



Fogarty Global Health Training Program

A Consortium of Harvard University, Boston University, Northwestern University, and University of New Mexico

HBNU FOGARTY GLOBAL HEALTH TRAINING PROGRAM

Spring 2024 Newsletter

About the HBNU Fogarty Global Health Program

The HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program provides mentored research opportunities designed to train and prepare a new cadre of health professionals in the United States (U.S.) and low and middle-income countries (LMICs) for careers in research, health services, and academia. The Program aims to enhance the trainees' ability to independently plan, implement, and assess innovative clinical or operations research addressing major global health challenges. Fellows in the Program spend at least 11 months at one of HBNU's twenty-one collaborating research sites across Africa, Asia, and South America. For more information, please visit the HBNU website.

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER

- About the HBNU Fogarty Fellowship
2023-2024 Cohort Update
2023-2024 Fellow Spotlight
Fogarty Implementation Science Workshop
CUGH 2024
Twinning
Alumni Spotlight
2025-2026 Application Deadline

2023-2024 Cohort Update

Spanning 10 different training sites in 8 countries, the 2023-2024 cohort has demonstrated commendable progress. Fellows have dedicated themselves to diverse year-long research projects covering areas such as HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases (NCDs), mental health, and maternal and child health and nutrition (MCHN). We eagerly anticipate the impactful outcomes of their research and applaud the continued collaboration between fellows and mentors, recognizing the collective commitment to addressing global health challenges.

HBNU 2023-2024 Cohort



Akua Forson, PhD - Ghana



Catherine Atuhaire, MPH, PhD - Uganda



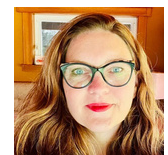
Edwin Kanda, MS, PhD - Kenya



Elizabeth Abe, PhD - Nigeria



Jonathan Gwasupika, MBChB, MSc - Zambia



Erinn Cameron, MA, PhD - South Africa



Felix Bongomin, MBChB, MSc, MMed - Uganda



Leah Ratner, MS, DTM&H - Ghana



Judie Magura, MSc, PhD - South Africa



Megan Latoya Bartrum, MA, MS - Zambia



Nanma Cosmas, MSc, PhD - Nigeria



Ramadhani Chambuso, MD, MPH, MSc, PhD - South Africa



Sabella Kiprono, PhD - Kenya



Tolulope Afolaranmi, MBBS, MSc - Nigeria



Sushmita Sridhar, PhD - Peru



Yewande Babalola, MBBS - Nigeria



Yina Quique Buitrago, MS, PhD - Peru



Aboubacar Alassane Oumar, PharmD, MSc, PhD - Mali

## Felix Bongomin



*Dr. Felix Bongomin standing in front of the sculpture "The Embrace" in Boston Common*

Dr. Felix Bongomin is an internal medicine physician and lecturer at Gulu University, Uganda. He is an HBNU LMIC fellow under the mentorship of Dr. Conrad Muzoora from Mbarara University of Science and Technology, and Dr. David Hamer from Boston University. Dr. Bongomin's project investigates the occurrence of undiagnosed pulmonary aspergillosis in people who die with advanced HIV disease in northern Uganda, with secondary objectives of assessing the competence of healthcare workers to obtain consent for autopsies, the acceptability of autopsies among patients living with HIV and their caregivers, and the willingness of people with HIV to donate their organs. Over the past 9 months, Dr. Bongomin has completed 3 of the 4 specific objectives of his fellowship and submitted 3 manuscripts to peer-reviewed journals, with 2 accepted and 1 under review. In addition, he has published six systematic and narrative reviews on fungal diseases in international journals.

Dr. Bongomin is currently spending 2 months in Boston, hosted at the Department of Global Health, Boston University School of Public Health. Here, he is involved in several activities, including global health seminars, journal clubs, case presentations, and grand rounds across the School of Medicine. He actively engages in one-on-one sessions with Prof. Hamer on topical issues such as writing specific aims for an NIH grant, lectures on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases, and PowerPoint presentation skills. He also had the opportunity to attend conferences at nearby institutions such as Tufts School of Medicine. "As a physician, I enjoyed the balance of clinical and global health sessions at Boston University, which has enhanced my broader perspective of clinical research in the global health context, particularly in infectious diseases," said Dr. Bongomin. And being in Boston during early spring, of course, he must comment on the weather - "Unlike in Uganda where the weather is pretty much the same day in and day out for months, in Boston, the weather changes from great to good, to bad and ugly twice or thrice within the day, and of course, I saw the eclipse."

