



## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS: CLINICAL RESEARCH INTERNSHIP 2025**

The HIV Mental Health Research Unit (HIVMHRU) was established in 2014 in response to the growing recognition of the burden of mental health disorders in people living with HIV – including depressive, anxiety, substance use and neurocognitive disorders. The HIVMHRU conducts niche research in the field of neuroHIV and behavioural HIV in both adolescents and adults. Our guiding principle is to develop an evidence base to extend the provision of effective mental health services to persons living with HIV with a focus on South Africa and other resource-limited settings. The HIVMHRU is seeking applications from suitable candidates for a clinical research internship in 2025.

### **CLINICAL RESEARCH INTERNSHIP**

We are looking to invite motivated students from diverse backgrounds to join the HIVMHRU and gain exposure to research in the fields of HIV and mental health in and around Cape Town.

### **STRUCTURE OF INTERNSHIP**

There are two intakes of five interns per semester per year. The first internship semester will be from **January to June**, and the second from **July to December**. **All candidates will be selected for both intakes by November 2024**. In total, there are ten positions available per year.

The internship entails 8 hours/week (20% position), split between two 4-hour days as allocated.

#### ***Responsibilities and learning opportunities***

Half your time will be focused on Research Administration. This includes the following:

- Preparation of research materials (i.e., consent forms, intervention activities, workbooks etc.)
- Transcriptions and translation of intervention sessions
- Assisting with the financial reconciliation of participant reimbursements
- Management of bio-marker specimens (viral load samples, dried blood spots, etc.)
- Assist with participant retention and tracking
- Assist with science dissemination and content development for the HIVMHRU website and social media platforms.

Half your time will be focused on Clinical Research activities. This includes the following:

- Conduct site visits to research offices located at primary care facilities in the Cape Town area
- Assisting with day-to-day activities at sites
- Participating in clinical supervision of interventionists and research staff
- Attending debriefing sessions with project directors and clinical psychologist

## *Details of internship*

This internship is an unpaid position. It is targeted at recently graduated students who are building their experience and exposure to mental health research and interventions. During their internship, candidates will have access to short courses and research programmes in the HIVMHRU.

Upon completion of this internship, successful candidates will receive:

- A certificate of completion (for > 80% attendance)
- A letter of recommendation from the internship coordinator(s)

## **WHO CAN APPLY?**

We invite applicants from diverse backgrounds.

### *Requirements*

- Have a minimum NQF Level 8 qualification (Honours or four-year degree) in a health or social science-related field.

### *Advantages (but not required)*

- Have an excellent command of two or three official languages of South Africa.
- Demonstrate excellent writing and communication skills.
- Are capable of working in a multicultural team environment.

## **APPLICATION**

There are limited placements for this programme, and admission is highly competitive. In addition to the application form, we will request short-listed candidates to attend a selection interview.

Please read and follow these instructions carefully, as they are not repeated on the application form itself.

- Please complete the attached application form.
- The application form must be completed in full and submitted with all required supporting documents as a single PDF file, with your surname and initial as the file name, to [stephan.rabie@uct.ac.za](mailto:stephan.rabie@uct.ac.za)
- **Applications close on 31 October 2024.**



# APPLICATION FORM: CLINICAL RESEARCH INTERNSHIP 2025

**HIV Mental Health**  
Research Unit

## PERSONAL DETAILS

<b>TITLE</b>		<b>SURNAME</b>			
<b>FIRST NAMES</b>					
<b>AGE</b>		<b>DATE OF BIRTH</b>	/	/	<b>ID NUMBER</b>
<b>HOME LANGUAGE(S)</b>					
<b>RESIDENTIAL ADDRESS</b>					
<b>POSTAL ADDRESS (if different from above)</b>					
<b>DISABILITY (please state nature of disability and details of special needs)</b>					
<b>OCCUPATION</b>					
<b>EMPLOYER</b>					
<b>WORK ADDRESS</b>					
<b>TELEPHONE</b>	(W)				(H)
<b>MOBILE</b>				<b>FAX</b>	
<b>EMAIL ADDRESS</b>					
<b>CITIZENSHIP</b>					
<b>PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION (if applicable)</b>					
<b>REGISTERING BODY</b>				<b>REGISTRATION NUMBER</b>	

**LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY**

Please indicate your proficiency in reading, writing, speaking and understanding the language you are familiar with by using the following categories: **excellent, fair and poor.**

Language	Speak	Read	Write	Understand

**EDUCATION (please list in reverse order)**

Please attach original university transcripts and certified copies of all degrees and certificates.

Qualification	Year	Institution	Major subjects	Marks obtained

**OTHER RELEVANT QUALIFICATIONS / INFORMAL EDUCATION (please list in reverse order)**

Course	Institution	Year	Duration

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (please list in reverse order)**

Year	Project Title	Type of Research	Role	Supervisor (if applicable)

**OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE (e.g. teaching, leadership positions, etc.)**

Year	Details

**OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY (if applicable)**

<b>CURRENT POSITION</b>			
<b>DATE COMMENCED</b>			
<b>MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES</b>			
<b>OCCUPATIONAL HISTORY (please list in reverse order)</b>			
Dates	Position	Employer	Main Responsibilities

## Letter of Motivation

Please write a half-page letter of motivation for why you are applying for the Clinical Research Internship.

## Science Dissemination and Content Development Task

As part of the application process, we would like you to demonstrate your ability to engage with scientific content and communicate it effectively to diverse audiences.

### Task Instructions:

1. Choose a topic related to chronic conditions and/or mental health in South Africa.
2. Create a short content piece (half a page to a full page) in **ONE** of the following formats:
  - **Social Media Post:** Write the text for a post as it would appear on social media (Instagram, Twitter, Facebook). Refer to the [HIVMHRU's Instagram](#) for examples.
  - **Blog Entry:** Write a brief blog entry for a website. Refer to the [HIVMHRU website](#) for examples.
  - **News Article:** Write a brief news article suitable for publication in a local newspaper (e.g., the Daily Maverick).

### Content Guidelines:

- ⇒ Consider your target audience (general public, healthcare professionals, etc.) and tailor your piece accordingly.
- ⇒ Ensure your content is factually correct and reflects current research and best practice.
- ⇒ Ensure your content is clear, concise, and accessible.
- ⇒ Strive for engaging and informative content. If relevant, use visuals, examples, and anecdotes.
- ⇒ Your content must be original and free from plagiarism. In-text references are not required, but please list your sources at the end.

<b>TOPIC</b>					
<b>CONTENT FORMAT</b> (Please mark with an X)	<b>Social Media Post</b>		<b>Blog Entry</b>		<b>News Article</b>
<b>TARGET AUDIENCE</b>					
<b>CONTENT PIECE</b> (Please write your content piece in the space below)					

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**REFEREE REPORTS**

*Please provide the names and contact details of your referees here. We will contact the referees of shortlisted applications.*

<b>Name of Referee #1</b>			
<b>Position</b>			
<b>Institution</b>			
<b>Email Address</b>			
<b>Tel</b>		<b>FAX</b>	

<b>Name of Referee #2</b>			
<b>Position</b>			
<b>Institution</b>			
<b>Email Address</b>			
<b>Tel</b>		<b>FAX</b>	



**DECLARATION**

- I certify that the information supplied in this application is correct.

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**Signature of Applicant**

**Date**