

Frequently Asked Questions for Students Uganda Research Training Collaborative (RTC)

What is the Research Training Collaborative?

The Uganda RTC is a program for students in the University of Minnesota's Academic Health Center and partner institutions in Kampala, Uganda (including, but not limited to, Makerere University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology) to gain hands-on experience in global health research. Research projects are carried out by a study team made up of students (UMN and Ugandan) with guidance from faculty mentors at all participating institutions. Students propose small-scale research projects to be carried out with their student collaborator(s) from the partner country over the course of about one year.

How long will I be involved?

The RTC takes place over 3 stages and student teams should set a goal of completion in 12-18 months. If projects are not feasible within this timeline, consult a mentor for ways to scale them back.

- Stage 1: Student Research Preparation (3-6 months)
- Stage 2: Study Implementation (6-12 weeks)
- Stage 3: Data Analysis and Dissemination (3-6 months)

All studies require different timelines, and it is important that students joining the URTC remain flexible with this. Some teams are able to move through Stage 1 in 2-3 months while others will need more time to define and refine research questions, methods, and obtain necessary research approvals.

Who is an eligible student?

University of Minnesota Students: Any graduate or professional student in the Academic Health Center (medicine, public health, veterinary medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry). Other post-baccalaureate learners, including medical residents, may apply to the program. University of Minnesota undergraduates are not eligible. Interested graduate students from non-health science schools should inquire about eligibility to Molly McCoy (mccoy019@umn.edu).

Makerere University Students: Any student in the health sciences (medicine, public health, veterinary medicine, nursing, pharmacy, dentistry). COVAb recommends graduate students apply; the Medical School recommends advanced medical students apply (4th-5th year). Medical students that anticipate beginning an internship within the next year are discouraged from applying. MMed students may also be eligible with approval from their mentors. Pharmacy students are also eligible (no graduate program available). Other Makerere students should consult with a mentor to determine their eligibility.

Students from Other Ugandan Institutions: Health science graduate students from other Ugandan institutions of higher education are eligible to apply, however they must have approval from their faculty advisors.

The project requires a commitment from all students to carry out the project to completion with the understanding that they will be expected to write a manuscript to submit for publication as a final product.

Who is an eligible mentor?

Approved faculty mentors are listed on our [website](#). Each student should learn about possible

mentors and meet with them to learn about their mentor style and work to determine if they are appropriate mentors before applying. If you have difficulties in identifying a mentor please contact Molly McCoy at mccoy019@umn.edu. *Do not contact Molly for assistance until you've made attempts to contact mentors on your own.*

How are teams formed and who will be on my team?

Faculty mentors and staff review the Initial Application materials to determine if there is a good “match” for student teams and mentors. The qualities assessed for match are:

- Research topics/areas of inquiry and interest
- Student goals (will the research be used to meet other degree requirements; does the student have time for the program; will the URTC interfere with a student's other commitments)
- Student research skills – do applicants possess complementary research skills so students can assume different roles and responsibilities on the team?
- Personal qualities such as ability to work as a team, organizational abilities, and self-motivation.

If there isn't a clear match for a student, staff and faculty leadership at the partner site will try to identify and recruit additional students. Not every student is guaranteed to have a match. All teams will have a minimum of 1 student and 1 mentor from the University of Minnesota and 1 student and 1 mentor from a university in Uganda.

How do students identify a research site?

Student teams should discuss early on with their mentors whether or not they have an established research site where the students will be able to work - this may include access to clinics or hospital records, community locations, or laboratories. Students who will not be working at an established research site will need the endorsement of both mentors and a department or local institution that is willing to host them. Note that all URTC students are welcome and encouraged to use the [UMN AHC hub space](#) in Kampala as necessary.

Do students receive any financial support from the program?

Student teams who successfully complete the Stage 1 preparations are eligible for travel funding to off-set travel expenses and a small amount of research money (approx. \$2,500 per team) for research supplies and services. Budgeting guidance will be provided to student teams during Stage 1 with the support and guidance of CGHSR staff and mentor approval. Student teams who successfully complete Stages 2 and 3 are eligible for funding to cover publication fees or other means to disseminate their findings (ie: conference presentations).

Do mentors receive any support from the program?

Ugandan mentors receive an honorarium for their role in advising the student team.

How many student teams will there be?

In January 2018, we anticipate 2 student teams with a possibility of another application cycle in August 2018.

Expected Outcomes

Student participants will be expected to submit a manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal for publication. Publication expenses are eligible to be covered in the program costs.

More questions? Contact Martha Kandole (kando005@umn.edu) or Molly McCoy (mccoy019@umn.edu) to connect you with a former URTC student.