

## **GET BIOSECURITY FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM (GBFP)**

### **Call for Applications**

#### **A Call for GET Biosecurity Fellowship Program**

##### **About GET**

The Global Emerging Pathogens Treatment Consortium (GET) was established in 2014 as a direct response to the 2014-2016 Ebola virus disease outbreaks in West Africa. There was a clear need to create an African-led multidisciplinary forum of experts capable of working together with international partners to strengthen Africa's preparedness and resilience in tackling such infectious disease outbreaks caused by emerging pathogens, public health emergencies and pandemics. GET operates firmly in the African Biosecurity space and functions as a think tank. Providing high-level advocacy and the operational and necessary expertise to support countries and communities achieve improved resources to combat outbreaks and other public health emergencies that can threaten stability, peace, and security, thereby undermining economic growth and wellbeing. GET is legally registered in Lagos, Nigeria, Accra, Ghana, Sierra Leone, and the United States of America. Our primary purpose is to develop African-led and Afrocentric strategies within an international context to address emerging biosecurity threats effectively.

##### **Fellowship Overview**

GET offers a competitive research fellowship in Biosecurity and One health to a highly motivated researcher who aspires to become a vibrant research scholar contributing to biosecurity threats in Africa. The fellowship comprises a very competitive package including stipend, health insurance and accommodation. Each successful fellow is expected to engage in an independent, detailed and quality One Health and Biosecurity research specific to African countries.

GET consortium is making an open call of fellowship for highly qualified mid-career academics or researchers/policymakers with a deep passion for conducting research in One Health and Biosecurity. Successful fellows will undergo five-month comprehensive independent research studies in any of the following priority areas:

##### **Thematic Area of interest:**

1. One Health approach in addressing epidemics and pandemics in Africa. The consortium will prioritize proposal that clearly articulate One Health approach to addressing an infectious disease outbreak in Africa.
2. Effective domestication and implementation of international treaties such as Biological Weapon Convention (BWC) and other treaties and law that address proliferation of dangerous biological agents in Nigeria. We seek proposal that can adequately design framework for implementing BWC and succinctly clarify enabling laws to protect the continent from biosecurity threats.

3. Relevance of Genomic intelligence and surveillance in preventing disease outbreaks in Africa. Genomic intelligence has proven to be indispensable in controlling disease outbreaks. The proposal should sufficiently capture surveillance capacity and intelligence gathering of genomics technology in the prevention of infectious outbreak in remote communities in Africa.

#### **Application Procedure:**

Applicants should forward not more than five pages of research proposal Times New Roman 12 single spacing on one area of research listed above. Applicant should submit the following documents with the proposal:

1. A current CV (not to exceed five (5) pages)
2. A list of your publications that includes exact titles, names of publishers, dates of publication and status of forthcoming publications (not to exceed three pages).
3. A Project Proposal should exceed five (5) single-spaced typed pages, using the 12-point type).
4. Two (2) letters of recommendation.
5. **Submit all documents in a single file to [gbfprogramapplication@getafrica.org](mailto:gbfprogramapplication@getafrica.org)**

#### **Recommendation Letter:**

**It is the applicant responsibility to ensure that organization receives your references letters.** Your referees should be familiar with you and your work, and you should send them a copy of your proposal so that they can comment specifically upon your proposed research, your qualifications for undertaking it. Reference letters must be written in English. Applications with missing reference letters will be considered incomplete.

#### **Applicant Eligibility:**

- Must be a citizen of African countries.
- Must possess a minimum of M. Sc. Or PhD in relevant field.
- Have professional experience in relevant fields of one health, medicine, biosecurity, biosafety, health economics, health policy, animal health, plant health, climate change and environmental health.
- Demonstrate potential for leadership and strategic responsibility

#### **Selection Process:**

The program is aimed at candidates from across the African continent and prospective fellow may have a position at a home institution, or have a commitment from a home institution to support or consider a future position. Applications that meet the eligibility requirements listed above will be further subjected to a multi-stage review process involving both internal evaluations by GET scholars and external evaluations by specialists with relevant expertise. The final decision on the application will be made known by the consortium fellowship committee.

