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Welcome to the Cambridge-Africa Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Welcome to the Cambridge-Africa Autumn 2024 Newsletter. We have plenty of news to update you about and are eager to let you know what has been happening in the Cambridge-Africa programme.

A new member of our Team

We are delighted to welcome Adeniyi Emmanuel. He joins us from working with the Association of Commonwealth Universities and so has a rich background in fostering academic collaborations between partners in the UK and Africa. He will be replacing Parinaz as coordinator for the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund. Adeniyi can be contacted on alboradafund@cambridge-africa.cam.ac.uk. We are pleased that Parinaz Hariri is remaining with the Team and taking on a new role.

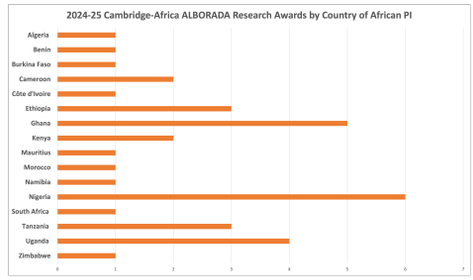
Adeniyi Emmanuel, newly appointed coordinator of the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund.

Cambridge-Africa Annual Report

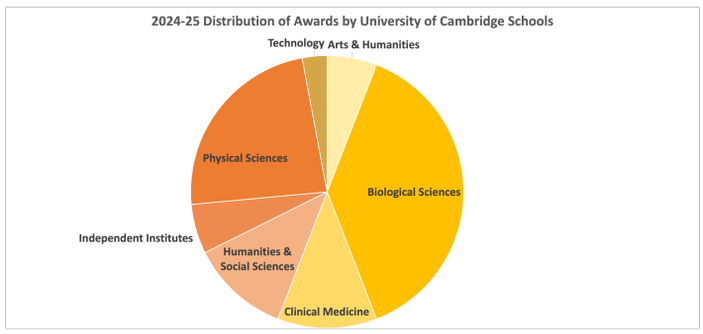
With the conclusion of the academic year, the Cambridge-Africa Team has published its annual report for 2023-24 which can be found on the Cambridge-Africa website's home page. We have copies of the report in our Office if you would like one.

2024-25 Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Awards

Looking forward to the year ahead we are delighted to announce that 34 awards have been made for collaborative research related projects between Africa and Cambridge based researchers. We had a record number of 85 applications. This was 20% more than last year, surpassing the record number of applications we received in 2023-2024, which highlights the substantial and growing interest in collaborations between African and Cambridge researchers. The awards will fund activities in 16 African countries, spanning north, west, east and southern Africa, including for the first time Morocco and Algeria.



The collaborations involve researchers from 17 departments of the University of Cambridge and across all 6 schools as well as independent Institutions such as NIAB and the Wellcome Sanger Institute



If you are considering applying for an award in 2025-26, applications will open in June and close in September 2025. Further information on the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund can be found on the Cambridge-Africa website, including the Terms and Conditions. If you or others in your department would like to hear more about the funding, please contact Adeniyi Emmanuel.

Impact of the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Awards

We recently published the results of a survey of those receiving Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Awards from 2016-21. The survey investigated the impact of these awards. The findings were impressive – a rate of return in further research funding of £26 for every £1 invested by the Fund was revealed. The funding scheme was rated as excellent by 89% of respondees with a further 10% rating it as good. Nearly all the research had led to a publication or a publication in preparation. 93% of respondees felt the scheme had helped expand their research network. To read more on the impact of the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund Awards, read the report here or on our website.

CAMBRIDGE AFRICA

The ALBORADA Trust

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF THE CAMBRIDGE-AFRICA ALBORADA RESEARCH FUND

(2016-2021)

"Like your children, you shouldn't really have favourite research students or projects, but this was a very moving project to be involved in"

Cambridge-Africa Researchers Database

Please sign up to the Cambridge-Africa researchers database if you are a Cambridge academic and are interested in collaborating with African researchers. The database allows African researchers to view the range of research expertise and identify areas of mutual interest with Cambridge researchers interested in working with African researchers. When using the database, we ask African researchers to direct enquiries about potential collaborations to the Cambridge-Africa Team in the first instance.

Update on the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program

We work closely with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program and the class of 2024/25 have now arrived and are settling into student life in Cambridge. The Program was delighted to welcome the third cohort of Mastercard Foundation Scholars to Cambridge last month – 58 students from 14 different African countries. The Program at the University of Cambridge enables talented young Africans who are committed to driving sustainable change to complete a Master's degree and grow their leadership potential. Following a two-week introduction to life in Cambridge, this year's scholars have started a wide range of courses, from Conservation Leadership to Public Policy.

Pictured above the 2024-25 Mastercard Foundation Program Scholars

Applications are open for Master's courses starting in October 2025. Applicants are encouraged to check the funding deadline for their chosen course - either December 2024 or early January 2025. Find out more: Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program

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A Focus on Lung Health

There is a growing recognition of the worsening impact of air pollution on health. A recent Lancet article identified particulate matter air pollution as the leading cause of disease globally and this particularly affects people in Africa and South Asia. The Cambridge-Africa Programme has been working closely with the Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS) through the PATS-MECOR initiative (Methods in Epidemiological, Clinical and Operations Research). An award from the Cambridge-Africa ALBORADA Research Fund part supported the 2024 PATS-MECOR Programme along with funding from the Aldama Foundation and the American Thoracic Society. The PATS-MECOR programme provides intensive training to build capacity for clinical and epidemiological research in lung health in Africa. The residential training course takes place in Africa over a week with concurrent courses at different levels to enable African clinicians and other researchers to build their research skills to investigate the contributors to poor lung health. This year Corinna Alberg, Programme Manager at Cambridge-Africa, attended the course in Kenya along with over fifty aspiring researchers from across Africa and highlighted ways the Cambridge-Africa programme can support the initiative.

