

Call for application

Bioinformatics training

Pathogen genome sequencing



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The Armauer Hansen Research Institute (AHRI), Ethiopian Public Health Institute (EPHI), The Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) and The University of Antwerp (UA) are hosting an entry level bioinformatics course focusing on pathogen genome sequencing.

Application deadline: Aug 16th, 2024

This entry-level course will be organized in the framework of the Directorate General for Development Cooperation Framework agreement 5 (FA5) Ethiopia project, funded by the Belgian government in which AHRI, EPHI, the University of Gondar and Jimma University are partnering. The training will be hosted at AHRI in **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from October 7th 2024 until October 18th 2024.**

The course format includes 8 hours teaching per day, with alternating sessions of 2 hours of theoretical instruction followed by 2 hours of practical hands-on training. The initial week will introduce key bioinformatics concepts, accompanied by practical exercises. In the subsequent week, participants will deepen their understanding of pathogen genomics and apply what they've learned to a guided project, using either their own or sample data available online.

You can find more in-depth information in the attached course brief and preliminary program. As this training is being organized in a joint project between AHRI, EPHI, Jimma University and the University of Gondar, applicants should be affiliated to any of these four institutions. Applicants could include MSc students, PhD students, post-doc researchers, or other staff members. Basic molecular biology knowledge is required. As this will be a basic entry-level course, it is not necessary to already have skills in programming and bio-informatics. A maximum of 18 candidates will be selected. Recognizing the critical need for varied perspectives in scientific research, we aim to foster an inclusive environment that values and incorporates a wide range of experiences and viewpoint. We therefore strongly encourage female researchers to apply and request that each institute puts at least 1 female researcher forward to participate in this course. Costs to attend the course (travel, accommodation, ...) will be covered by the project, but a training fee will not be provided. Participants who complete the entire course will be awarded a certificate.

How to apply?

As part of the selection process, you will need to write an **abstract** about a research project you plan to pursue using the skills acquired from this course. This project can be hypothetical, future, or current, and having existing data is not required. This will help us evaluate your background to ensure you are prepared to successfully complete the course and to determine if the course will be beneficial for you. We will also ask you to upload your **CV and a motivation letter**. To support a long-term vision for the program and encourage continuity, applicants are encouraged to explain in their motivation letter why they aspire to become fully trained bioinformaticians and their interest in progressing to more advanced courses in the future. This approach aims to cultivate a cohort of participants who are committed to advancing within the field and eventually transitioning from trainees to trainers. All documents will be in English, as this will also be the teaching language. We will select candidates based on a combination of their motivation letter, CV and abstract. If needed, additional online interviews will be organized.

Before filling in the online application, please go through the course brief and ensure you have an **abstract, CV and motivation letter** ready.

- ⇒ Go to the following registration link: <https://hivtb.itg.be/course/view.php?id=7>. Only applications submitted through this link will be considered. Your application will be rejected if not all requested steps are completed or if page limits are not respected. Please follow these steps to complete registration:
- ⇒ Fill in all requested personal details.
- ⇒ Upload your CV (maximum 2 pages, in English), highlighting your relevant education, work, training and research experience.
- ⇒ Upload your motivation letter (maximum 1 page, in English), explaining your motivation and why this course would be useful for you.
- ⇒ Write the abstract for a research project in the provided text box (maximum 300 words), indicating how the acquired skills from the course would be applied by you in a current or future research project.

In case you have questions/problems with enrolment, please contact us through bioinformaticsfa5@gmail.com

Only successful applicants will be informed of final selection before August 31st, 2024.