The GET Biosecurity Fellows will be selected based on these fundamental criteria:

- a). Originality, importance, and significance of proposed research are highly relevant

- b). The study's relevance to contemporary policy issues; try to convince the reader that there is some urgency or importance in your work that can resolve current biosecurity challenges facing Africa.
- c). Quality of the proposal in definition, organization, clarity, and scope; describe what the reviewers will learn from your project, why it is important, and how the reviewer will know your conclusions are valid. A clear hypothesis or step-by-step argument of a central problem helps capture the essence of your work for the reviewer. Also, describe your methodology, i.e., how, and why your approach is the best way to deal with such a problem.
- e). The proposal should convince the reviewer that there is something genuinely at stake with your inquiry and that your project will yield interesting results.
- f). A candidate's potential to actively contribute to the consortium's goals, vision, and mission by making expert research accessible to a broader audience.

### **Facilities and Services:**

Each fellow will be assigned a furnished work space available to them every day, including evenings and weekends. The consortium is in a serene environment with free access to digital resources, books and journal collections, university and special libraries in the area, and other research facilities.

### **Financial Support:**

**Stipend : US\$1,200/monthly**

**Accommodation:** Fellows will be provided with accommodation for the duration of the fellowship.

**Travel:** the fellowship includes provision for travel expenses from the fellow's home country to GET National secretariat at the beginning of the fellowship and a return travel provision upon completion of the fellowship. Provision of accommodation and medical health insurance coverage will be provided for the fellowship duration.

### **Conditions of Award:**

Fellows must show full-time dedication to the fellowship study and may not accept a teaching assignment, another residential fellowship, or undertake any other major activities that require an extended absence from the consortium during their fellowship tenure. Fellows are required to give a Work-in-Progress presentation, an internal meeting where fellows can speak about their work, share ideas, receive feedback from their peers, and attend the Work-in-Progress presentations given by their colleagues. In addition, Fellows are encouraged to offer a presentation of their work publicly, where possible, and participate in other GET programs. The fellows will share their expertise with biosecurity policymakers and experts within and outside Africa.

### **Fellowship Duration:**

The fellowship is for a period of 4 months. The fellows will stay at GET headquarters in Ibadan, Nigeria, throughout the fellowship duration.

### **The research outputs of respective research fellow shall include:**

- Two (2) articles to be published in high impact journal
- One (1) policy brief that will be published in the GET policy brief series
- Three (3) blog posts will be posted on GET website
- Two (2) seminar presentations of research findings
- Final research presentation during the GET annual conference on One Health and Biosecurity

### **The Project Proposal:**

It is essential to make your project clear to individuals outside your field and explain its broader implications. The following elements should be addressed in the proposal:

1. A detailed description of the topic and its importance.
2. The originality of the proposed study (explain what makes the project distinctive).
3. The basic ideas and hypotheses.
4. The methodology to be used (including the activities you will undertake to gather the data you need for your project and the techniques that you will use to analyze the data to prove your thesis).
5. The present status of your research, including how much has already been done in relevant collections and archives.
6. The relevance of the project to contemporary policy issues; and
7. The relevance of the project to the programmatic goals of the consortium.

### **Fellowship Opportunities:**

GET shall adopt this format to ensure smooth operation of the program:

- GET will ensure that participants have access to the necessary resources during their fellowship, access to relevant Biosecurity experts and professionals for adequate mentoring and leadership skills acquisition.
- At the end of each intake, GET will also ensure opportunities for feedback to improve the quality of the fellowship programme.
- GET will be responsible for the logistic and administrative arrangements for the Fellowship Programme.

Opening date of this fellowship: **25<sup>th</sup> July, 2022**

Closing date of this fellowship application: **20<sup>th</sup> August, 2022**

Proposal selection completed: **15<sup>th</sup> September, 2022**

Commencement of fellowship: **30<sup>th</sup> September, 2022.**

