



UNIVERSITY
of York



THE THANZI STUDENTSHIPS PROGRAMME

Supporting the next generation of
African leaders in Health Economics



YORK
GIVING

TRANSFORMING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS IN AFRICA

In low-and-middle-income countries in Africa, such as Malawi and Uganda, making decisions on how to allocate limited healthcare budgets can be particularly challenging: relevant evidence is often limited, requiring difficult choices to be made between healthcare interventions on a daily basis. These kinds of decisions are ones which require health economics expertise.

However, there are limited opportunities for postgraduate training in health economics available to individuals living in Africa, with most people required to travel to South Africa or outside of the continent in order to study health economics. This is not only extremely costly, it also requires upheaval from family and job commitments. For many this is not a realistic proposition. As a consequence, there are very few trained health economists working in African ministries of health.

Many African countries are on a health financing precipice meaning that local health economics expertise is needed more than ever before.

ADDRESSING AN URGENT NEED

To address the urgent need for health economics expertise based in African governments, the [Thanzi Programme](#), led by the [Centre for Health Economics](#) at the University of York, launched the [Thanzi Programme Health Economics MSc Studentship Programme](#).

The Studentships support individuals working in East or West Africa with tuition fee waivers to undertake the part-time [Health Economics Distance Learning](#) (HEDL) programme, whilst their employer grants them a minimum of one day a week to focus upon their studies.

The programme is delivered over three years, and specifically targets individuals working in ministries of health and economic/health agencies which are tasked with improving population health across Africa; thereby meeting the needs of African governments and supporting the realisation of the health financing commitments set-out in the [African Union commitments](#)




Image Thanzi: A mother and child receive essential health care

“This studentship will empower me to contribute to the equitable and efficient allocation of health resources, ultimately improving population health outcomes across Sub-Saharan Africa.

I strongly believe that expanding the reach of the Thanzi Studentship will enable many more passionate professionals from low- and middle-income countries to access world-class training and make lasting contributions to health system strengthening globally.”

Bosede Elizabeth Arogundade Assistant Director, Department of Health Planning Research and Statistics, Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, Nigeria.



LEADING THE WAY IN HEALTH ECONOMICS POSTGRADUATE DISTANCE LEARNING

The University of York is at the forefront of health economics postgraduate distance learning through the high quality and well respected Health Economics Distance Learning (HEDL) programme, delivered by the Department of Economics & Related Studies. The HEDL programme has been running for over two decades and students benefit from lecturing and supervision by world-leaders in their field.

The HEDL programme has a number of benefits that help to address the need for health economics expertise:

- **Distance Learning:** no need to relocate, reducing barriers to study (particularly for those with caring responsibilities)
- **Direct Application:** students remain in their roles at ministries of health or universities, applying their learning in real-time
- **Skills Retention:** reduced risk of students not returning to their home countries
- **York Excellence:** students receive world-class teaching from a programme with more than two decades of excellence in distance-learning health economics education.

Strengthening Health Systems from Within

Since launching, the Thanzi Studentship has supported **17 students** from **11 African countries**, building a strong community of health economists who can interpret, use, conduct, and commission health economics and modelling research.

*“This setup has given me ample opportunity to immediately apply the concepts I learn in real-time within the Ministry, making the learning both practical and impactful. **The Thanzi la Onse Studentship is not just an investment in your career, it is an investment in the future of resilient and equitable health systems across Africa.**”*

Timange Banda, Ministry of Health, Malawi, Thanzi Studentship Recipient (2024–2027)

HELP US TO SUPPORT THE NEXT GENERATION OF AFRICAN LEADERS IN HEALTH ECONOMICS

The Thanzi Studentships are a vital learning opportunity and have a substantial impact on the careers of the recipients, including a stronger understanding of economic methodologies, and more involvement and opportunity to lead on the design of new policies and interventions.

With the help of our partners, we have been able to enrol three cohorts of Thanzi Studentships since 2023. However, the demand for the Thanzi Studentships remains high, with over 500 applications for limited places across the first three cohorts. We must secure new funding to continue this vital programme, and help to strengthen African health systems from within.

We need your support to secure the future of the Thanzi Studentships Programme.

Each studentship requires circa **£27,744** to cover tuition fees for three years of study on the HEDL Programme, which, alongside teaching and learning delivered online, provides students with access to a wide range of online study resources and facilities.

Our ambition is to continue to build and sustain a vibrant community of Health Economics experts across Africa, and to help ensure that future research is commissioned and conducted by African research communities, reducing the reliance upon international experts in the field. By supporting the Thanzi Studentships Programme, you can help us achieve this ambition.

THE THANZI STUDENTSHIPS PROGRAMME IS NOT ONLY AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS IN AFRICA, BUT ALSO IN THE TALENTED INDIVIDUALS LEADING THE WAY IN HEALTH FINANCING AND DISEASE ELIMINATION.

Get in touch to find out how your support can make a difference



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“THIS EXPERIENCE HAS NOT ONLY IMPROVED MY ACADEMIC JOURNEY BUT ALSO EMPOWERED ME TO CONTRIBUTE MORE EFFECTIVELY IN MY CURRENT ROLE.”

“The studentship HEDL program has greatly strengthened my ability to contribute to evidence-informed health policy in Kenya. The practical relevance of multidisciplinary approaches, auxiliary faculty, and coursework has enhanced my analytical skills and strategic thinking in real-world health systems.”

Japheth Athanasio Omondi, Health Systems Strengthening Specialist, Ministry of Health, Kenya and Thanzi Studentship recipient, 2024-2027