## Erinn Cameron



*Dr. Erinn Cameron standing in front of a sign at her LMIC research site, Stellenbosch University, in South Africa.*

Dr. Cameron's work primarily rests at the intersection of climate change, mental health, maternal health, and HIV. One of the most salient environmental justice and public health issues for women is access to sufficient clean water. For her Fogarty fellowship, Dr. Cameron is investigating the effects of water insecurity on mental health, health-seeking behaviors, and coping mechanisms of pregnant women living with HIV in the Western Cape, South Africa, which has recently experienced prolonged periods of extreme water insecurity. South Africa also has some of the highest rates of women of childbearing age living with HIV. Dr. Cameron's work is community-engaged and in partnership with local NGOs, government agencies, and faculty and students at Stellenbosch University in South Africa where she receives mentorship from Dr. Ashraf Kagee. Through these partnerships, Dr. Cameron is also working to validate clinical mental health screeners for anxiety, depression, and trauma in English, Xhosa, and Afrikaans. These screeners are being made publicly available, and implementation training is provided. Dr. Cameron is working to address the mental health treatment gap in underserved communities in the Western Cape, South Africa, by training sisters (nurses) in mental health service delivery in township clinics outside Cape Town. Further, she is mentoring psychology graduate students in research methods appropriate for mental health research in South Africa.

Dr. Cameron is passionate about mentorship and regularly holds workshops at her LMIC host institution to help graduate students improve scholarly writing, critical thinking, and research methods skills. She also sits on the boards of the International Council of Psychologists and the APA Division 52-International Psychology, where she advocates for early career psychologists. Since beginning the Fogarty Fellowship, Dr. Cameron has won several awards, including the 2023 Dr. Sally Peterson Research Excellence Award, the Sukemune/Bain Encouragement of Early Career Research Award, and the NIDA Early Career Research Award. Dr. Cameron is also an inaugural member of the APA Division 52 International Environmental Justice Committee, where she is co-editor for an upcoming special edition of *International Perspectives in Psychology* titled "Environmental Justice and Psychology: Alternative Ideas on Environmental Justice." She is also an editor for the upcoming *Cambridge Handbook of Psychology and the Planet*.

# Implementation Science Workshop in Accra, Ghana

The Fogarty LAUNCH Implementation Science Workshop, held at The Ghana College of Physicians and Surgeons in Accra from February 19th to 22nd, 2024, was a dynamic hub for global health collaboration. In September 2023, registration opened for a Massive Online Open Course (MOOC) on Implementation Science tailored for LAUNCH trainees. Facilitated by the WHO/TDR African Regional Training Center, the MOOC comprised a 5-week series of asynchronous lectures and assignments, culminating in a 4-day, in-person workshop. This workshop, sponsored by the Fogarty International Center, aimed to foster the development of potentially fundable implementation projects. The event successfully convened recipients of Fogarty LAUNCH Fellowships, providing a platform for research methodology training, didactic lectures on implementation science, and invaluable networking opportunities with global health researchers. Read more below about the experiences of our four HBNU trainees who engaged in conference sessions, workshop activities, and collaborative discussions, further enriching their understanding of implementation science.



*Pictured Left to Right: Megan Bartrum, Jonathan Gwasupika, Judie Magura, Nanma Cosmas*

## **Nanma Cosmas**

“The workshop started on February 19th with an introduction, recap, and overview of the expectations for the four days. I had a clear outcome in mind for the workshop; and that was to have a well thought out project. From the first day, I was already looking forward to leaving Ghana with something specific to work with. One of the major highlights of the meeting was its practical nature. It took me further into implementation research in real life, with specific practical examples, and then led me through the process of developing my own context specific research proposal. As I engaged with the workshop, I was adding more blocks to the building of my own research proposal.

