CAMBRIDGE AFRICA

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Cambridge-Africa Summer 2026 Newsletter

The academic year has ended in Cambridge, but Cambridge-Africa is still very active over the summer. We have needed to remain active as there are first-in-line as the UK is implicated by Israel's latest land of very warm weather. It is like the war in Ukraine, we are all in it, but it is not yet hot enough for people to stop supporting us as we well aware that many people in Africa do not have access to retreat to when climate effects cause heavy in their lives.

In this newsletter we focus on our current grant-funding call, the Cambridge-Africa AUSROADA Research Fund Call. We also report on the Cambridge-Africa Day celebration, the Cambridge-Africa Summer Seminars, the winners of 2026 for the Cambridge-Africa Programme. We also recognised the achievement of an outstanding African postgraduate scholar with the Dr Amit Bhaskar Prize for an Outstanding African Postgraduate Scholar in Cambridge awards. Last but not least, we welcomed two medical students from Makerere University, Uganda, to undertake electives in haematology and virology who worked in Jena and will be with us over the summer.

Cambridge-Africa AUSROADA Research Fund Call

Cambridge-Africa Day

Dr. Amit Bhaskar Prize for an outstanding African Scholar studying at Cambridge

Cambridge-Africa at Kings Seminars

Ugandan medical student electives

Cambridge-Africa Climate Collaborative Research Fund

Recent Blogs

Cambridge-Africa AUSROADA Research Fund Call

The call is now welcoming applications and will close on 27th September. The award patterns are for up to an annual sum of £10 and are as designed and described in the call document. The call document is available on our website in the tool 2 pages. The scheme is very basic to run needs as it enables excellent research collaborations to be established in any field. What we are looking for is research that is of mutual benefit to the African partner and the UK partner. It is between researchers at post-doctoral level and above at Cambridge University and African Universities/research establishment research institutes. From the past experience of the scheme we have found that the average value of the awards sent out at £10,000 for workshops being place in Africa. Please read about our terms and conditions and how to apply on the Cambridge-Africa website.

Cambridge-Africa Day

This celebration of research and other collaborations between Africa and Cambridge takes place twice due to years. We were delighted to have two wonderful keynote speakers, both University of Cambridge alumni meeting big careers in Africa. Professor Mary Kaplan, Director of the Ethiopian Institute at the Ugenda Christian University and who chairs the Board of the Research and Education Network for Uganda (RENU), overseeing a national infrastructure project connecting universities and research institutions, strengthening collaboration in higher education and research across Uganda. Prof. Kitayimbwa posed challenging questions focused on who gets to decide what research is done in Africa and how partnerships can be more equitable and ensure that the future local research ecosystem thrives (Ex-Interiors and Cambridge) Link to our recent 3rd agency strengthening.

Professor John Kitayimbwa presenting on Africa's Research Priorities: A Forward Vision for a Young Continent

Our second keynote speaker presented towards the conclusion of the Day and Professor Mary Kaplan. Professor Kaplan is the Director of the Ethiopian Institute at the Ugenda Christian University and also chairs the Board of the Research and Education Network for Uganda (RENU), overseeing a national infrastructure project connecting universities and research institutions, strengthening collaboration in higher education and research across Uganda. Prof. Kitayimbwa posed challenging questions focused on who gets to decide what research is done in Africa and how partnerships can be more equitable and ensure that the future local research ecosystem thrives (Ex-Interiors and Cambridge) Link to our recent 3rd agency strengthening.

Professor Kevin Urama presenting on Can Africa Finance Its own Development?

In addition to the keynote speeches, we had great presentations by three changemaker scholars about the impressive research they are undertaking and how they are making a difference in their communities and contributing to their careers. Professor Paul Lane then spoke about his career in African archaeology and we had presentations from both Cambridge-Africa Programme and Cambridge-Africa Research Fund recipients. Cambridge-Africa Research Fund awardees about their research and its impact arose from seeing the grands diversity of crossings in Somalia, to saving lives through HPV vaccination in Ethiopia, to understanding the impact of Ebola on Liberian communities with a panel discussion on climate research and the climate agenda in Africa, all part of the theme of Cambridge-Africa supporting African Agendas. We had over 100 people in the room and online and it was great to see students, postal researchers, helpers, Jesuits and the Cambridge-Africa Board.

Dr Amit Bhaskar Prize for an Outstanding African Postgraduate Scholar in Cambridge

Selecting one outstanding African scholar in Cambridge is a challenge. We received many nominations for the Dr Amit Bhaskar Prize for 2026. The winner of the scholar must be outstanding academically, must be outstanding in their activities to translate their research to the benefit of Africa, must have made an outstanding contribution to the University of Cambridge community and must be a role model for other African student community in Cambridge. This year our Prize winner Partlet Chenai Lukuvira simply met all the criteria and was outstanding in all areas. Partlet presented her research on Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests at the Cambridge-Africa Day. Partlet will be writing a blog for the Cambridge-Africa website and you will be able to read more about her work and achievements.

Partlet Chenai Lukuvira being presented with the Dr Amit Bhaskar Prize for an Outstanding African Postgraduate Scholar in Cambridge by the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge, Professor Deborah Prentice

Cambridge-Africa at Kings Seminars

2026 saw the revival of the Cambridge-Africa at Kings seminar series. We held a seminar each term. Our previous newsletters detailed the first two of the year and on 10th June we had a thought and discussion provoking seminar on the Ethiopian Diaspora. Dr Tsion Abate, Ethiopian Diaspora Trust, discussed the populations they serve in Africa. The seminar was given by Dr Sheena Chhabagadhia who has recently joined the Department of History of Art as Lecturer in Global Contemporary Art and Director of Cambridge Centre for Palestine Studies. Dr Chhabagadhia and Dr Tsion Abate will be writing a blog for the Cambridge-Africa website and you will be able to read more about the work and achievements.

