessment in sand fly populations - Vector dynamics and infection studies in selected pilot sites - KAP in relation to vector control in the communities	- Institut Pasteur d'Algérie - Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia - University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako, Mali -Institut Pasteur Maroc, Casablanca, Morocco
7-Strategic research and translation to options and impacts for policy imperatives / University of Ibadan Research Foundation	1	- Cost of diseases / strategies - Role of disease knowledge and Risk perception in shaping preventive behavior - Modelling trends in impact and progress towards elimination	- The University of Ibadan Research Foundation (UI-RF), Ibadan, Nigeria -Barcelona Institute for Global Health, Spain -Institut Pasteur de Tunis, Tunisia -University of Sciences, Techniques and Technology of Bamako, Mali -Armauer Hansen Research Institute, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia - Institut Pasteur d'Algérie, Alger, Algeria - Sudan

Expertise within the consortium:

Each postdoctoral fellow will be supervised by at least 2 supervisors among ALC research leaders and staff.

RPPN	Supervisors	Expertise
1- Novel biomarkers and assays for CL: development and evaluation	-Pr. Ikram Guizani, Tunisia - Dr Insaf Belhadj Ali, Tunisia - Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa, Ethiopia - Pr. Seydou Doumbia, Mali	Molecular biology, diagnostics Molecular biology, diagnostics Epidemiology/molecular, spatial Epidemiology/molecular

2-Novel biomarkers and assays for VL diagnosis & patient management	Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa, Ethiopia Dr. Kamel Ben Allal, Algeria Pr. Khadija Benkhadir Essafi, Tunisia Dr Insaf Belhadj Ali, Tunisia	Epidemiology/molecular, spatial Epidemiology/molecular Mol Biology, Biotechnology Molecular biology, diagnostics
3- Diagnostics evaluation for Implementation	Pr. Ikram Guizani, Tunisia Pr. Akila Fathallah, Tunisia Dr. Elisa Sicuri, Spain	Genomics, molecular biology Clinical parasitology Health Economy
4- Genomics for vector and reservoir investigations	Pr Seydou Doumbia, Mali Dr. Kamel Ben Allal, Algeria Pr. Souheila Guerbouj , Tunisia Pr. Khadija Benkhadir Essafi	Epidemiology, vector's genomics Entomology, control Molecular epidemiology Mol Biology, Biotechnology
5- Vectors control and impact on dynamics	Dr. Kamel Ben Allal / Algeria Dr. Ismail Lafri / Algeria Pr. Youmna Mghirbi / Tunisia Pr. Souheila Guerbouj/ Tunisia Dr. Elisa Sicuri/ Spain	Entomology, vector control Vet microbiology Molecular entomology Genomics, Molecular epidemiol Socio-economic determinants of health
6- Disease and risk factors distribution, socio-cultural determinants of dynamics, and persistence of transmission in the communities	Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa, Ethiopia Pr. Angela Chukwu, Nigeria Dr. Elisa Sicuri, Spain Dr. Rafik Garni, Algeria	Epidemiology inc. Spatial & Molecular epidemiology Mathematical modeling Health economy; Socio-economic determinants of health Epidemiology and Arc Gis mapping
7- Strategic research and translation to options and impacts for policy imperatives	Pr. Ayoade Oduola, Nigeria Pr. Angela Chukwu, Nigeria Dr. Elisa Sicuri, Spain Pr. Seydou Doumbia, Mali Dr. Endalamaw Gadisa, Ethiopia	Global health/ Policy imperatives Mathematical Modeling Health Economy Epidemiology, vector genomics Spatial epidemiology

Eligibility

Citizenship: Africa

Age limit: 32

Master's topics: Parasitology, Entomology, Molecular Biology, Epidemiology, Spatial statistics/Biostatistics, Social sciences (Anthropology/sociology), Health economy, Genetics, computer Sciences, Health policy. Other fields of relevance could be considered eligible according to the ALC leaders and relevance of the project to ALC objectives.

Diploma status: Master defended or close to be.

Competitive selection framework will particularly welcome the participation of female applicants.

Application Procedure

Interested applicants must submit the following documents:

- [Completed application form.](#)
- Comprehensive curriculum vitae
- A motivation letter
- Certified copies of academic transcripts and degree certificates (**Transcripts and diplomas in French or other language then English should be translated to English**)
- Two confidential support letter **to be sent directly by the referees 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.**

All application materials should be submitted via email to infoALC@pasteur.utm.tn by the application deadline.

Important Dates:

- Call launch: 18 March 2025
- Deadline for application submission: 30 April 2025
- Date of announcement of decisions: 15 June 2025
- Date of commencement of fellowship: as soon as possible in 2025