



UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

EXTERNAL JOB VACANCIES (PROJECT POSITIONS)

Applications are invited for the following position:

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE, ZOOTRAM PROJECT, UNITID - AD/11/219/21 - 1 POST

The Position

The position is available in the Zoonotic Transmission of MERS-Coronavirus in Kenya (ZooTraM) project under the Center for Epidemiological and Modelling Analysis (CEMA) hosted at the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases (UNITID).

Job Title: Post-doctoral Research Associate

Duty Station: Center for Epidemiological and Modelling Analysis, University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, Nairobi, Kenya.

Reporting to: Principal Investigator

Job Purpose

We invite applications for a Postdoctoral Research Associate (PDRA) position at the Center for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis based at the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases. The PDRA will work within the German-DFG funded project entitled “Zoonotic Transmission of MERS-Corona virus in Kenya”. The project uniquely brings together experts in virology and epidemiology of zoonotic infections at the University of Nairobi, Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, FAO-Kenya, University of Edinburgh, and Washington State University to address the threat to public health posed by coronaviruses of animal origin.

The successful candidate will be expected to lead scientific questions on surveillance precision, biology, and transmission dynamics of coronaviruses of animal origin. In addition, the candidate will coordinate the field studies to be carried out in Northern Kenya, epidemiological and molecular biological investigations, and support junior scientists working within the project.

Primary Responsibilities

- Designing and implementation of field (including sampling of dromedaries) and health-facility based studies for detection of suspect cases
- Management of sample collection, archiving and shipping

- Establishment and implementation of virological diagnostics (nucleic acid, antigen and antibody detection methods)
- Perform statistical and epidemiological analysis
- Participate in and contribute to research group meetings including with collaborators
- Scientific writing including publications and research grants
- Training and supervision of junior scientists at Masters and PhD level

Qualifications

- Hold a PhD in relevant subject
- Candidates should have training in Veterinary Medicine, Human Medicine, Public Health, Virology, Microbiology or Immunology
- Experience in molecular biological (nucleic acid purification, PCR/qPCR) and serological methods (ELISA, Immunofluorescence assays, virus neutralization tests), cell culture
- Willingness to work under BSL-3 conditions
- Experience in writing scientific manuscripts and writing grants
- Experience in laboratory organization and optimizing process flows
- Experience with genetic engineering work in level 2 and 3 safety laboratories is an advantage
- Conscientious documentation of work
- Strong interest in epidemiological and statistical data analysis
- Ability to work independently and analytically
- Commitment and ability to work in a team
- Good knowledge of English, written and spoken (German language skills are advantageous)
- Self-motivated

Terms of Appointment

This a position whose tenure is one (1) year contract renewable based on performance and by mutual consent. The salary is negotiable depending on the level of education and work experience.

NOTES

1. Applicants should email their application letters, certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae (CV) giving details of their qualifications, experience and three (3) referees as well as indicating their telephone and e-mail contacts.
2. Applications and related documents should be forwarded through applicants' Heads of Departments, where applicable, and be addressed to the Director, Human Resource, University of Nairobi.
3. Applicants should state their current designations, salaries and other benefits attached to those designations.
4. The application letter must bear the reference code indicated in the advertisement.
5. Late applications will not be considered.
6. Applications should be emailed to recruit-prztp@uonbi.ac.ke as one file in PDF.

CLOSING DATE: THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
ONLY SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED**