

**PROPOSAL TO EXTEND AN EXISTING DEGREE TO
ANOTHER CAMPUS (PHYSICAL OR GLOBAL)**

Proposals will only be accepted electronically as a Word document to the Office of the Provost when submitted to provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu

Degree Title:	PhD Degree in Biomedical Sciences
Academic Program:	Biomedical Sciences
Academic Plan:	Immunology and Infectious Diseases; Integrative Physiology; Clinical and Translational Sciences
Number of Credits:	72
Department(s) or Program(s):	Paul G Allen School for Global Health, Veterinary Microbiology and Pathology, School of Molecular Biosciences, Integrated Physiology and Neurology
College(s):	Veterinary Medicine
Campus(es):	Pullman – extended to University of Nairobi
Method of Instructional Delivery:	Combination; in-person, personal mentoring, virtual

Contact Name:	Tom Kawula	Email Address:	Tom.Kawula@WSU.edu
Contact Phone:	509-335-1301	*Proposed start date:	09-01-2024

****Proposed Start Date: Advertising of proposed degree cannot commence until approved by Washington State University and added to the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (NWCCU) degree catalogue.
Approval notification will be sent by the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President.***

Proposal

Mission and Strategic Goals:

Provide a clear statement of the nature and purposes of the degree extension to a different campus in the context of WSU’s mission and strategic plan.

This proposal is to extend the PhD in Biomedical Sciences to the newly approved educational location, University of Nairobi (UofN), which offers a similar PhD program. This extension will allow a joint doctoral degree from UofN and WSU as described below. A primary goal of this proposed program is to establish a new research training structure for doctoral students in low-resource countries that does not require the students to relocate to the US. With this format, excellent student candidates that lack the capability to move to the US can receive the world-class research training provided by WSU faculty. This program is also intended to mitigate “brain drain,” where international students who attend US universities ultimately immigrate to the US, which actively defeats the goal of improving the education and technical workforce skills in low resource countries. It is also noteworthy that the goals and format of this joint degree program enhances and expands the impact of our faculty in training the next generation of biomedical scientists while likewise advancing the land grant mission of Washington State University.

Currently, there are 5 full-time WSU faculty that are based in Kenya and who are actively engaged in global health research. Through this proposed extension of the PhD that allows the joint program, post-graduate students whose dissertation research is supervised jointly by WSU and UofN faculty will have the opportunity to be awarded a joint post-graduate degree from both institutions. The awarding of the PhD from WSU through the joint degree program will provide official recognition that the student received training by WSU faculty and completed the requirements of the WSU PhD in Biomedical Sciences with the rigor and scholarship expectations associated with our institution. The joint degree also provides official recognition for our institution as an innovative global university and for our faculty who are involved in the training of masters and doctoral students at internationally based institutions.

Educational Offerings:

Describe the degree program, including the total number of credits required. Provide the four-year degree plan (undergraduate) or appropriate plan of study (graduate and professional).

WSU students enrolled in the Biomedical Sciences doctoral programs advance to PhD candidacy following the approval and public defense of their research plan, which is developed in consultation with their dissertation committee. Consideration of doctoral students enrolled at the UofN for WSU joint degree eligibility will be initiated by one or more WSU full-time faculty who are actively engaged in the development and supervision of the doctoral student's dissertation research—and only after the research proposal has been presented, defended, and accepted by the dissertation committee and host institution using the same process and criteria as the WSU Biomedical Sciences program. Thus, the research plan presentation, defense, and acceptance processes for the students pursuing their PhD program at UofN are functionally identical to those in the WSU Biomedical Sciences PhD program.

Criteria for official WSU affiliation. Eligibility requirements to be considered for a joint PhD degree from WSU:

- a. The student is enrolled in a post-graduate degree program at University of Nairobi.
- b. At least one WSU full-time member of the Biomedical Sciences training faculty serves on the student's dissertation committee. The other two required committee members will be adjunct faculty with WSU. Thus, all committee members will be on the WSU Faculty of the Graduate School.
- c. The WSU faculty member provides significant mentorship and engagement in the student's research project as evidenced by co-authored publication(s) in peer-reviewed journals.
- d. The student participates in WSU CVM faculty-led training on responsible conduct of research and biomedical experimentation. This training will be attained through auditing existing BIOMDSCI 564 special topics modules covering Responsible Conduct of Research and Experimental Design or through WSU faculty-led workshops covering the same material conducted in-country.
- e. The student meets scholarship requirements for graduation from the WSU Biomedical Graduate Program. Specifically, to earn the PhD degree, the student's dissertation will include a minimum of two lead author manuscripts published (or accepted) in peer-reviewed journals and will have successfully defended their dissertation. Confirmation that these requirements have been met will be determined by the WSU Biomedical Sciences Program Director as well as through earning a Satisfactory grade in a minimum of 20 BIOMDSCI 800 research credit hours under the direction of the in-country WSU faculty member.

Provide descriptive information regarding (the) method(s) of instructional delivery (percent face-to-face, hybrid, distance, and/or competency-based).

The curriculum and scholarly productivity expectations are essentially identical to the current approved Biomedical Sciences doctoral program. The joint degree program will be offered continuously for UofN PhD candidates who are conducting dissertation research in-country that is supervised by WSU faculty. Curriculum. The proposed joint degree will be primarily based on the research and scholarship activities associated with the Biomedical Sciences doctoral program. The goal is not to specifically replicate the entirety of the WSU Biomedical Sciences PhD curriculum, as would be the case for a dual degree. That is, PhD students enrolled in the UofN will not be expected to recapitulate the WSU Biomedical Sciences course requirements apart from the two core courses specified in the proposal (i.e., BIOMDSCI 563 - Responsible Conduct of Research and BIOMDSCI 564 - Experimental Design) as well as enrollment and completion of 20 BIOMDSCI 800 research credit hours. Specifically, the students studying at UofN will not be required to enroll in or audit other content-oriented courses. Research and coursework credits obtained from the UofN totaling at least 72 credits will be transferred to WSU upon review of the rigor and appropriateness to apply toward the PhD in Biomedical Sciences by the WSU Biomedical Sciences Program Director.

Assessment of Student Learning and Student Achievement*

**For graduate programs, please contact the Graduate School before completing this section.*

For undergraduate programs, provide the department's current plan for assessing student learning outcomes and describe how it will be successfully applied at the new location.

N/A – this is a doctoral program.

Planning:

Describe plans and include descriptions which provide evidence of:

1. The need for the degree to be extended:

The Allen School co-administers with the UofN an NIH Fogarty Center funded training grant. The objective of this program, which started in 2019, is to develop zoonotic infectious disease research skills for a cohort of African medical and veterinary physicians enrolled in a UofN doctoral program. Following a competitive process 9 trainees—5 MD and 4 DVM—were selected from over 300 applicants. Each trainee works with a dissertation committee comprised of both UofN and WSU Allen School faculty. The 9 trainees have each advanced to PhD candidate status at UofN. Given the concrete engagement of WSU faculty with each of these students and their official PhD candidate status, each student would have the opportunity to be considered for the joint degree. If accepted, each student would still need to audit the Responsible Conduct of Research and Biomedical Experimental Design courses, transfer UofN coursework to fulfill additional WSU requirements for the PhD, and co-author (with WSU faculty) at least 2 peer-reviewed journal articles to be included in their successfully defended dissertation as described in (e) above. Collectively to date, the current student cohort from the training grant has published 12 peer-reviewed manuscripts with 5 different WSU faculty co-authors, and each paper includes 1 to 3 WSU faculty co-authors. Although the joint PhD degree program would not be limited to D43 supported trainees, the robust application numbers for the training program provide a concrete reflection of the student demand for this proposed program.

Over the past 6 years, WSU Allen School faculty based in Kenya have supervised 24 PhD students who were enrolled in Kenyan or Tanzanian Universities. Given the growth in the number of WSU faculty based in Kenya, the growth in funding associated with our faculty, and the award of the D43 training grant, it is reasonable to estimate an average of 3 new doctoral students per year. Based on a 5-year time to completion average, there could be 15 students total in the program in any given year. |

2. The student population to be served

- Provide realistic justification for the projected FTE.
- How can transfer students articulate smoothly into the program and complete it with approximately the same number of total credits as students who enter WSU as freshmen?
- Please describe specific efforts planned to recruit and retain underrepresented students in this discipline.

