



## **Kenyan partnership to transform pharmacy and chemistry training**

A new partnership between the University of Nottingham and five Kenyan universities will deliver training and mentoring to transform the way in which chemistry and pharmacy degree courses are delivered in Kenya.

The £4 million 'transformation of pharmacy and chemistry degree provision project' will see academics from Nottingham and Kenya work alongside partners; GSK, International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP), the Kenyan Manufacturers Association and the Pharmaceutical Society of Kenya to engage employers and alumni from the healthcare, chemical and pharmaceutical industries in reshaping the higher education courses.

Specialist education developers are also being recruited in the UK and Kenya to help deliver the programme that will reinvigorate the content of current chemistry and pharmacy courses in the five universities which are: University of Nairobi, Kenyatta University, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Maasai Mara University and Maseno University.

### **Tailored programmes**

The new programmes will be tailored to match learning outcomes specifically with the needs of the population and address the shortages of specific skills in the pharmacy and chemistry workforces in Kenya. The partnership will also (i) provide private and public sector work placements that will increase skills and employability of graduates; (ii) increase the capability of academic staff; and (iii) work towards better outcomes for women and people from underserved communities.

The initiative is being led at Nottingham by Robert Mokaya, Professor of Materials Chemistry in the School of Chemistry and Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Global Engagement (Africa and Middle-East) and Claire Anderson, Professor of Social Pharmacy in the university's School of Pharmacy.

Professor Mokaya said: "This is an excellent opportunity for Nottingham to engage with international higher education partners and other stakeholders to transform chemistry and pharmacy degrees in Kenya. Our hope is that this project will act as an exemplar for extension to other degree courses and countries in the region. We are very pleased to have been selected as the success rate was a very low 2% of applications, and look forward to accomplishing this exciting project"

Professor Anderson added: “I am delighted to be involved in this exciting project that will provide new needs based curricula to address shortages of specific skills in the pharmacy and chemistry workforces in Kenya and lead to increased employability of graduates from the programmes. The project has the potential to lead to institutional wide change in academic practice, not only in Kenya but in other African countries and beyond.”

## **Innovative partnerships**

The funding has been awarded by the government’s Strategic Partnership for Higher Education and Reform (SPHEIR) programme, which is a competitive grant scheme established by the UK Department for International Development (DFID). It is designed to catalyse innovative partnerships in low-income countries to improve the performance, governance and influence of higher education systems and institutions.

SPHEIR partnerships seek to transform the quality, relevance, access and affordability of higher education to achieve sustainable change in higher education systems.

## **Increasing skills and employability**

Professor Mokaya continues: “We hope this partnership will be the start of a step change in the teaching of pharmacy and chemistry in Kenya and help to embed a new culture that will flourish within the Kenyan education system beyond the lifetime of the project.”

University leaders will be introduced to a more efficient and effective approach to education delivery, while strong engagement with public and private stakeholders will help to attract future investment, ensuring that the developments are sustainable from within the Kenyan higher education system.

For more information visit <http://www.spheir.org.uk/> and follow on social media via #SPHEIR.

## **Ends**

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The five Kenyan universities are: Nairobi, Kenyatta, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Maseno and Maasai Mara.

##### **SPHEIR**

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