



KAMUZU UNIVERSITY
OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PHARMACY

MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPHIL) IN DRUG DEVELOPEMNT

CALL FOR APPLICANTS FOR POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMME AT KUHeS

Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS) through its postgraduate training aims to develop and mentor clinicians, pharmacists, public health practitioners and scientists who will become leaders and game-changers in their areas of specialty to transform the health sector in Malawi and globally. In pursuit of its mission, KUHeS is inviting applications from suitably qualified candidates to undergo training in the following postgraduate program for the 2022 intake:

→ MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY (MPHIL) IN DRUG DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Pharmacy in the School of Life Science and allied professionals, in its quest to continually contribute to the well being of Malawians in general, has embarked on a number of research activities aimed at developing new medicines for existing diseases. One of those existing diseases is Tuberculosis (TB). Currently some of the TB strains found in Malawi are resistant to the common medicines that were developed to treat this disease (MDRTB). As such there is need to develop the next generation of medicines. We have reason to believe that some of the structures in our data library offer another angle to developing such new drugs.

The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) have given us a grant for this work and we are now looking for innovative and creative individuals to work on this project. Individuals will enroll into Kamuzu University of Health Sciences as a Masters student and must meet the requirements for a masters student. **In return, we will pay for your tuition (MK2,550,000 per year) and contribute to your modest upkeep (US1000/year)**

You will be given a few structures from our library. Using your understanding of chemical synthesis

and physicochemical properties of drugs, you will modify such structures to create new structures which we shall test for potency against MDRTB. We think those with interest and or experience in organic synthesis and medicinal chemistry may find this particularly interesting. You will have 18 months to create new structures, test them and optimise them. This is a fantastic opportunity. Female students are particularly encouraged to apply.

An MPhil degree is a Masters by research. Thus it is expected that you are mature, organised and able to conduct research with minimal supervision.

→ ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A Bachelor degree (or equivalent qualifications approved by the University) in a relevant science subject (e.g. Chemistry, Pharmacy, Medicinal Chemistry, Organic Chemistry) from any recognised university. Further please write a concept (no more than a page) on how you will conduct this research to achieve the intended outcome.

Potential applicants are **strongly** advised to seek clarification from the head of pharmacy department (hodpharmacy@kuhes.ac.mw or Dr Peter Kumpalume (pkumpalume@medcol.mw)).

The University receives applications all year round. However, the deadline for this MPhil is **31st January 2022**. Shortlisted candidates will be called for an interview second week of February 2022 where they will have to present to the interview panel how they intend to approach this research to achieve the intended outcome. The selected candidate must be available to start on first week of March 2022. This is a re-advertisement, those that applied in November 2021 may re-apply.