By the end, I could see a complete building with only the finishing left. A few months ago, I enrolled in a Post-graduate Diploma in Theology programme to be able to do a Masters in Psychology and Biblical Counselling. This was necessary for my current research interest among women with history of sexual abuse. In this PGDT programme, I am expected to put up a research proposal for the Masters programme. Before this workshop, I had been wondering how to intersect my background in medical research with theology to be able to come up with a research topic that is not far from my previous research direction. I wanted a topic in theology that will not be a total digression from my research in HPV, STIs and Genital Microbiome. I am so grateful that I left Ghana not only with a research topic but also with specific modalities to execute the study.”

# Implementation Science Workshop in Accra, Ghana (Cont.)

## Judie Magura

“Visiting Accra Ghana for the Fogarty LAUNCH Implementation Science Workshop was an immersing cultural experience for me, as this was my first time in West Africa. I found the country’s warm hospitality and the widespread use of ginger in its cuisine intriguing. The workshop itself was a small and intimate gathering, fostering an environment of close collaboration and interaction among the fellows. The highlight for me was undoubtedly the “Workshop Workbook” provided, which contained practical examples guiding the drafting of specific aims for project proposals for Implementation Science. This resource was incredibly helpful, providing clear guidance I can use in my work.

The facilitators' energy and eagerness to share their experiences enhanced the workshop's value, making for an engaging and informative environment. Among the tools provided, the “CFIR website” stood out as a particularly useful resource, offering additional support for my implementation science endeavors.

Overall, my experience at the workshop was not only educational but also inspiring, leaving me equipped with practical tools and connections that will significantly influence my work in implementation science. I am truly grateful to Fogarty for this incredible opportunity!”

## Jonathan Gwasupika

“I had been looking forward to meeting with other Fogarty fellows after the NIH orientation back in July 2023. This dream came true between February 19-22, 2024, and this time it was on the home soil of an African country in the sub-Saharan region. It was my first time visiting West Africa and Ghana in particular.

The workshop was a memorable event and I enjoyed meeting other Fogarty fellows in person again. The first four days were intense, learning about the design and outcomes of implementation research. This made me start thinking of a shift in specialty from clinical research to implementation research. The moderators made the materials easy to understand and made the sessions interactive. One of the topics I really liked was how to collect qualitative data in implementation research. The facilitators' energy and eagerness to share their experiences enhanced the workshop's value, making for an engaging and informative environment. The workshop ended with the awarding of certificates, which was very nice. I felt that it was a great achievement to be part of the workshop.

It was also nice to learn that people in Ghana love dancing in different styles, such as salsa. Furthermore, I cannot end my story without mentioning the kizomba dance that I so much enjoyed. Accra, Ghana is also blessed with a beautiful beach at the Atlantic ocean. I owe this experience and the knowledge I acquired to the HBNU program organizers for making it possible for me to be in Accra.”

## Megan Bartrum

“What could be better than 4 intensive days of in-depth implementation science talk? Perhaps if it happened on the beaches of Accra, Ghana. As soon as I arrived in the West African capitol in February, I was glad to have had the opportunity to attend from HBNU. Hosted in partnership with the University of Ghana’s Implementation Science Department, workshop fellows were prepared to work directly with some of the MOOC’s major designers to apply implementation science research to our current Fogarty projects. As I work with children’s neurodevelopment, I was interested in adapting two interventions at once for healthy brain growth. Because of such diverse backgrounds, each day was highly productive with examples from implementers across the globe. I enjoyed seeing how seasoned implementation scientists conceptualize research specifically to bridge the “know-do” gap. Further, working closely with other Fogarty fellows for the workshop allowed us all to understand projects that we had last heard about several months ago. The intimate atmosphere means that I am now more familiar with many of my colleagues’ unique skillsets, achievements, and passions. And it didn’t hurt that we also bonded in our spare time by sniffing out traditional kente cloth with each other!”

## Barnabas Alayande

On Sunday, March 10th at CUGH 2024, HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program was thrilled to be represented by Dr. Barnabas Alayande, HBNU fellowship alum (2022-2023), during the Fogarty LAUNCH program's alumni panel session, "Training the Next Generation of Global Health Researchers: the NIH-Fogarty Global Health Program for Fellows and Scholars."

