



SOUTH AFRICAN SOCIAL SCIENCE AND HIV PROGRAMME

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR *FELLOWS, ASSOCIATES AND MEMBERS* OF THE SASH PROGRAMME, 2016 – 2017

The ‘**South African Social Science and HIV Programme**’—or **SASH Programme**—is a collaboration between the University of Cape Town (UCT) and Brown University aimed at strengthening the place of HIV social science teaching and research in the **Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences (DSBS)** at UCT’s School of Public Health and Family Medicine.

The Programme provides funding for a range of teaching and research activities to support the next generation of scholars working in HIV social sciences. Our research activities fall under the Programme’s **three signature ‘GAP themes’**: 1) Gender in HIV/AIDS Risk and Response, 2) ART Adherence and Expansion, and 3) Prevention for Women, Youth and Families.

**THIS IS A CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR:
1) SASH FELLOWS, 2) SASH ASSOCIATES, AND 3) GENERAL MEMBERS
FOR THE 2016-17 COHORT OF THE SASH PROGRAMME.**

1) CALL FOR SASH FELLOWS (SEPTEMBER 21 DEADLINE)

The flagship initiative in the SASH Programme is the “**SASH Fellows Programme**”. The Fellows Programme provides funding and mentorship for a range of research and teaching activities to support the next generation of scholars working on HIV social sciences. Fellowships last for two years and benefits can include a combination of:

- Financial support for research costs associated with Masters or PhD study at UCT
- Bursaries for Masters or PhD study at UCT
- Individual mentoring in research and professional development
- Specialized training in social science research methods (including Nvivo training, innovative visual/audio methodologies, mixed methods research, and qualitative evidence synthesis)
- Access to an ongoing series of research seminars, training workshops, and writing retreats
- International exchanges with Brown University
- Teaching training, mentoring and support
- Individual supervision of the Fellow’s own research project during the fellowship.

We are seeking applications from postgraduate students seeking to develop a career in HIV social science research in South Africa. For this cycle, we are seeking Fellows who are either already enrolled in, or are planning to begin a Masters or PhD programme at UCT. Fellows need not necessarily enrol/be enrolled in the DSBS at the School of Public Health and Family Medicine for study, but the link to HIV social science interests should be clear, along with a commitment to interdisciplinary engagement, in particular with public health and biomedical disciplines. We are especially committed to supporting the development of scholars from diverse social and economic backgrounds.





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Applicants should be interested in working on interdisciplinary HIV social science research problems within the scope of our GAP themes: 1) Gender in HIV/AIDS Risk and Response, 2) ART Adherence and Expansion, and 3) HIV Prevention for Women, Youth and Families. A fuller description of these research themes can be found on our website at www.sashprogramme.org.

Financial support for Fellows can range from R10 000 to R100 000 per year, depending on the individual plans and needs of successful applicants.

APPLICATION PROCESS FOR THE SASH FELLOWS PROGRAMME

Please submit:

- An **up-to-date curriculum vitae**, that includes:
 1. A current statement of academic record listing name/s of institution/s, dates of study and category of pass, and information on any current degree you are studying towards, including estimated date of graduation (to be accompanied by copies of degree certificates);
 2. Details on financial support for your studies (e.g. scholarships, bursaries) that you already receive or have applied for.
 3. A listing of completed theses, publications, reports, & other accolades or achievements;
 4. Employment history, as applicable;
- **One letter of reference** from someone familiar with your past or current work and intended studies **along with the names and contact information** for two other referees;
- A **letter of motivation** of not more than 3 pages that describes your background, research interests, and short-, medium- and long-term career plans, priorities and aspirations. Your letter should pay special attention to:
 1. How you are, what your interests are, why you have chosen your particular degree of study, and what you plan on focusing on during your studies (including periods of study and details of coursework and fieldwork (if applicable))
 2. Current or potential project mentors/supervisors/collaborators/supporters from UCT—in the DSBS, the School of Public Health and Family Medicine, as well as other departments—as well as from Brown University. Please consult the relevant department and Division websites for ideas.
 3. A description of your future research and professional goals, including potential research areas of interest (and why) and your longer-term career plans in HIV social science research.

Applications should be submitted to Marion Bloch at marion.bloch@uct.ac.za by 21 September 2015. A committee at UCT and Brown University will review these letters and let applicants know by 3 October if their applications have been selected for an interview. Interviews with shortlisted candidates will take place in the week of 19 October 2015.