Pictured above the students and Faculty at PATS-MECOR 2024, Kenya.

Cancer Collaborations

We continue our collaborative work with the Uganda Cancer Institute (UCI) as set by the UCI's director, Dr Jackson Orem. This Summer and Autumn has been a busy time for this collaboration. Cambridge-Africa in partnership with the medical electives programme at the University of Cambridge and Dr Martin Besser and Dr Huiqi Yang from the oncology and haematology departments at Addenbrookes Hospital welcomed two medical students from Makerere University, Uganda, to undertake 6 week cancer focused medical electives. Philine Taaka and Daisy Adiru returned to Uganda inspired by their experience in Cambridge and determined to make improvements in cancer care when they finish their studies.

Read Daisy's blog

Read Philine's blog

Pictured above Daisy Adiru, Dr Martin Besser, Dr Will Thomas and Philine Taaka

Anjellina Rukundu and Florence Nakabiri participated in the CRUK Cambridge Institute's Summer School. Two places at the 8 week Summer School are reserved for Ugandan students who are embedded within research groups – Anjellina's research investigated immune cells in liver cancer and Florence's focused on the use of dried blood spots to detect circulating tumor DNA in resource limited settings. Anjellina described her experiences in a blog posted on the Cambridge-Africa website. Thank you to the CRUK Cambridge Institute for enabling Ugandan students to gain from this wonderful opportunity. Nearly all the Ugandan students who have participated in the Summer School have been able to achieve their ambition to secure PhD places.

Read Anjellina's blog

Pictured above Anjellina and Florence with the other 2024 CRUK Cambridge Institute Cancer Summer School participants

The collaborative activities continued into the autumn with a visit by Dr Marta Ferraresso to the UCI to support the research programme on Burkitts Lymphoma being undertaken between Professor Suzanne Turner's group at Cambridge and the UCI.

Dr Maike De La Roche has just returned from Uganda where she ran the cancer focused Clinical Microbiology and Bioinformatics School to enable a much wider number of students at Makerere to benefit from the CRUK Summer School Initiative.

Pictured above students and faculty at the Kampala, Uganda, Cancer Clinical Microbiology and Bioinformatics School held in November 2024

Read our other blogs

In addition to the blogs already mentioned we have published blogs on developing collaborative freshwater biodiversity research in Côte d'Ivoire by Dr Nigel Taylor and Dr Tanoh Marius Kamelan and Professor Humphrey Mazigo's blog on an applied biostatistics course in Tanzania.

Stephen Ajadi, the winner of the Cambridge-Africa Dr Amit Bhasin Prize for 2024, has written a blog about his PhD research An Architect's Vigil: Sowing Safety in the Sahel. He describes his important work in making urban spaces in places affected by conflict safer as a result of his PhD research as well as the setting up of the Penumbra Space Foundation NGO to develop social and physical infrastructure for vulnerable people in West Africa. Please go to the Cambridge-Africa website to read blogs, find out about funding opportunities, courses, conference and Africa related events taking place in Cambridge and much more.

Read Dr Nigel Taylor and Dr Tanoh Marius Kamelan's blog

Read Prof Humphrey Mazigo's blog

Read Stephen Ajadi's blog - winner of the Dr Amit Bhasin Prize

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Upcoming Events in Cambridge

African Futures Collections Report Launch
December 3rd 6-7 p,m, followed by a drinks reception until 8pm.
Alison Richard Building, SG1, Sedgwick Site West Road Cambridge CB3 9DP

The African Collections Futures project set out seeks to develop a better sense of where Africa-related objects and materials are present across the University of Cambridge, the forms of engagements researchers, African research and heritage institutions, and African diaspora and communities of origin have with these objects, and what more can be done.

The report is an introduction to African collections at Cambridge, and an invitation to pursue further research, collaboration, and community engagement.

Keynote Speaker:

Dr. Njabulo Chipangura, Curator of Living Cultures, Manchester Museum

Report introduced by:

Dr Eva Namusoke, author of the report, Senior Curator, African Collections Futures, The Fitzwilliam Museum

Dr Neal Spencer, Deputy Director (Collections & Research), The Fitzwilliam Museum

Closing remarks by:

Professor Kamil Munir, Pro-Vice Chancellor for Research, University of Cambridge

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Congratulations

Last but certainly not least the Cambridge-Africa Team would like to extend our congratulations to the Cambridge-Africa scholars who have completed their PhDs over the last months. Our congratulations go to Dr Edward Murumbwa, Dr Peace Oluwatomi, Dr Lyn Kouadio, Dr Iyeyinka Kusi-Mensah and also to Dr Tochukwu Nweze who graduated at the end of 2023.

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