UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI
EXTERNAL JOB VACANCIES (PROJECT POSITION)

Applications are invited for the following position:

HEALTH COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST - CENTER FOR EPIDEMIOLOGICAL MODELLING AND ANALYSIS – AD/5/20/2025, 1 POST

The Position Description

The Center for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis (CEMA) at the University of Nairobi is looking to appoint a **Health Communication Specialist**, with passion and skills in communication and data journalism. The role for this position is to bridge the gap between researchers, health professionals, and the public, to ensure that complex health information is effectively communicated to diverse audiences through creative and compelling stories.

About CEMA

CEMA is a Center of Excellence at the University of Nairobi bringing together a multidisciplinary consortium of epidemiologists, infectious disease specialists, medical and veterinary health professionals and clinicians, mathematicians, statisticians, computer scientists, software engineers, economists, and data scientists to harness data-driven approaches for controlling infectious diseases and advancing public health in Kenya and across Africa.

Established in 2020, CEMA's work has guided responses to the COVID-19 pandemic and other disease outbreaks and health crises, advanced the control and elimination of neglected tropical diseases across African countries, provided insights to optimize health programs and improve health outcomes, and provided training in quantitative skills to analyze health data and address critical public health challenges in Africa. CEMA is supported by multiple funding agencies including the Gates Foundation, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations, the Wellcome Trust, among others.

Duty Station: Center for Epidemiological Modelling and Analysis, located at the University of Nairobi Institute of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, Nairobi, Kenya.

Reporting to: CEMA Co-Directors

Position Responsibilities
- Create a comprehensive communication plan for CEMA that aligns with its overall goals and outlines the Center's messaging, target audiences, goals, and methods for communication to ensure that communication is consistent, effective, and impactful
- Work with the researchers at CEMA to identify key messages and target audiences for health research data and develop clear and creative ways of presenting the Center's research findings
- Collaborate with CEMA researchers to explore research topics, employ statistical and analytical tools to uncover trends, patterns, and develop data driven stories
- Work with CEMA researchers to translate complex scientific data into plain language for lay audiences, ensuring that the findings are accessible to non-experts without losing essential information
- Design visuals (collate, analyze and visualize data) to extract valuable insights (graphs, infographics) to present research data to various audiences in a creative and compeling

- Engage with journalists, bloggers, and media outlets to ensure accurate and responsible reporting on health research findings
- Assess the effectiveness of communication strategies through surveys, focus groups, or media analysis
- Lead communication initiatives with CEMA stakeholders
- Engage in continuous learning that enhances capabilities in data journalism
- Maintaining and updating the CEMA website regularly to ensure all information is current and accurate
- Providing guidance and supervision to communication interns supporting day-to-day communications activities

Position Requirements

i.   Bachelors degree in Health Communication, Mass Communication, Journalism, Arts, Economics, Public Health, Social Science or Behavioral Sciences
ii.   Masters degree in Communication, Health Communication, Public Health, Data Science or a quantitative subject
iii.   At least 5 years of professional experience in health communication, including roles in public health, health education, or communication within healthcare settings
iv.   Demonstrated ability to refine complex scientific data into understandable and compelling material
v.   Demonstrated experience with media engagement, including handling media inquiries, preparing press materials, and using social media platforms for health communication
vi.   Proficiency in using various media channels (social media, print, broadcast) to reach target audiences
vii.   Knowledge of design tools like Canva, Adobe Creative Suite
viii.   Strong writting and communication skills
ix.   Ability to work closely with researchers, healthcare professionals, policymakers, and community members to ensure effective knowledge transfer
x.   Familiarity with quantitative and qualitative research methods related to health, good knowledge of spreadsheet software, SQL, Python or R will be an added advantage

Terms of Appointment

The appointment will be for one (1) year contract, renewable subject to performance and availability of funds. The successful candidate will enjoy a competitive salary based on their qualifications and experience. In addition to a fulfilling and challenging role, they will receive a comprehensive benefits package, including health insurance, leave allowance, and opportunities for professional development.

NOTES
1.   Applicants should email their application letters, certified copies of certificates and curriculum vitae (CV) giving details of their qualifications, experience and three (3) referees, as well as indicating their telephone and e-mail contacts.
2.   Applications and related documents should addressed to the Director, Human Resource, University of Nairobi.
3.   Applicants should state their current designations, salaries and other benefits attached to those designations.
4.   The application letter must bear the reference code indicated in the advertisement.
5.   Late applications will not be considered.
6.   Applications should be emailed as one file in PDF to:
     recruit-HealthCSpecialist@uonbi.ac.ke

CLOSING DATE: JUNE 4, 2025

**THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER
ONLY SHORTLISTED APPLICANTS WILL BE CONTACTED**