

DEEPENING UNDERSTANDING ABOUT
THE POLITICS OF HEALTH POLICY CHANGE
IN LOW AND MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

A PhD mentoring programme for LMIC students registered in LMIC
universities

Fellowship programme in Health Policy Analysis (HPA fellows) 2017-8

Health policy analysis, seeks to understand and explain the policy process. This important area is also an understudied one particularly in LMICs. Based on this and building on previous work in this area by CHEPSAA, the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research is supporting a fellowship programme in HPA for 2017-18.

Is this you?

We are looking for PhD students, or those registered for an equivalent degree, based in LMICs who seek to research the ***politics of health policy change*** – focussed, for example, on agenda setting, an aspect of policy formulation, an experience of policy implementation, the politics of policy evaluation/learning, or another, relevant, area. The PhD ideas must also be nested in relevant policy, political science, public administration and/or organisational theory.

Health policy analysis (HPA) of this kind seeks to understand and explain the policy process recognizing the primacy of socio-political and economic forces in shaping the process and in turn influencing policy outcomes. To do so, it analyses the role of factors such as institutions, interests, ideas and ideologies and how these interact with each other to influence policy actors and processes.

You must be a national of an LMIC already registered or be currently finalising registration for a PhD, or equivalent, in an LMIC university, and at a stage where you have NOT yet finalized your study protocol or started data collection.

What are the goals and activities of this programme?

The overall goals of this programme are

1. to ***build capacity to conduct HPA*** among doctoral level students who are registered at universities in low-and-middle income countries and so

2. to **create a network of HPA researchers based in LMICs** who can in turn take the field forward.

Those selected as HPA fellows under this programme will be **supported to conduct their PhD research** and will

- be required to attend 2 week-long thesis workshops during this time – broadly, to support the finalization of their protocol (year 1) and a related paper (year 2)
- receive distance learning support between workshops
- receive bursary support for their PhD research, linked to the preparation and completion of workshop-related outputs
- be required to commit to support each other during and beyond the programme lifetime, to support the development of an LMIC HPA network.

We will also seek to engage with the fellows' supervisors during this programme, as is feasible and appropriate.

Who are we?

The programme will be supported by a group of HPA researchers.

The mentoring team is led by Professor Lucy Gilson, University of Cape Town, South Africa and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK.

The other team members are:

- Prof Irene Agyepong, Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons and Ghana Health Services, Ghana
- A/Proff Johanna Hanefeld, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
- Professor Jeremy Shiffman, American University, Washington, DC, USA
- Dr. Zubin Shroff, Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research, Switzerland
- Dr. Maylene Shung-King, University of Cape Town, South Africa

The programme is funded by the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research.

How do I apply?

Submit ALL of the following by 30th June 2017

to Lisa-Marie Smith at lisa-marie.smith@uct.ac.za - using the email header 'Application for HPA Fellows 2017-2018'

1. A full and complete CV, with copies of all post-graduate university level academic certificates
2. A 1-2 page motivational statement for your application, indicating how this programme will fit with your existing PhD plans and timelines

3. A 4-5 page note outlining the work which you hope/plan to do, the theoretical base and methodology and justifying its significance in terms of current HPA work in LMICs
4. A letter of support from your supervisor (on their university letterhead), and a brief CV of your supervisor
5. Evidence of registration (completed or in progress) for a PhD or equivalent, at an LMIC university, including the disciplinary area of study, year of entry, expected graduation data and current phase of studies
6. The name and contact details of 3 referees, with clarification of your relationship to each; of whom at least 2 should have supervised you an academic capacity

Any questions or queries should before application submission should also be directed to lisa-marie.smith@uct.ac.za

How will fellows be selected?

A maximum of eight awards will be made under this programme, and selection will be based on all of the following:

- academic excellence
- age under 45 years at the time of application
- relevance of proposed PhD study to this call, and its potential excellence and significance in the field
- applicant's availability to attend TWO workshops in **South Africa** (one to be held at some point in October-December 2017, and the other in mid 2018)
- expressed support of the PhD supervisor
- evidence of registration (completed or in progress) as a PhD student from a university based in an LMIC
- if studying for a degree equivalent to a PhD, adequate justification of its equivalence to a PhD.

Preference will be given to women candidates, those under 40 years of age and to candidates from low income countries (LICs).