



Malawi Liverpool
Wellcome Research
Programme

WVS Research Fellowship - Malawi

Worldwide Veterinary Service (WVS), through its Mission Rabies programme, is committed to supporting applied research that informs sustainable rabies control and improves animal welfare in low- and middle-income countries. Mission Rabies works in partnership with governments, academic institutions, and international organisations to deliver large-scale dog vaccination campaigns and strengthen rabies surveillance and control programs.

In Malawi, WVS is collaborating closely with the Kamuzu University of Health Sciences (KUHeS), the Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust (MLW), and the University of Edinburgh to advance research and training on rabies prevention and control.

We are pleased to announce an opportunity for two (2) Malawi WVS Fellows: a 12-month research fellowship aimed at early-career researchers (pre-master's and pre-PhD) interested in operational research and One Health approaches to rabies control.

Fellowship opportunity

The Malawi WVS Fellows will be based in Blantyre, with travel to selected project sites across Malawi.

The fellowships will focus primarily on operational research related to rabies control, including dog vaccination, rabies surveillance, and dog population management (DPM). Depending on project needs, research may also include other animal welfare priorities.

The Fellows will work closely with Mission Rabies–Malawi and the wider WVS research team, while collaborating with partners at KUHeS, MLW, and the University of Edinburgh.

Under joint academic supervision, each Fellow will undertake one defined research project, contributing to:

- Research design and study implementation
- Field data collection and management
- Quantitative and/or qualitative analysis
- Academic writing and dissemination of findings

Academic mentorship and technical support will be provided by partners at KUHeS, MLW, and the University of Edinburgh.



Malawi Liverpool
Wellcome Research
Programme

Key responsibilities

Research design and field implementation

- Support the design and implementation of an assigned research project related to rabies control, including dog vaccination, rabies surveillance, dog population management (DPM), education programmes, and related animal welfare priorities.
- Participate in field-based qualitative and/or quantitative data collection activities, including facilitating focus group discussions, conducting interviews, and administering questionnaires.
- Ensure research activities are conducted in line with ethical approvals, organisational objectives, and regional priorities.

Data management, analysis and reporting

- Lead day-to-day data collection activities and ensure data completeness and quality.
- Conduct data cleaning and basic analysis using appropriate quantitative and/ or qualitative tools (e.g. Excel, R, NVivo).
- Contribute to research outputs, including internal reports, summaries, and at least one manuscript for submission to a peer-reviewed journal.

Coordination and operational support

- Support coordination with academic and institutional partners, including KUHeS, MLW, and the University of Edinburgh.
- Assist with organising research logistics, including scheduling activities, tracking timelines, maintaining databases, and communicating progress to supervisors and stakeholders.
- Collaborate with other fellows and project team members to support shared learning and joint activities across the fellowship.

Eligibility criteria

- Bachelor's degree for pre-master's position and master's degree for pre-PhD position in public health, epidemiology, veterinary science, social science or a related field.
- Demonstrated experience in operational research, public health interventions, or infectious disease control.



Malawi Liverpool
Wellcome Research
Programme

- Experience with study design and collection of either quantitative and/or qualitative data.
- Understanding of epidemiology, public health, and qualitative data collection methods.
- Intermediate analytical skills with the ability to interpret data, identify trends, and draw meaningful insights using quantitative and/or qualitative approaches, including experience with relevant analytical software (e.g. R, Python, Stata, Excel, NVivo or similar).
- Strong written and verbal communication skills for academic and non-academic reports.
- Ability to work collaboratively within a multi-disciplinary and international research team.
- Passion for improving animal welfare and promoting sustainable rabies prevention and control practices.

Desirable

- Experience working with non-profit organisations, research teams, or government programmes.
- Previous involvement in field surveys, community engagement, or data collection.
- For quantitative study, experience using statistical programming software (e.g. R, Python, Excel).
- For qualitative study, experience using qualitative analysis software (e.g. NVivo).
- Experience using GIS or spatial analysis tools for epidemiological research.
- Knowledge of One Health approaches and cross-sector collaboration frameworks.
- Proficiency in a regional language used within Malawian project areas.

Fellowship duration and support

The fellowship will run for 12 months.

WVS will provide a competitive stipend to cover living expenses in the project location, based on the candidate's level of training (Bachelor's degree for pre-master level, master's degree for pre-PhD level and level of experience).



Malawi Liverpool
Wellcome Research
Programme

Eligible research costs related to the fellowship project will also be supported.

Application process

All applications must include the following documents:

- A cover letter expressing interest in the fellowship and outlining what the applicant would bring to the role.
- A CV including the names and contact details (telephone and email) of three referees familiar with the applicant's professional qualifications and work experience.
- Copies of academic certificates and transcripts.
- A 500-word research proposal addressing a priority gap in rabies prevention and control in Malawi. The proposal should describe:
 - ✓ the problem and its public health relevance
 - ✓ the proposed study objectives
 - ✓ the proposed methods (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed)
 - ✓ expected outputs and policy relevance

Applications should be submitted as a single PDF document in the order listed above.

Submission

Applications should be sent to: maurice@wvs.org.uk and keep training@mlw.mw in the copy on or before **Thursday, 30th April 2026**

Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.