Alongside other program alumni, Dr. Alayande showcased his research project, "The Rwanda Recent Medical Graduate Safe Surgery Project – Rwanda TRUST," which aimed to define surgical skill gaps of recent medical graduates at Rwandan district hospitals and determine entrustable professional activities for the transition from medical school to district hospital surgical practice in the Rwandan context.

*Pictured on the right: Barnabas Alayande (HBNU alumni 2022-2023) and Lizi Fine (HBNU Program Coordinator) at CUGH 2024*



## Twining

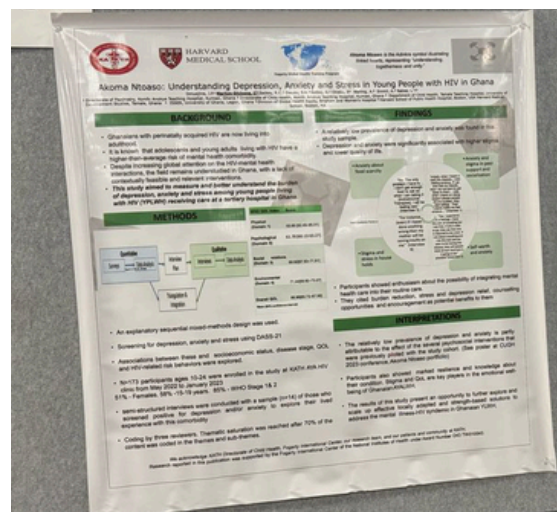
### Leah Ratner (HBNU Fellow 2023-2024) & Shela Sridhar (HBNU Fellow 2021-2022)

Dr. Shela Sridhar and Dr. Leah Ratner have collaborated extensively as Fogarty Fellows and colleagues at the Division of Global Health Equity at BWH/Harvard, on advancing the discourse and implementation of decolonized praxis, particularly within the realm of global health education. Their joint efforts have been driven by a shared commitment to challenging existing paradigms and fostering critical thinking in this field.

Together, they are deeply committed to contributing to both the dialogue as well as accountable actions surrounding decolonization in global health education with authenticity and humility. They have strived to incorporate this praxis into their Fogarty funded work but also recognize that their work is just one piece of a larger puzzle. As US trained and funded physicians, they recognize their positionality and responsibility to speak up against institutional pressures that drive colonized practice. They remain both grateful for the opportunity to contribute to this important conversation.

### Leah Ratner (HBNU Fellow 2023-2024) & Charles Martyn-Dickens (NPGH Fellow 2023-2024)

Dr. Charles Martyn-Dickens (NPGH) and Dr. Leah Ratner (HBNU), along with several other teammates at Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Ghana, have collaborated on a meaningful portfolio of work aimed at supporting integrated mental health care for adolescents and young people living with HIV. Their initiative, named "Akoma Ntoaso," draws inspiration from Adinkra Symbols, reflecting the richness of Ashanti culture and community. The name "Akoma Ntoaso" translates to "joining of hearts," symbolizing unity and shared community values. Through their collective efforts, they aspire to amplify the spirit of togetherness and support within their work, fostering a sense of belonging and solidarity among those they aim to serve.



*A photo of Dr. Martyn-Dickens' and Dr. Ratner's poster presentation at CUGH 2024*

## Sarah Nuss

Sarah Nuss, a fourth-year medical student at Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University, served as an HBNU Fogarty Fellow from 2022-2023. During her fellowship year, Sarah led a study to evaluate pediatric surgical capacity and readiness to implement surgical capacity-building interventions in district hospitals across rural Rwanda. Collaborating closely with mentors at Partners in Health (PIH)/Inshuti Mu Buzima, Sarah's research aimed not only to better understand pediatric surgical capacity within PIH-supported hospitals but also to provide a replicable model for future studies seeking to build capacity for pediatric surgical care in similar contexts.