Ugandan medical student electives

Harriet Lalle and Arlisa Agaryaka are two Ugandan medical students from Makerere University who are undertaking an elective in haematology and virology in Jena and will be with us over the summer. Harriet Lalle is a Cambridge-Africa Programme. Every year we have provided funding for two medical students from Uganda with an interest in pursuing a career in cancer care to come to Jena for a month. The aim of the project is to encourage more the Uganda Cancer Institute who would like future cancer specialists in Uganda to be inspired with a vision of how to improve cancer care for Ugandans. There is a great need for cancer care in Uganda, cancer is the second cause of death in Uganda and the needs to be urgently addressed, especially in light of the increasing burden of cancer in Africa. We hope the cohort of Ugandan medical students who have been in Jena will be inspired to return to Jena in future seasons for cancer treatment in Uganda. Our heartfelt thanks to Dr Martin Bewer and Dr Yang Hong and their colleagues at Kabompo/Jena who offer such excellent support to the medical students.

Arlisa Agaryaka (Right) Lalle and Dr Martin Bewer at Kabompo/Jena's Hospital, June 2026

Cambridge-Africa Climate Collaborative Research Fund

The next call for applicants to the Cambridge-Africa Climate Collaborative Research Fund (previously known as The Makerere Foundation and University of Cambridge Climate Resilience and Sustainability Research Fund) will open in the autumn. Cambridge-Africa Climate Collaborative Research Fund is available for research outside ground and nonterrestrial sciences, climate resilience and sustainability We also hope to offer a further working campaign of research over four to five years next newsletter.

Recent Blogs

Between newsletters we like to keep you updated on Cambridge-Africa related activities with blogs on our website. Our recent blogs include:

Dr Tsion Dhaus, Amazing a account of the time in Cambridge as a member of the first cohort of Cambridge-Africa PhD scholars.

Read Dr Tsion Dhaus, Amazing's blog

Emmanuel Sowiano, from the 2018 1st cohort of Cambridge-Africa PhD scholars, also wrote a blog about his Cambridge experience

Read Dr Emmanuel Sowiano's blog

A pan-West African workshop on malaria surveillance using genomics with funding from the Cambridge-Africa and Wellcome Trust Seed Award. Dr Ousmane Ndiaye, Senegalese Institute of Tropical Medicine, Dr Yaya Ibrahim, Ivoirian National Malaria Control Programme and National Malaria Elimination Programmes, alongside researchers and implementing partners from seven West African countries.

Read about the pan-West African malaria surveillance workshop

Dr Christina Cunioski Hall, Prof Fiona Ancona and Prof Charlotte Lanvers hold a workshop for African and Cambridge researchers to discuss research methods with a focus on climate resilience and sustainability. The workshop was funded by the renamed Cambridge Africa Climate Collaborative Research Fund.

Read about the participatory research methods workshop

Professor Sunetra Blake and Dr Alex (Cambridge) and Dr Gumpus and Anti Anwa (University of Nairobi) wrote about the **Urban Rental Housing and Climate Resilience Project** funded by the Cambridge Africa Climate Collaborative Research Fund.

Read the blog on urban rental housing in Nairobi and climate resilience

Dr Joyce Ayiomo, Makerere and Dr Elizabeth Hall, Kyambogo University, Uganda, wrote an interesting blog on their research from secondary data on the impact of climate change on the Ugandan Bureau of Statistics (UBOS) and gender school attendance. The Cambridge-Africa AUSROADA Research Fund, gave the authors the opportunity to travel to Cambridge to discuss research with Professor Pauline Rudd of Glycomics and the RUN. Come in collaboration with Professor Rosalia Sabiiti Ayiko.

Read Joyce Ayiomo, Makerere and Dr Elizabeth Hall's Blog on NRSDC and girls school attendance

Thank you to the School of Biological Sciences at Cambridge University

We thank the School of Biological Sciences for their Support of the Cambridge-Africa Programme. The School of Biological Sciences has funded the Cambridge-Africa AUSROADA Research Fund coordinator for several years. The post is a crucial part of our Programme, enabling funds to be allocated to African researchers and ensuring the smooth running of the Programme and the funding. This funding also has a huge impact on the relationship our project impact strived there was an average of a 30-fold return in terms of funding for every £1 we put into the Programme. We are very grateful to the School of Biological Sciences for the coordination of the programme, this would not be such a successful scheme.

Cambridge-Africa Researchers' Database

Researchers' Database

Researchers from across the University of Cambridge and from affiliated institutes are engaging with the collection of the Cambridge-Africa Programme by sending information about their research and interests to the Cambridge-Africa Office.

If you would like to collaborate with African researchers and you are a researcher at the University of Cambridge, please sign up to our researchers' database. If you are an African researcher and would like to receive further information on the Cambridge-Africa Programme, visit our website and contact us at enquiries@cambridge-africa.com.ac.uk.

This newsletter gives you a snapshot of Cambridge-Africa activities but please do look at our website for more information on the Programme and for updates on our blogs. Follow us on Twitter @CambridgeAfrica and enquiries@cambridge-africa.com.ac.uk. Our LinkedIn account is:
https://www.linkedin.com/company/cambridgeafrica

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