For more on the SASH Programme, please see www.Sashprogramme.org.

For more on the Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences, please see http://www.publichealth.uct.ac.za/phfm_social-and-behavioural-sciences.

For more on Brown University, see www.brown.edu (the SASH Programme website lists the individual Brown faculty involved in this Programme)





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2) CALL FOR SASH ASSOCIATES (OCTOBER 3 DEADLINE)

Given the broad interest that has been expressed in getting involved in the SASH Programme, we have created a new form of affiliation called a '**SASH Associate**'. The SASH Associate category is intended for those interested in joining in on Programme activities in a more intensive fashion by actively contributing to one or more components of the Programme. Associates might, for example:

- Offer to integrate and co-supervise SASH Fellows as researchers on an existing research project they are involved that is related to our GAP themes
- Enable the participation of SASH Fellows, Members or staff in an ongoing policy process or debate that they are involved in
- Offer training on a specific topic (of particular interest would be 'training the trainer' type training that would build broader capacity)
- Host a workshop or writing retreat on a particular topic of interest to the Programme.
- Offer to help with one of the ongoing research projects within the SASH Programme or Division of Social and Behavioural Sciences.

SASH Associates are not limited those working or studying at UCT. We are interested in working with people engaged in some way with HIV social science research in South Africa and would welcome Associate Members who are researchers, teachers, activists, community members, or those working in civil society or government.

In return for their contribution to the Programme, Associates and their projects would be featured on our website and elsewhere as key participants in SASH, and would receive preferential access to Programme events and resources, *including access to financial support for their proposed activities*.

To apply to be an Associate member, please write to Chris Colvin (cj.colvin@uct.ac.za) **before October 3rd** with a brief proposal for some specific ways in which you might get involved with the SASH Programme during the 2016-7 period. Please be specific about what you could bring to the Programme as well as what kind of support the Programme could offer you and your project. Engagement as an Associate Member doesn't necessarily require active or constant involvement over that two-year period but we are interested in supporting initiatives that involve more than once-off activities.

3) CALL FOR GENERAL MEMBERS (NO DEADLINE)

We are also interested in identifying new **General Members** of the SASH Programme. Being a general member simply means that you would be part of the SASH Programme's growing network of people working in HIV social science. You would be added to our mailing list and have early access to Programme events, trainings and other activities.

As with the Associate Members, we are interested in General Members from any institution or professional or community background. To join, all you need to do is to send your email address to marion.bloch@uct.ac.za and ask that you be added to the Programme's general list of members.





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RECENT RESEARCH PROJECTS OF SASH FELLOWS, ASSOCIATES AND FACULTY

Gender in HIV/AIDS Risk and Response (GAP Theme 1)

- Lesbian, bisexual and gender non-conforming women and HIV
- Sex workers rights and access to health care as critical interventions for this key population
- Substance abuse, social support needs and health service access among HIV-positive men in Gugulethu
- Qualitative systematic review on theories of change in gender transformation interventions with men and boys
- Men's movement through the 'HIV cascade' and the development of a health information management intervention to bring community and clinic actors together to better support men's engagement with ART.

ART Adherence and Expansion (GAP Theme 2)

- Experiences of and reasons for first-line and second-line treatment failure
- Evaluating a new model of caregiver-led paediatric disclosure to HIV-positive children and adolescents
- Interventions to address HIV and psychological wellbeing among HIV-positive adolescents and orphans
- Grassroots involvement in the development of HIV policy in South Africa
- The history of AIDS activism, and the evolution of health activism since the end of AIDS denialism
- Systematic review (mixed methods) on barriers to ART initiation, retention and adherence for pregnant and post-partum women

Prevention for Women, Youth and Families (GAP Theme 3)

- "Coming of Age in Khayelitsha": Adolescent lifecourse, structure, community, and agency in the context of HIV
- Evaluation of a male bystander intervention to prevent sexual and gender-based violence on campuses
- The role of sexual pleasure in HIV prevention and sexual health programming
- Heterosexual anal intercourse: Perceptions and practices among young people in five African countries
- Evaluating the use of incentives for accessing HIV testing, and sexual and reproductive health services
- Developing 'perceptibility' measures of user experiences of vaginal products (creams, gels, foams, rings)
- Concepts of 'community' in cluster RCTs in HIV prevention and treatment research