The study adapted and validated the Children's Surgical Assessment Tool (CSAT), a research tool to evaluate hospital infrastructure, workforce, service delivery, financing, and training capacity, for district hospitals in Rwanda. The creation of this context-specific tool represents a significant step forward in assessing and expanding access to essential pediatric surgical services at the local level. The findings of this study identified key workforce and infrastructure gaps in pediatric surgical care capacity at district hospitals in Rwanda. This work underscores the need for targeted interventions aimed at addressing both facility and organizational barriers to expanding surgical services in low- and middle-income countries.

Sarah's research has led to the publication of two research papers as well as oral presentations at conferences such as the Colleges of Surgeon of East, Central, and Southern Africa (COSECSA) and the American College of Surgery Conference.



*Sarah Nuss (HBNU Fellow 2022-2023)*

## Olanrewaju Oladimeji

Dr. Olanrewaju Oladimeji is a Professor of Epidemiology and Implementation Science, and head of doctoral programs in the Department of Public Health, School of Health Care Sciences, Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University. He has been recognized with prestigious South African Merit Research Council (SAMRC) Merit Bronze Award for his outstanding contributions to health research. This award highlights his innovative work addressing public health challenges, potentially impacting policy and improving the well-being of the South African population. He is a National Research Foundation Y1-rated researcher and a member of the South African Young Academy of Science. He is a Principal Investigator of the "AKITH-Study" funded by the SAMRC Research Capacity Development Initiative.

He is one of the Principal Investigators of the Khulani Siphile-Siphuhle Training Program (KiSS-TP), a National Institute of Health Fogarty HIV Research Training Program that provides intensive, mentored PhD training to academic staff working on HIV, TB, and mental health research. He is a faculty mentor for the NHI-funded Sustained Academic Research and Training Program (SACERT), where he supervises doctoral-level scholars. Moreover, he is a Guest Editor for special collections on Health Disparities in Scientific Reports and an Editorial Advisor to F1000 Gateway Global Public Health. He serves on the editorial board of Nature Scientific Reports, PLOS One, BMC and Pan Africa Medical Journals.



*Dr. Oladimeji holding the SAMRC Bronze Award*



# Fogarty Global Health Training Program

Harvard University  
Boston University

Northwestern University  
University of New Mexico



**HARVARD T.H. CHAN**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



School of Public Health



## Key Information

- Fellowship opportunities are available at 21 sites in 14 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America.
- The fellowship includes research funding and a stipend, depending on the type of award.
- Appointments begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025.
- The fellowship starts with a week-long orientation on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

## Eligible Applicants

- **U.S. Pre-Doctoral candidates** currently enrolled in doctoral programs in medicine, biomedical sciences, public health, engineering, nutrition, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, etc.
- **U.S. or LMIC Post-Doctoral candidates** with an advanced doctoral degree in medicine, biomedical sciences, public health, nutrition, pharmacy, dentistry, nursing, etc.
  - LMIC fellows will have the opportunity to spend up to 3-months at their HBNU-affiliated US institution as part of their fellowship.
  - *Note:* LMIC candidates must be citizens of one of HBNU's collaborating LMICs.
  - **U.S. Post-Doctoral candidates** completing residency or a clinical fellowship program are also eligible to apply.

