



Programme Scientist

Global Health, Clinical Research & Capacity Strengthening

Join one of Europe's leading global health research groups and help shape one of Africa's largest clinical research capacity strengthening and epidemic preparedness programmes. Working closely with a multidisciplinary, multinational team of epidemiologists, MDs, clinical trialists and economists, you will collaborate with leading institutions across Sub-Saharan Africa to strengthen research capacity in HIV, tuberculosis, malaria, while improving epidemic preparedness and documenting lessons learned from outbreak responses. The role combines international consortium leadership with hands-on collaborative research, scientific writing, grant development, mentorship of early career scientists, and regular engagement with partners across Africa. It offers an exceptional opportunity to build an independent international research profile while helping deliver a €14 million Global Health EDCTP programme.

- **Job title:** Programme Scientist (Global Health, Clinical Research & Capacity Strengthening)
- **Department:** Navarra Center for International Development, Institute for Culture and Society
- **Contract:** 4 years
- **Schedule:** full time
- **Sector:** Research
- **Discipline:** Global Health
- **Modality:** on site with up to 20% travel

About the University of Navarra

The University of Navarra is consistently ranked among the world's leading universities and is recognized as Spain's most international university. It combines excellence in research, education and innovation with a strong commitment to translating scientific discoveries into meaningful societal impact. It was founded in 1952 and is located in Pamplona, Spain. It offers 37 official degree programs and administers 43 master's programs, including 19 doctoral programs, through 16 colleges and schools, 2 higher education institutions, the IESE Business School, and its five comprehensive research centers: CCUN (University of Navarra Clinical Oncology Center), BIOMA (Institute of Biodiversity and the Environment) and DATAI (Institute of Data Science and Artificial Intelligence), ICS (Institute of Culture and Society), and CIN (Center for Nutrition Research).



UNAV has more than 13,500 students across seven campuses, Pamplona, San Sebastián, Madrid, Barcelona, New York, Munich, and São Paulo, and maintains an extensive network of international universities and research centers.

About the project

The Navarra Center for International Development (NCID) at the University of Navarra is seeking a Programme Scientist to support the implementation of [SINCEP-Africa](#), a €14 million Global Health EDCTP-funded program aimed at strengthening clinical research capacity and epidemic preparedness across Sub-Saharan Africa. Although the post includes coordination of an international consortium, it is fundamentally a research position combining programme leadership with collaborative research, scientific writing, grant development, mentorship and regular engagement with partners across Africa.

SINCEP-Africa brings together leading research institutions across Sub-Saharan Africa, including the Centro de Investigação em Saúde de Manhiça (**Mozambique**), Ifakara Health Institute (**Tanzania**), KEMRI partner institution Strathmore University (**Kenya**), Makerere University (**Uganda**), University of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and Navrongo Health Research Centre (**Ghana**), GRAS and the Clinical Research Unit of Nanoro (**Burkina Faso**), University of Gondar (**Ethiopia**), University of Calabar (**Nigeria**), Université Cheikh Anta Diop (**Senegal**), Institut National de Santé Publique (**Côte d'Ivoire**), Université des Sciences, des Techniques et des Technologies de Bamako (**Mali**), Université de Kinshasa (**DRC**), and the INDEPTH Network.

The **overarching goal** of SINCEP-Africa is to create and sustain core health expertise by building strong training schemes; developing sustainable partnerships; and providing appropriate infrastructure that enhances the epidemic preparedness and response capabilities among regional networks. The UNAV co-leads the capacity strengthening work package together with Strathmore University.

The project combines research, capacity strengthening and implementation activities. Project activities include coordinating international training programmes, supporting research infrastructure and surveillance systems, implementing AI-enabled data platforms for epidemic monitoring, facilitating multicentre collaborations, engaging with regulators and public health agencies, and contributing to the development of rapid research responses to future infectious disease outbreaks.



Capacity strengthening within SINCEP-Africa is delivered through active collaborative research programmes, multicentre studies, mentorship, fellowships and institutional partnerships, rather than through stand-alone training activities.

About the position

The successful candidate will work closely with NCID staff to coordinate the University of Navarra's contribution to the SINCEP-Africa consortium while leading capacity strengthening activities and contributing to collaborative research across Africa including:

- clinical and epidemiological research methods;
- clinical trials and research governance (e.g. GCP, ethics and regulatory processes);
- data management, biostatistics and AI-enabled surveillance;
- laboratory and field research capacity;
- scientific writing, grant development and research leadership;
- mentorship of early-career researchers and institutional partnership development.

The successful candidate will become a key member of the NCID research team, coordinating the University's contributions to the SINCEP-Africa programme. The role combines programme management with active participation in international collaborative research, including capacity strengthening through multicentre research projects, training and mentorship, development of surveillance and research infrastructure, and support for epidemic preparedness activities.

Beyond SINCEP-Africa

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to develop an independent research portfolio by contributing to ongoing international programmes in malaria, clinical trials, implementation science, artificial intelligence for global health and epidemic preparedness. The candidate may use NCID and SINCEP-Africa as a platform to apply for funds for their own research interest.

1. Main responsibilities

The successful candidate will play a central role in delivering high-quality scientific outputs, strengthening research capacity across partner institutions, and ensuring the successful implementation of the University of Navarra's contributions to the consortium.

Research

- Lead collaborative research workstreams in infectious diseases, including HIV, tuberculosis, malaria and epidemic preparedness, resulting in high-impact publications, competitive grant applications and strengthened international research collaborations.



- Support the design and implementation of multicentre implementation research, clinical research readiness initiatives and outbreak preparedness activities.
- Build research capacity through embedded training and mentorship early-career researchers within ongoing research projects and international collaborations.
- Contribute to the development of HIV/TB/Malaria and epidemic-ready research protocols, standard operating procedures and research toolkits for rapid outbreak response.

Capacity strengthening

- Develop and maintain a consortium-wide research capacity map, identifying institutional strengths and gaps across clinical research, epidemiology, laboratory sciences, data management, biostatistics, research management and regulatory capabilities.
- Coordinate multilingual training programmes, webinars and e-learning in clinical research, epidemiology, data management, implementation science, laboratory methods, research ethics and scientific writing.
- