

Subject: 2025 New Year's Newsletter

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From: Corinna Alberg

To: Corinna Alberg



The Mastercard Foundation
and University of Cambridge
Climate Resilience and
Sustainability Research Fund
2025 Call is Now Open
Closing Date 21st March 2025

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Welcome to the 2025 New Year Newsletter

Welcome to the 2025 New Year newsletter – it's still a bit early in the year to call it Spring but we can't wait until then to share our exciting news.

Launch of new Funding Scheme for collaborative research on Climate Resilience and Sustainability

The new Mastercard Foundation and University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund has been launched and is now open for applications. It's a bit of a mouthful so we are referring to it as the CResSus Research Fund.

This is the first round of an annual call for applications to support collaborative research between Cambridge based researchers and those based in African

Universities and Research Institutes. The focus of the call is on sustainability and climate related issues. We are interpreting this broadly as we recognise that a very wide range of disciplines are addressing the climate crisis and have contributions to make to tackling the challenges we face. Collaborative research between the global north and the global south will be critical to addressing this global threat, making this funding important for catalysing new research collaborations and strengthening existing ones.

There are two categories of funding:

- Research catalyst grants of up to £20,000 for collaborative research between pairs of Africa and Cambridge based researchers (post-doctoral and above).
- Up to £50,000 for collaborative workshops between Africa and Cambridge based researchers to be held in Africa on research skills that are relevant to developing resilience to climate change and sustainability.

The [details and application links](#) can be found on the Cambridge-Africa website. We are very grateful to the Mastercard Foundation for supporting this Research Fund, complementing the already established [Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program](#).

The deadline for applications is **21st March**. For further information please contact Parinaz Hariri, Senior Research Coordinator, Mastercard Foundation and University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund cresusrf@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk.

This new Research Fund is based on the successful model of the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund. See our [Report](#) for more information on the impact of that Fund.

Other Fellowship and Scholarship Opportunities

The Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CRASSH) at the University of Cambridge has announced its call for

applications for the [Global South Visiting Fellowships for 2025](#). This enables scholars from the Global South to collaborate and exchange ideas and benefit from the University of Cambridge's resources and is a bridge to future collaborations and exchanges. Applications are open until 24th February. Read more about this opportunity and others on the [Cambridge-Africa Opportunities pages](#) where we list a variety of funding and career development opportunities that are oriented to our African partners.



Pictured above 2024 CRASSH Global South Visiting Fellows Dr Victoria Oluwamayowa Gbadegesin and Dr Swati Moitra

There are a number of scholarships to study at the University of Cambridge dedicated to scholars from particular African countries. These scholarships give priority to applicants from the designated African country but may be open to other African applicants. [The Richard Darlington Studentship](#) supports students from Somaliland and Somalia to undertake a MPhil in Cambridge with preference given to those who put Caius as their first-choice college. Caius also has a PhD studentship to support students from Malawi, the [Phyllis Barclay-Smith Studentship](#).



Pictured above Najib Abdihamid Ahmed former recipient of the Richard Darlington Studentship

Congratulations

We were delighted to hear that two outstanding scientists with strong links to the Cambridge-Africa programme received honours in the New Years Honours List. Our congratulations go to Professor Ashley Moffett who was awarded the Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (CMG) for services to reproductive health and clinical research and practice in Africa. Ashley mentored Annette Nakimuli during Annette's PhD which was funded through [the MUII \(Makerere/UVRI Infection and Immunity programme\)](#). Annette is now Professor of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and Dean of the Medical School at Makerere University and the collaboration is ongoing.



Pictured above Professor Ashley Moffett with Professor Annette Nakimuli

We also send our warm congratulations to Professor Alison Elliott who was the Director of MUII and received an OBE for services to medicine and global health. Cambridge-Africa partnered with MUII and then MUII-plus from 2008-2020. Currently the [Cambridge-Africa home page](#) features more information on these remarkable women.



Pictured above Professor Alison Elliott OBE

Two Cambridge-Africa PhD students recently completed their PhDs in Cambridge. Congratulations for this achievement go to [Matipa Mukondiwa](#) and [Ernest Tochukwu Aguinam](#)

Recent Blogs

The Cambridge-Africa website also features blogs focusing on Cambridge and Africa partnerships. Recent blogs have included one on the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program and the experiences of one scholar Thabisco Ncube who is from Zimbabwe. The blog will hopefully inspire others to apply for this Cambridge based program.

[Read Thabisco Ncube's blog](#)

ASCU, The African Society of Cambridge University, wrote a blog on a webinar to publicise scholarships, held with Oxford University Africa Society. The blog contains a link to the [recording](#) so that those who were not among the 2,000 attendees can learn more about scholarship opportunities at both universities.

[Read the blog on the webinar](#)

Another recent blog was written by [Adeniyi Emmanuel on equitable partnerships](#). Adeniyi recently joined the Cambridge-Africa Team as the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund coordinator.

[Read Adeniyi's blog](#)

Corinna Alberg, the Cambridge-Africa Programme Manager, wrote a blog about the Programme's work supporting lung health research in Africa and [PATS-MECOR](#) (Pan African Thoracic Society - Methods in Epidemiological, Clinical and Operations Research) which has received funding from the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund and with whom we work closely.

[Read Corinna's blog](#)

The Cambridge-Africa team would like to take this opportunity to wish you a happy and healthy 2025 and we look forward to engaging with you over the coming year. We can be contacted via enquiries@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk. Our **LinkedIn** account is now active - follow us to keep up to date on latest activities <https://www.linkedin.com/company/cambridgeafrica/>

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