# HBNU Fogarty Global Health Training Program

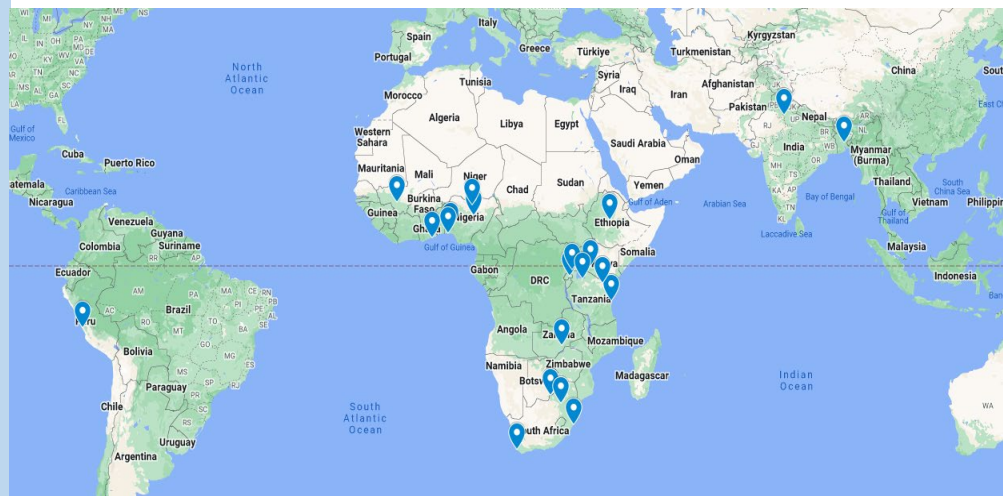
## 2025-2026 Fellowship Year

The Fogarty Global Health Training Program provides one-year mentored research fellowship opportunities in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) for pre- and post-doctoral candidates from the U.S. and LMICs. This program is sponsored by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) and several collaborating Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The program supports research in areas of interest, including: HIV/AIDS, non-communicable diseases, mental health, maternal and child health and nutrition, and more.

**The application deadline for the 2025-2026 fellowship year is October 1, 2024.**

Apply online at <https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/global-health-research-partnership/apply/>



## Contact Information:

Lizi Fine, Training Programs Coordinator:  
[efine@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:efine@hsph.harvard.edu)  
Petra Huang, Program Assistant:  
[pshuang@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:pshuang@hsph.harvard.edu)

Harvard University PI: Wafae Fawzi  
[\(mina@hsph.harvard.edu\)](mailto:mina@hsph.harvard.edu)

Boston University PI: David Hamer  
[\(dhamer@bu.edu\)](mailto:dhamer@bu.edu)

Northwestern University PI: Claudia Hawkins  
[\(c-hawkins@northwestern.edu\)](mailto:c-hawkins@northwestern.edu)

University of New Mexico PI: DJ Perkins  
[DPerkins@salud.unm.edu](mailto:DPerkins@salud.unm.edu)

For more information, please visit our website:

<https://sites.sph.harvard.edu/global-health-research-partnership/>





# Fogarty Global Health Training Program

Harvard University  
Boston University

Northwestern University  
University of New Mexico



**HARVARD T.H. CHAN**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH



School of Public Health



Northwestern  
Medicine



HEALTH  
SCIENCES

## 2025-2026 APPLICATION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 1, 2024

The Fogarty Global Health Training Program provides one-year mentored research fellowship opportunities in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) for pre- and post-doctoral candidates from the U.S. and LMICs. This program is sponsored by the Fogarty International Center (FIC) and several collaborating Institutes and Centers at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

*Apply online at*

<https://www.hsph.harvard.edu/global-health-research-partnership/apply/>

**JOIN THE INFO SESSION  
WEBINAR ON MONDAY,  
JUNE 3, 2024  
@ 10:00-11:00AM EST**

### **Info Session Registration Link:**

<https://hsph.me/2025-2026-HBNU-Webinar>

### **Contact Information:**

Lizi Fine, Training Programs Coordinator:

[efine@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:efine@hsph.harvard.edu)

Petra Huang, Program Assistant:

[pshuang@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:pshuang@hsph.harvard.edu)

### **Key Information**

- Fellowship opportunities available at 21 sites in 14 countries in Africa, Asia, and South America.
- Includes research funding and stipend, depending on the type of award.
- Appointments begin July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.
- Week-long orientation on the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland in July 2024

### **Eligible Applicants**

- **U.S. Pre-Doctoral candidates** currently enrolled in doctoral programs in medicine, biomedical sciences, public health, engineering, nutrition, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, etc.
- **U.S. or LMIC Post-Doctoral candidates** with an advanced doctoral degree in medicine, biomedical sciences, public health, engineering, nutrition, pharmacy, dentistry, veterinary medicine, nursing, etc.
  - LMIC fellows will have the opportunity to spend up to 3-months at their HBNU-affiliated US institution as part of their fellowship.
  - *Note:* LMIC candidates must be citizens of one of HBNU's collaborating LMICs.
  - **U.S. Post-Doctoral candidates** completing residency or a clinical fellowship program are also eligible to apply.