FTE Justification: There is no impact on WSU faculty or staff FTE. Each eligible student is or will be supported on research or training grants and contracts. The research conducted as part of this training program directly benefits and enriches current WSU faculty. In truth, failure to recognize the ongoing participation of our faculty in the education and training of these students incurs a cost to both faculty and institution recognition. This proposed degree extension will rectify this oversight **because following enrollment at WSU their scholarly activities will be formally tracked and attributed to WSU as well as UofN.**

Transfer Students: N/A

Underrepresented Students. The UofN students that engage in this program are underrepresented in research science based on race, ethnicity, income, and nationality. It is noteworthy that none of the current or past trainees affiliated with our Kenya-based WSU faculty had the resources to relocate and engage in a doctoral degree program in the US. Additionally, the majority of these students had (or have) concrete family obligations and expectations that make travel outside of Kenya impractical if not impossible. For example, each of the 9 D43 trainees (5 female, 4 male) are parents of young children and have financial obligations to their extended families as well. None of these trainees would be able to leave Nairobi for the time necessary to engage in international scientific research training. |

3. Procedures used in arriving at the decision to extend the degree (e.g., consultation with advisory boards, input from industry or employers, commissioned studies, faculty task force, etc.).

This decision was reached through consultation with UofN faculty and leadership as well as ongoing engagement through the D43 and Animal Health Innovation Lab trainers and trainees. The decision was also supported through lobbying from UofN students working with WSU faculty as well as from the WSU faculty engaged in training these students. WSU recognition through this joint degree will provide significant employment advantage of the graduates from the program in an economy that is predominantly based on casual (non-contract) employment. Vice Chancellor Kiama (our version of System President) has signed an MOU codifying UofN commitment to the program. Likewise, the proposed program has been approved by the UofN Faculty Senate. This joint PhD program leading to degrees from UofN and WSU would be the first in the Kenya nation that does not require Kenyan citizens to move out of the country to engage in training with a western institution. |

4. Organizational arrangements required within the institution to accommodate the degree extension.

No changes in organizational structure or staff workload are required. Transfer and monitoring of credits as well as review of candidates' credentials by the graduate program director is an insignificant time and effort impact. The major time investment is in research training and oversight as well as participation on doctoral thesis committees all of which is already taking place.

5. Lay out a three-year timetable for implementation, including hiring plans, partnership contracts if needed, facilities modification, recruiting, and other elements of implementation. Provide dates for each step.

The only thing needed for implementation of the joint PhD program is permission to proceed. MOUs (attached) exist between the two institutions and, as noted above, the program has been approved by the University of Nairobi Faculty Senate. In addition, the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities has already approved our request to establish an educational location in Nairobi, allowing WSU to offer degrees at UofN. Existing students are eager to be considered for this joint degree. Given these students' progress in their current doctoral program, September 2024 would be the optimal launch date.

Budget:

Attach the Financial Worksheet with five-year FTE, revenue and expenditure projections. Fully account for costs such as staff support, training, library, facilities and so on.

Please describe the funding picture narratively, including funding sources, department, college and/or campus commitments, investments already made, one-time costs, facilities costs (labs, classrooms, offices, telecom etc.) and library costs.

The majority of costs associated with extending this program are the resources needed to support graduate student stipends and research expenses. Costs associated with administering the joint degree program are negligible. These expenses are 100 percent covered by externally funded research grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements. Salaries of the involved faculty are likewise supported by the same grants and contracts, and their time and effort in leading and supervising the research programs is covered by these funding sources. The physical resources are likewise provided by either the UofN, or through contractual arrangements that are supported by external funds.

Student Services:

Describe the capacity of student support services to accommodate the degree extension at this location. Include a description of admissions, financial aid, advising, library, tutoring, and other services specific to this request.

The student support services are in place and managed by UofN. These services were evaluated by NWCCU as a part of their decision-making process in approving the UofN as an additional educational location at which WSU degrees could be extended.

Describe the implications of the degree extension for services to the rest of the student body.

There is no discernable negative impact on any current or future WSU students. There are no negative impacts on availability of resources, nor on reallocation of resources. The student body will be greatly enriched through potential engagement and the possibility of extended opportunities for participating in international research and education opportunities.

