



UNIVERSITY OF
KWAZULU-NATAL™
INYUVESI
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2018 PHD SCHOLARSHIPS - SEXUAL & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH & RIGHTS/YOUNG KEY POPULATIONS

HEARD occupies an important interface between research, policy, and advocacy; working with research and advocacy groups to generate innovative ideas and also ensuring these ideas are turned into practical policies to overcome the enormous burden of disease in Africa. The organisation's longevity, influence and esteem are some indication of the strategic success of the organisation to adapt to the changing landscape of Africa's health needs and responses. The challenge is to sustain the achievements of the past in another period of change in global health.

ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP

Six scholarships will be awarded to students undertaking research focusing on key populations in Africa. Starting this year, HEARD has begun a new applied research collaborative aimed at increasing understanding of the needs and challenges sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR) for adolescent and young key populations across southern Africa. The knowledge gained will inform laws, policies and strategies to improve their sexual and reproductive health outcomes.

The research seeks to answer two central questions:

1. *What are the predominant sexual and reproductive health needs amongst different adolescent and young key populations, how do these needs differ from those of the general population of young people and of adult key populations (above age 24), and to what extent are these needs being met by existing services?*

2. *What are the key challenges in meeting the sexual and reproductive health needs of young key populations? And what opportunities exist to improve the sexual and reproductive health of young key populations and to advance the realisation of their sexual and reproductive health rights?*

Key populations include adolescent and young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex individuals, as well as young adult male or female sex workers and individuals who use drugs. They also include individuals whose intersexual identities cross traditional categories of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression.

CANDIDATE RESPONSIBILITIES

Award of the HEARD PhD research scholarship is conditional on candidates meeting the requirements for a PhD at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Students will be required to participate in a compulsory training component during the first year of study. The training component will be conducted over four one week blocks during the first year. Candidates will produce a thesis related to one of HEARDs priority research nodes, as detailed above.

During their PhD, students will be strongly encouraged to present their work at international meetings and funds will be made available for this purpose

WHO SHOULD APPLY?

Only candidates resident in one of the following countries: Angola, Madagascar, Mozambique, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be eligible for consideration.

APPLICANTS MUST:

- Hold a Master's Degree (first or upper second class pass or its equivalent)
- Have demonstrable research experience
- Undertake to register for a PhD dissertation (full time) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN)
- Make a commitment to remain on the African continent for at least TWO years after graduation.

HOW TO APPLY

APPLICATIONS MUST INCLUDE:

- A letter of motivation
- A four to five page concept note
- Certified copies of both your academic qualifications and your full academic records. In the case of qualifications obtained from non-English speaking countries an English translation must be included
- A certified copy of your ID/passport
- Academic letter of reference (ideally two)
- Applications must be submitted by completing **this online application form**.

FEES & FUNDING

- The value of each scholarship is R600, 000. It will be paid in equal tranches over three years. Tranche payments will be conditional on research progress.
- Successful candidates are required to be based in Durban, South Africa, for the duration of the scholarship, with the exception of the time during which they may undertake field research elsewhere.
- The scholarship will commence in February 2018.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

- Funding will be renewed annually over the three year period dependent on satisfactory progress.
- The first scholarship tranche will be released on proof of PhD registration and the opening of a South African bank account.
- **Closing date for all applications - 21 July 2017.** If you have not received a reply within 8 weeks of the closing date, kindly consider your application as unsuccessful.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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