How PhD graduands intend

A total of 213 students are graduating with PhDs at Makerere University's 76th graduation ceremony, which began on Tuesday and concludes today, February 27, at the institution's Freedom Square. They form part of the 9,295 students graduating across various disciplines at Uganda's premier university. **Sylvia Katushabe and Jane Nafula** bring profiles of selected PhD graduates from the College of Health Sciences.



PEACE BAGASHA

Topic: Quality of life among patients with kidney failure: A mixed methods prospective analysis exploring dynamic, 12-month survival and associated factors

Ms Bagasha conducted a mixed methods cohort study examining 12-month quality of life (QoL) and survival among 364 Ugandan adults with kidney failure. Qualitative findings highlighted the heavy symptom burden, mental health challenges, financial strain, declining social support, reliance on faith, and limited resources.



CAROLINE BIRUNGI

Topic: Risky sexual behaviour among individuals with severe mental illness in Uganda: prevalence, correlates, perceptions, and effectiveness of a risky sexual behaviour reduction intervention.

Qualitative insights from Ms Birungi's study revealed structural and institutional barriers, including stigma, insufficient safeguarding, and poor integration of sexual and reproductive health services within mental healthcare.



JOSEPHINE CHISON EZ. ENWAKA

Topic: Genetic determinants of type-2 diabetes mellitus in individuals of African ancestry. Using large genomic datasets, she identified four significant genetic loci linked to the disease and highlighted ancestry-specific risk patterns. Her findings advance precision medicine approaches for diabetes management in African populations.



HARUNA MUHMOOD KIRYOWA

Topic: Prevalence of periodontal disease in patients with diabetes mellitus attending Kiruddu National Referral Hospital: prevalence, risk factors, association with glycemic control and insulin resistance

Mr Kiryowa examined gum diseases among diabetic patients. He found high prevalence associated with poor glycaemic control, insulin resistance, and low formal education levels. Gum treatment improved diabetic status. He recommends further studies on oral health interventions to enhance diabetes management.



JOY LOUISE GUMIKIRIZA

Topic: Cultural adaptation and evaluation of WHO support intervention for reduction of psychological distress among caregivers of older persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias in Uganda

Gumikiriza evaluated the adaptation of the WHO Support intervention to reduce psychological distress among caregivers of older persons with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD). Her research showed reductions in caregiver distress and depression and improvements in quality of life, highlighting the effectiveness of culturally sensitive psychosocial interventions. This work provides a scalable model for dementia caregiving in low-resource settings and contributes to global mental health and implementation science.



JEAN DIEU IRAGENA

Topic: **Roll-out and scale-up of WHO-endorsed technologies for tuberculosis diagnosis in Africa: opportunities, strengths, and challenges.**

Mr Iragena assessed the rollout of WHO-endorsed tuberculosis diagnostic technologies in Africa. Findings revealed slow adoption, with median adoption times ranging from 2.5 to 9 years. Key enabling factors included funding availability and political commitment, while barriers included limited laboratory preparedness, inadequate staff training, and policy constraints. His work led to the development of the Guide for Rapid Uptake and Rollout of TB Diagnostics in Africa.

HERBERT KIYIGA

Topic: Effectiveness, acceptability, and uptake of early versus standard intrauterine contraception following provision of first-trimester medical post-abortion care in Central Uganda

Mr Kiyiga studied early versus standard intrauterine contraception after first-trimester post-abortion care in Central Uganda. With fertility returning within two weeks and many women failing to return for contraception, his research highlights missed opportunities that expose women to unintended pregnancies.



CHRISTOPHER KINTU

Topic: The predictive utility of polygenic risk scores for chronic kidney disease in Africans

Mr Kintu investigated the applicability of polygenic risk scores (PRS) for chronic kidney disease (CKD) in African populations, addressing the underrepresentation of Africans in genetic studies. He found that European-derived PRS performed poorly among Africans and developed ancestry-specific scores for improved predictive accuracy. His work also explored causal effects of lipid traits on kidney function, identifying significant links between low-density lipoproteins and estimated glomerular filtration rate and revealed interactions between immune-related genes and kidney disease risk.



HARRIET KISEMBO

Topic: Effects of continuous professional development and clinical imaging guidelines on appropriateness of computed tomography examinations among young patients in Uganda

Ms Kisembo evaluated CT referral practices and found many scans were requested without proper clinical justification. While training improved awareness of imaging guidelines, unnecessary scans persisted.

Her study underscores the need for combined educational and systemic support to improve decision-making, patient safety, and health system efficiency in low-resource settings.



