

Connect Africa Scholarships

Connect Africa Scholarships aim to leverage the recently expanded K-RITH research facilities in Durban, South Africa to offer young African scientists (undergraduates, postgraduates, post-doctoral research fellows and junior faculty) the chance to further develop as researchers by providing travel grants to K-RITH and other international sites that facilitate opportunities for international exposure, learning new techniques, attending conferences and scientific courses, taking part in teaching opportunities, building new scientific research collaborations, and developing global and intra-Africa partnerships.

Award details:

Two categories of scholarships will be awarded:

- **Intra-Africa Awards**

Open to young African scientists who wish to travel to the KwaZulu-Natal Research Institute for Tuberculosis and HIV (K-RITH), and affiliated sites in KwaZulu-Natal. Individuals based at K-RITH and affiliated sites in KwaZulu-Natal can also apply to travel to other parts of Africa. African citizens or permanent residents of any of the 53 African countries plus territories, based at an institution in Africa are eligible to apply.

- **Intercontinental Awards**

Open to young African scientists based at K-RITH and affiliated sites who wish to travel outside of Africa (e.g. the USA or Europe).

Scholarships of up to **\$2,000** are typically awarded. Awards will be given based on the perceived benefit and need of the trip to the applicant, the qualifications of the applicant, and the quality/content of the proposed trip.

K-RITH Affiliated sites include: CAPRISA, the HIV Pathogenesis Programme (HPP), and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Connect Africa Scholarships are generously supported by the Massachusetts General Hospital, a teaching affiliate of Harvard Medical School in Boston, USA, and through philanthropic support from the Mark and Lisa Schwartz Foundation through the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard.

Application details:

Applications will be accepted on a rolling basis from March 1st 2013. Applications will be reviewed by a committee of scientists based at K-RITH and the Ragon Institute of MGH, MIT and Harvard. 90 awards will be made over a 5-year period (18 per year). The final date to receive applications is February 28th 2018. Please email connectafrica@k-rith.org for further information. [Click here](#) to download your application form.

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In order to complete your application the following supplemental documents also need to be submitted:

1. Three letters of recommendation: one should be from your current mentor. If you will be visiting a different institution, you will also need to submit a letter of support from your host. All individuals should be familiar with your work.
2. Budget and Budget justification
3. CV
4. If attending a course or conference please provide details of content of the event

Failure to submit a complete and accurate application will result in removal of the application from the selection process.

Award Terms:

Applicants should apply a minimum of 45 days before their expected travel to ensure adequate review time.

Funds must be used (e.g. tickets purchased) within 90 days of award date. Failure to use funds within this timeframe will result in loss of award and require re-application.

All funds will be transferred to home institutions/departments. Funds will not be transferred into personal accounts. A detailed budget and budget justification outlining how the funds will be spent needs to be submitted with the application. If the trip costs more than \$2,000, a detailed budget needs to be submitted outlining entire trip costs and how the \$2,000 from the Connect Africa Scholarship will be spent. Please note that funds will not be transferred until funding for the entire trip has been secured.

Awards can support domestic and international air travel and other costs, including but not limited to: housing, ground transport, fees, and visas.

Award recipients are required to submit a 1-2 page report on their travel as well as at least one relevant photograph documenting their trip. By accepting the award, awardees give permission for K-RITH and affiliates to use trip reports and media for publicity and marketing purposes.

Support from the Connect Africa Scholarships should be acknowledged in any subsequent publications or presentations derived from this award.

Please note that an individual can only be awarded one scholarship per year.

Frequently Asked Questions:

Q: My flight only costs \$1,000. May I use the unused portion for a second trip later in the year? A: No. The award covers only a single round-trip itinerary per year. A detailed budget and budget justification needs to be submitted with your application. You are welcome to apply again next year for a second trip.

Q: My flight only costs \$1,000. May I use the unused portion for a second destination on same trip? A: Yes. The award supports a single, round-trip itinerary per year. However, your proposal must offer a compelling explanation of the value of the second destination and provide additional letters of support from additional organizations involved in your trip. A detailed budget and budget justification needs to be submitted with your application.

Q: My trip costs more than \$2,000. Can I apply for more than \$2,000 from the Connect Africa Scholarships? A: No. Connect Africa Scholarships are for a maximum of \$2,000. Please apply to other sources to obtain the additional funding required. Please note that there is a space on the application form to indicate that you have applied to other sources. A detailed budget and budget justification needs to be

submitted with your application clearly stating how the \$2,000 from the Connect Africa Scholarship will contribute to the overall cost of the trip. Funding will only be transferred once we have confirmation that you have all the required funding for your trip to go ahead.

Q: I have received a Connect Africa Scholarship and the funds have been transferred to my home institution. However, I am no longer able to go on the trip do I have to return the funds?

A: Yes. If your trip can no longer go ahead the funds will need to be transferred back to K-RITH. If you have to postpone your trip please contact K-RITH immediately.

Q: If I was awarded an Intercontinental Connect Africa Scholarship in 2013, can I apply for an Intra-Africa award in the same year?

A: No. The limit is one Connect Africa Scholarship per year per person.

Q: My abstract was accepted to the International AIDS Conference in 2013. Can I apply for a travel award to support my travel to the conference?

A: Yes. Travel awards can be used for conference attendance. However, priority will be given to those individuals who have been asked to give an oral presentation and have no other funding sources. It is expected that applicants document application for conference scholarships.

Q: My flight only costs \$1,000. May I use the unused portion of my award for housing and transportation costs in-country?

A: Yes. Please make sure that all costs are included in your budget and budget justification. Please keep all receipts and documentation.

Q: I know I want to work in Rwanda but have not selected my partner organization. Can I still apply? **A: No. Complete applications include letters of support from host organizations. Your application is incomplete without the letter of support.**

Q: What letters of recommendation do I need to submit?

A: Three letters of recommendation (max. 1-2 pages) are required to complete your application. A letter by your current mentor should be included as one of the three letters. If you are to be hosted by another institution, you will also need to submit a brief letter of support from your host. All letters of recommendation should be written by individuals who are familiar with your work.

Q: I am based at the University of KwaZulu-Natal's Westville Campus. Can I still apply for an **Intercontinental** Connect Africa scholarship?

A: Yes. Scientists at K-RITH or K-RITH affiliated sites are able to apply for the Intercontinental award. Affiliated sites include: CAPRISA, HPP, and the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

Q: I am a Masters student at the University of Cape Town and have been accepted to attend the K-RITH Biostatistics Course. Can I still apply for a Connect Africa scholarship?

A: Yes. Scientists based at the University of Cape Town, and other African universities, are eligible to apply for an Intra-Africa Connect Africa Scholarship to travel to K-RITH and affiliated sites in KwaZulu-Natal.

Q: I am PhD student in Ghana and would like to travel to K-RITH to obtain flow cytometry training with our collaborator at K-RITH. Can I apply for a Connect Africa Scholarship?

A: Yes. Please apply for an Intra-Africa Scholarship. Please remember that you will need a brief letter of recommendation from your host at K-RITH.

Q: What defines Junior Faculty?

A: In this application process "Junior Faculty" refers to individuals within 5-10 years of obtaining their graduate degrees (e.g. MSc, PhDs, MD) who do not hold the rank of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor.