



AFROHUN 2024 TA Professional Development Program Call

The African continent is a hub of deadly pathogens and disease outbreaks that are trans-boundary and endemic in nature. This situation is exacerbated by fragmented leadership and inadequate human resource capacity, in terms of competence and numbers. A critical mass of competent workforce to prevent, detect and respond to risks and impact of zoonotic disease threats and outbreaks is needed. Despite the progress made in the field of human, animal and environmental health, Africa remains confronted with a serious challenge of financing research that feeds into policy and program. Strengthening the capacities of university faculty and students to conduct One Health action research that provides solutions to Africa's complex health challenges is a priority to the AFRICA One Health University Network (AFROHUN). Through the two-year AFROHUN Transition Award Professional Development [TAPROD] program, AFROHUN is taking a continental approach to One Health workforce development to contribute to the reduction of the risk and impact of zoonotic disease (ZD) threats and outbreaks in Africa.

The TAPROD program, through OH action research and multidisciplinary immersive fellowship and internship experiences, shall engage selected university faculty and students to generate innovative One Health solutions to identified gaps and needs of their host institutions that align with the respective National Action Plan for Health Security in the nine AFROHUN member countries. The program aims to produce a field ready workforce with the knowledge, skills and a transformative mindset to work across disciplines and sectors to meet local and international standards.

At country level, the AFROHUN country office is seeking to fill one faculty fellowship position and two student intern positions under the TAPROD program. The team of three (one faculty fellow and two student interns) will receive awards under the provided guidance sheet. The 2024 cohort is a six-month faculty fellowship and three-month student internship which will more specifically focus on developing and applying critical leadership and technical skills needed to successfully manage and implement OH programs on zoonotic disease. The 2024 cohort comprises recent graduates of health-related professional programs who will gain skills in the workplace on active OH programs on rabies. The program will develop their OH core competencies as well as soft skills like communication, teamwork and collaboration, and technical competencies including conducting OH action research, converting research results into OH programs, technical program management, including partnership engagement, activity design and implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The team will be based at **VSFGermany (in Nairobi, Kenya)**, and their awards will be coordinated by the AFROHUN Kenya country office.



Interested candidates should submit their application comprising a full CV, the names and contacts of 2 referees, a draft concept note for the proposed research (**for faculty fellow only**), and a cover letter detailing relevant qualifications, experience and motivation, **on or before 21st January 2024 at 5pm** to the AFROHUN Kenya host dean through dean-vet@uonbi.ac.ke with a copy to the Country Manager AFROHUN Kenya at kenya@afrohun.org/swanjohi@afrohun.org and the Head Human Resource department at hr@afrohun.org. For inquiries, use the same provided addresses.

AFROHUN Transition Award Professional Development [TAPROD] program

Goal:

To develop and strengthen a local One Health workforce with the capacity to prepare, prevent, detect, and respond to zoonotic disease (ZD) threats and outbreaks in the African region.

Objectives

- Support innovative analytical work on zoonotic disease threats and outbreaks that contributes to the GHSA targets.
- Build the leadership and transdisciplinary skills and competencies of young and early career faculty and graduate students to address zoonotic diseases
- Equip students with skills to manage and implement One Health (OH) concepts in the workplace.
- Develop knowledge products on ZD and OH.
- Create a network of university multidisciplinary faculty and students that produces innovative and collaborative solutions to reduce the risk and impact of ZD threats and outbreaks using the OH approach.

FACULTY FELLOWSHIP – ONE POSITION

Targeted workforce:

Early career university faculty from AFROHUN university member institutions.

Timeline:

6 months [January – July 2024]

Host site:

VSGermany (in Nairobi, Kenya)

Project that the fellow will contribute to:

Rabies prevention and control in Kenya through community education and vaccinations.

Responsibilities:

- Discuss with the supervisor the six-month activity implementation plan which shall be reviewed by AFROHUN (Country Manager and Obj 2 core team/ Secretariat).

- Participate in immersive experiences which allow them to learn and apply technical competencies in One Health alongside peers and experts in emerging rabies threats and outbreaks.
- Fellow to co-develop a research project on ZD with the host institution and AFROHUN that responds to the identified gap of the host institution and/or the community it serves.
- Participate in capacity building opportunities agreed on with the mentor/ supervisor related to rabies and OH such as the Academies online short courses, webinars, conferences.
- Develop a knowledge product on rabies risk mitigation and impact, with guidance from the obj 3 core team.
- At the end of the award, the fellow should indicate his/her plan to apply what s/he has learnt at his/her institution.
- Participate in a network of university multidisciplinary faculty that produces innovative and collaborative solutions to reduce the risk and impact of rabies threats and outbreaks using the OH approach.

Deliverables:

- Fellowship project concept
- Activity plan
- Fellowship report
- Draft manuscript from the research project
- Post-fellowship plan

STUDENT INTERNS – TWO POSITIONS:

Targeted workforce:

Graduate students or soon-to-be graduates [Student internship]

Timeline:

3 months [Jan – Apr 2024]

Host site:

VSGermany (in Nairobi, Kenya)

Project that the fellow will contribute to:

Rabies prevention and control in Kenya through community education and vaccinations.

Responsibilities:

- To work with the assigned fellow on his/her project and mentor and be trained within a selected host institution for a period of three months.
- Participate in immersive experiences, alongside peers and experts in emerging ZD threats and outbreaks, which allow them to learn and apply multisectoral and transdisciplinary skills and competences to address zoonotic diseases and (ii) manage and implement One Health concepts in the workplace.
- Participate in capacity building opportunities agreed on with the mentor/ supervisor related to rabies and OH such as the Academies online short courses, webinars, conferences.
- Develop a knowledge product on rabies risk mitigation and impact, with guidance from the obj 3 core team.
- Participate in a student interns forum to share their learning experiences and good practices that enable them manage and implement One Health concepts in the workplace.

Deliverables:

- Project concept
- Activity plan
- Internship report
- Knowledge product on rabies risk mitigation and impact and One Health practice, with guidance from the obj 3 core team.