OLIVIA KITUUKA

Topic: Informed consent process for emergency surgery at public and private teaching hospitals in urban Uganda

Ms Kituuka assessed informed consent processes in emergency surgery and found inadequate disclosure of risks, alternative options, and poor understanding among patients and next of kin. She recommends public education, national policies, and institutional guidelines to strengthen informed consent practices in urgent care settings



to impact Uganda's health sector

ALI KUDAMBA

Topic: Anti-cancer activity and safety of Rhoicissus Tridentata (L.F.) wild & R.B. drumm. as used in the treatment of prostate cancer in Elgon sub-region, Uganda.

Mr Kudamba investigated the traditional use of Rhoicissus tridentata for prostate cancer. His work documented its phytochemical composition, safety, and anticancer activity, providing evidence to support future therapeutic development and integration of traditional remedies into cancer care strategies.



ARTHUR KWIZERA

Topic: Acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure in Uganda

Kwizera studied acute hypoxaemic respiratory failure and acute respiratory distress syndrome across 17 hospitals. He demonstrated that high-flow nasal cannula oxygen therapy improves survival and can be safely administered by general health workers outside intensive care units.



KAMADA LUWERE

Topic: Gut microbiome composition, immune response and genetic predisposition to Alzheimer's disease and related dementia

Mr Luwere investigated drivers of Alzheimer's disease in Ugandans over 50, linking reduced gut microbial diversity, inflammation, and APOE 4 genetic variants to disease risk. His study supports a multifactorial model connecting dysbiosis, immunity, and host genetics in dementia pathogenesis.



MARIAM NAMUTEBI

Ms Namutebi assessed postpartum care in greater Mpigi, finding low facility readiness and high rates of postpartum haemorrhage among affected mothers.



GRACE NABAKOOZA

Ms Nabakooza modelled influenza transmission in Africa using whole-genome sequencing data from Uganda, stronger monitoring, clear alignment of institutional objectives and sustained investment in ICT



MERCY MUWEMA

Topic: Assessment of the quality of perinatal care and development of an improved model to reduce perinatal deaths in Bunyoro sub-region

Ms Muwema identified staffing shortages, inadequate equipment, and non-compliance with WHO standards. She developed a context-specific model to improve care quality, recommending interventions in financing, staffing, infrastructure, and process improvement.



PHOTOS/GEOFREY MUTUMBA

UGANDA COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

COLLABORATING PARTNER FOR A STUDY ON THE IMPACT OF DIGITAL OVER THE TOP SERVICES ON TRADITIONAL MEDIA AND SECTOR SUSTAINABILITY IN UGANDA

The Uganda Communications Commission UCC established under the Uganda Communications Act 2013 is mandated to regulate and promote the development of communications services in Uganda in a manner that ensures accessibility affordability efficiency fair competition and long-term sector sustainability.

In line with this mandate UCC intends to undertake a comprehensive study on the impact of Digital Over the Top (OTT) services on traditional media and the sustainability of the communications sector in Uganda. The study will generate independent and evidence-based insights on how OTT services including streaming platforms, social media, online video services, podcasts and digital news platforms are reshaping media consumption business models competition and regulatory dynamics. The findings of the study will inform proportionate and forward looking regulatory and policy interventions consistent with national development frameworks including the Digital Transformation Roadmap, the Digital Uganda Vision, the National Development Plan IV and Uganda Vision 2040.

It is against this background that UCC invites applications from competent and experienced Academicians, Research teams, Faculties, Schools or Consortia of academic and research institutions hereinafter referred to as the Collaborating Partner to jointly undertake this study.

The Collaborating Partner shall be engaged for a period not exceeding 6 (six) calendar months and will be expected to implement the study in accordance with the attached approved Terms of Reference: https://www.ucc.co.ug/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/TORs_OTT-Study-on-the-Impact-of-Digital-Over-The-Top-Services-on-Traditional-Media-and-Sector-Sustainability-in-Uganda.pdf

Application Requirements

Applicants must submit applications that must include: A Technical Proposal and A Financial Proposal prepared in strict conformity with the above Terms of Reference.

Submission Details

Deadline for applications is **5.00PM on Friday 6th March 2026** in conformity with the above Terms of Reference. Submissions in PDF should be emailed to research@ucc.co.ug

Executive Director
Uganda Communications Commission
UCC House, Plot 42-44, Spring Road, Bugolobi, P O Box 7376, Kampala
Toll-free: 0800222777; Tel: 0312339000/0414 339000
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SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND INNOVATION SECRETARIAT-OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

BID NOTICE UNDER OPEN BIDDING

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF EIGHT (8) MOTOR VEHICLES FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION SECRETARIAT-OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT (STI-OP) UNDER THREE (3) LOTS

LOT 1: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) STATION WAGON NOT EXCEEDING 2800CC
LOT 2: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ONE (1) DOUBLE CABIN PICK-UP NOT EXCEEDING 2500CC
LOT 3: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF SIX (6) DOUBLE CABIN PICK-UPS NOT EXCEEDING 2800CC

PR: STI-OP/SUPLS/25-26/00100/01-3