

University of KwaZulu-Natal
College of Health Sciences
School of Nursing and Public Health
Indigenous Health Care System Research

Postgraduate Scholarships for Indigenous Health Care Systems (Traditional Medicine) Research

Background

The University of KwaZulu-Natal College of Health Sciences was awarded a DST/NRF grant continuation of the South African Research Chair (SARChI) in Indigenous Health Care System (IHCS). The South African Government recognizes the important role of traditional medicine in improving access to health care for the nation. The recognition has been demonstrated through the establishment of a legislative and policy framework aimed at promoting and regulating traditional medicine. However TM still remains generally marginalised and implementing the policies is challenged by the limited documentation of TM and its knowledge and the inherent challenges of protection of intellectual property. This has delayed full integration of traditional medicine into the national health care system. Integration requires concerted effort to generate relevant evidence for (1) development and implementation of national TM policies and integrative programmes; (2) promoting the safety, efficacy and quality of TM; (3) expanding the knowledge base, and providing guidance on regulatory and quality assurance standards.; (4) increasing the availability and affordability of TM, with an emphasis on access for poor and hard to reach populations; and (5) promoting rational use of appropriate TM by practitioners and consumers.

The five-year SARChI grant aims to build capacity for IHCS research and UKZN to contribute to research that consolidates and generates new evidence for traditional medicines and traditional health practice.

Purpose

The IHCS programme aims to build a critical mass of scientists, and scientific excellence in **Health System/Health Social Science Research, Preclinical and Clinical Evaluation of Safety and Efficacy of Traditional Medicines**. This will be achieved through competitive Masters, PhD and Postdoctoral scholarships. In addition to research training, fellows will be trained/mentored in research leadership and community/public engagement. There will be a strong focus on strengthening the evidence base to address the gaps/barriers that exist in institutionalization of traditional medicine.

Eligibility

Scholarships are open to candidates who wish to undertake Masters, Doctoral and Postdoctoral studies in Traditional Medicine and related areas. The major areas of focus for the SARChI programme are: (i) Health Systems Research and Health Social Science Research and (ii) Biomedical/Clinical Research.

1. Postdoctoral Scholarship (2 years) candidates must:

- have obtained a doctoral degree in a health sciences discipline e.g. Public Health, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nursing Sciences, Medicine, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Basic Biomedical Sciences (such as Biochemistry, Physiology, Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology), Psychiatry, Psychology, Medical Anthropology, Sociology, awarded within the last 5 years
- show evidence of scholarly activity in the area of traditional medicine
- have good management, written and oral communication skills
- be prepared to supervise and mentor PhD and Masters students

2. Doctoral Scholarship (3 years) candidates must:

- have completed a Masters degree in a relevant health sciences discipline e.g. Public Health, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nursing Sciences, Medicine, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Basic Biomedical Sciences (such as Biochemistry, Physiology, Immunology,

Microbiology, Molecular Biology), Psychiatry, Psychology, Medical Anthropology, Sociology.

- have high academic merit and intellectual capacity to study successfully at the doctoral level
- show strong personal motivation to complete the programme within the stipulated fellowship time.
- Have interest in traditional medicine research

3. Masters Scholarship (2 years) candidates must:

- have completed an undergraduate honours degree in a relevant health sciences discipline e.g. Public Health, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Nursing Sciences, Medicine, Medical Laboratory Sciences, Basic Biomedical Sciences (such as Biochemistry, Physiology, Immunology, Microbiology, Molecular Biology), Psychiatry, Psychology, Medical Anthropology, Sociology.
- show strong personal motivation to complete the programme within the stipulated fellowship time.

Scholarship package

The IHCS programme will provide scholarships for 2 Postdocs, 2 PhD and 2 Masters. The scholarship covers

- Reasonable support for research project and supervision
- Monthly stipend
- Travel costs for agreed conferences and training workshops
- Other expenses essential for the research such as equipment will be considered

Additional Information

- Candidates are expected to complete their studies within the stipulated time of their programme
- Doctoral candidates are expected to register for their studies with UKZN
- As a condition of the award, the candidates will be required to attend (as applicable) specific workshops or summer/winter schools in relevant research methods.
- Involvement in an existing research programme/project on traditional medicine will be an added advantage.

Requirements

1. A comprehensive CV including relevant research and work experience
2. Certified transcripts and copies of the post High school qualifications
3. Two references (one must be an academic referee)
4. Requests for more information should be addressed to gomoe@ukzn.ac.za.

Submit to:

Traditional Medicine Laboratory
Ground Floor, Desmond Clarence Building
College of Health Sciences
University of Kwazulu-Natal
Mazisi Kunene/King George V Rd
Durban

OR E-mail to: gomoe@ukzn.ac.za