



Call for Aspiring PhD Candidates Interested in Disability Inclusion

Are you passionate about driving change in the field of disability inclusion? Do you want to be part of an international project that enhances the lives of people with disabilities through community-based rehabilitation (CBR), also referred to as Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID)?

CBR integrates rehabilitation into local communities, focusing on empowering individuals with disabilities through health, education, and social inclusion. It promotes the active participation of persons with disabilities, their families, and the community. As one of the most important strategies for disability inclusion, CBR helps reduce stigma and creates equal opportunities for individuals to thrive. It empowers people with disabilities to lead independent, integrated lives within their communities.

We invite ambitious aspiring PhD candidates from **Zambia**, to join a groundbreaking international research initiative on CBR. This collaborative project is part of the **Breaking down Barriers (BdB) 3.0** initiative. It emphasizes cooperation between academic institutions, NGOs, and disability organizations in these countries to produce high-quality research that informs strategic decisions, develops scalable solutions, and strengthens the global knowledge base on CBR.

This PhD research will focus on overcoming challenges in CBR implementation and identifying success factors that can drive more effective, inclusive programs across Sub-Saharan Africa. By contributing to this project, you will help shape policies that promote inclusion, empowerment, and sustainable development for people with disabilities.

Research Focus and Collaboration

Each year, a key topic will be selected that project partners consider essential for advancing CBR. Over the course of the four-year PhD trajectory, a total of four topics will be addressed. While the overall annual topic is predefined, PhD candidates are expected to contextualize the topic in collaboration with a local disability NGO. Close cooperation and ongoing exchange with the NGO is crucial throughout all phases of the research to ensure the work is meaningful and contributes to mutual learning.

You will need to familiarize yourself with the NGO's activities and embed yourself in their work. This PhD position is ideal for candidates who seek to collaborate closely with practitioners and make a direct impact in communities. Additionally, you will be part of an international team of three PhD candidates. Collaboration within this team is essential, and you will be expected to

share insights, research tools, methodologies, literature, and engage in joint analyses with your peers.

What We Offer

- Opportunity to acquire a **double PhD degree** at Radboud University (Netherlands) and [local university in respective country].
- **Payment of tuition fees** for the entire PhD trajectory.
- An **annual stipend** (€1200) to support your work.
- **Coverage of fieldwork costs** related to your research.
- Opportunities for **travel and extended stays** (fully paid) in the Netherlands for research collaboration (two months annually).
- The chance to work alongside **global experts** in disability-inclusive development and community-based rehabilitation.
- A supportive, international academic environment with opportunities for professional growth and global networking.

Who We Are Looking For

We are seeking dedicated and motivated PhD candidates from **Zambia**, who are passionate about disability inclusion and community-based rehabilitation (CBR). Ideal candidates should possess the following qualifications:

- A **Master's degree** in a relevant field (e.g., public health, social sciences, disability studies, rehabilitation, etc.).
- A grade of **8 or higher for their Master's thesis**.
- A **strong academic track record** with a focus on research excellence.
- Previous **research experience**, preferably related to disability, community development, or rehabilitation.
- A demonstrated **interest in disability-inclusive development**.
- **Knowledge and experience in CBR** is highly desirable.
- Extensive experience in **qualitative and mixed methods research**.
- A commitment to **evidence-based practices** that improve the lives of people with disabilities.
- Excellent **communication and collaboration skills** to work in a diverse, international research environment.
- The willingness to **travel and spend two months annually in the Netherlands** for research collaboration and academic development.

Application Requirements

To apply for this exciting opportunity, you will need to submit the following documents:

1. **Motivation Letter:** Explain why you are interested in this project, your passion for disability inclusion, and how your background aligns with the research goals.
2. **Curriculum Vitae (CV):** Provide a detailed CV, including your academic qualifications, research experience, and any relevant work in disability or community development.
3. **Letters of Recommendation:** Submit two letters of recommendation from academic or professional referees who can attest to your qualifications and research potential.

4. **Academic Transcripts:** Include official transcripts from your Master's degree and any other relevant qualifications.
5. **Writing Sample:** Provide a recent piece of academic writing, such as a research paper or thesis, to demonstrate your research and writing skills.
6. **Country analysis:** Write a **2-page paper** analyzing the current state of **disability inclusion and exclusion** in your country. Focus on key challenges, existing policies, and opportunities for progress. Provide two actionable recommendations for improving inclusion, linking your analysis to global frameworks like the **CRPD** and **SDGs**. Ensure your paper reflects a clear understanding of both local and international contexts.

How to Apply

Submit your complete application to [insert submission details].

Deadline for applications: November 8, 2024

For more information and application details, contact chsconnect@gmail.com, thomasmtonga.unza@gmail.com cheshirezambiajobs@yahoo.com, or visit our website at www.cheshirehomessocietyzambia.org.