Physical Facilities and Equipment:

Outline the provision/s made for physical facilities and equipment at the proposed location that will support the program and its projected growth. Include videoconferencing and other technologies that support course delivery as well as classrooms, labs, and office space.

As noted above, NWCCU evaluated the physical facilities and equipment as part of their decision-making process in approving the UofN as an additional educational location at which WSU degrees could be extended.

Library and Information Resources:

Using the Library Analysis form, describe the availability and adequacy of library and information resources for this degree, degree level, and location. Note plans to address gaps.

As noted above, NWCCU evaluated the adequacy of information resources as part of their decision to approve the UofN as an additional educational location. Additionally, our faculty have full access to current library and information services at WSU.

Faculty:

- List the educational and professional qualifications of the faculty relative to their individual teaching assignments.
- List the anticipated sources or plans to secure qualified faculty and staff.

All faculty involved in this program are, or will be, members of the Biomedical Sciences graduate training program either as full time WSU faculty, or as vetted adjunct faculty with full approval and appointment by the WSU Graduate School. **WSU faculty involved with this program will meet the standards and criteria for serving on PhD advisory committees per WSU Graduate School, Faculty Senate, and Biomedical Sciences policies and bylaws. Specifically, career track faculty will be approved as Associate Graduate Faculty on the list of Faculty of the Graduate School. They will not serve as committee chairs unless they are formally granted a policy exception.**

Impact on Other Locations/Programs:

Briefly describe any impacts on other WSU programs and locations, and how you came to these conclusions (who was consulted?). If there are potential adverse impacts, describe how these will be addressed. Consider such things as: reallocation of faculty time, reallocation of AOI courses, impact of blended courses, internal competition, “cannibalization” of other programs, curricular effects for other degrees, effects on recruitment markets for other campuses. Indicate how such problems will be addressed for each campus or department affected.

There is no internal competition, repetition, nor any other adverse impacts on existing WSU programs. We have consulted with the CAHNRS Dean, the CAS Associate Dean for Research, and the Health Sciences Executive Vice-Chancellor, to name a few. All are uniformly enthusiastic about the program and its implications on WSU taking a leadership role in reshaping US university engagement in international research and training in low-resource countries.

Sustainability

What are the plans for continuing the program past 5 years if the goals for enrollment are not met, or other circumstances prevent the execution of the plan described here?

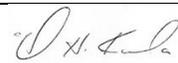
In addition to the two funded training programs there are ample grants and contracts to sustain this program through at least 5 years. The program itself is dependent on ongoing research funding. The number of students involved will always correlate with in-country research funding levels, which is no different than our current domestic program. **Three of the 5 WSU faculty currently working in Kenya have state-supported salaries like all of our tenure track faculty. If these positions are vacated they will be replaced with new faculty that will live and work in Kenya. If there is a sudden loss of faculty or support, any current students will be supported by existing Pullman-based Allen School faculty to ensure student success and program completion.**

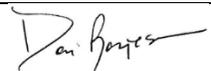
Attachments:

- Financial Worksheet
- Four-Year Degree Plan (undergraduate); curriculum overview (graduate and professional)
- Letters of financial commitment
- Contracts or MOUs if applicable

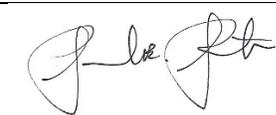
Submit completed form as a Word document to the Provost's Office at provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu

SIGNATURES: The names typed below certify that the relevant academic and campus officials have reviewed and approved this proposal:

Chair or Director Signature:		Date:	May 17, 2024
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Dean Signature:		Date:	May 16, 2024
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Signatures are required from the Chancellor(s) if the degree will be offered and/or impact the respective campus:

Everett Chancellor Signature:		Date:	May 16, 2024
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Global Chancellor Signature:	<i>Dave Cillay</i>	Date:	May 17, 2024
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Spokane Chancellor Signature:		Date:	<i>May 17, 2024</i>
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Tri-Cities Chancellor Signature:	<i>Kathleen Mc Ghee</i>	Date:	May 16 th 2024
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Vancouver Chancellor Signature:		Date	5/16/2024
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Comments regarding abstention of signature(s)

Submit completed form as a Word document to the Provost's Office at provost.deg.changes@wsu.edu

For Registrar's Office Use Only:					
Current CIP Code:		New CIP Code:		Date:	