THE CARTER CENTER

Trachoma Control Program | Graduate Assistantships

The Carter Center's Trachoma Control Program seeks a qualified graduate student for the 2025-2026 session. The graduate assistant will support the program with a wide range of projects related to program research, research development, and implementation. Specifically, the GA may support programmatic studies that commenced in 2024 or will commence in 2025 in Niger, Ethiopia, and South Sudan, which all have different trachoma endemicity. In addition to research-related tasks, the GA may contribute to country-specific program support, database maintenance, and production of documents for publication. The student will be supervised by the senior associate director-research and the program epidemiologist and will receive functional project guidance from the program epidemiologist, associate directors, data analyst, and research coordinator.

The following tasks, deliverables, and benchmarks are based on the current activity plans and timelines related to the existing studies to which the GA would contribute. Additional tasks and deliverables may be adapted or added if the studies within these three countries or program needs change.

Analytical data tasks:

- Assist with cleaning data from program studies and impact surveys and create output figures for analysis.
- Respond to data needs of TCP staff, including but not limited to building datasets, performing descriptive and statistical analysis, and supporting production of manuscripts for submission to peer-reviewed journals.
- Data entry and analysis of qualitative data and analysis of data from prevalence surveys and/or randomized feasibility trial.

Research development/program planning tasks:

- Conduct programmatic research on Carter Center-assisted countries for possible program developments and in-country protocol setup.
- Review study protocols and create maps with ArcGIS or R for publications and presentations.
- Assist with documenting and updating standard operating procedures for managing and analyzing program data.
- Assist with refining data management approaches, including but not limited to database structure and data storage, standard operating procedures for saving and updating the database, and data flow optimization.
- Assist in the development of monitoring and evaluation protocols.

Deliverables:

In collaboration with team members, the graduate assistant will assist with the development of:

- Full analytic datasets from planned programmatic studies.
- A report detailing the primary findings planned programmatic studies.

Benchmarks:

- End of first semester: have developed background scientific knowledge, constructed relevant analytic datasets, and have detailed analytic plans
- End of second semester: a report detailing primary findings of above studies, including the support of presentations to be presented at the annual program review meeting

Minimum Qualifications:

- Currently studying in an accredited graduate-level program and completed at least two semesters of academic coursework
- Knowledge of statistical analysis and use of statistical analysis software
- Familiarity with mHealth applications (Open Data Kit particularly)
- Previous experience or planned coursework involving mapping software such as ArcGIS or R
- Previous experience or planned coursework involving Stata, R, or SAS
- Capacity to comprehend design of studies and surveys as a conceptual basis for resulting database structures

Preferred Qualifications:

- Experience in resource-limited or low-income international settings and/or with global health projects
- Previous experience or displayed interest in informatics for public health applications
- Interest in Python scripting for ArcGIS
- Familiarity with database systems/SQL

Target Population Served:

By supporting work in the Carter Center's Atlanta office, students are ultimately supporting public health initiatives in three countries where The Carter Center supports the Ministries of Health in the fight against trachoma: Ethiopia, Niger, and South Sudan.

Public Health Challenges/Issues Addressed:

The control and prevention of trachoma, using data to inform program planning and implementation.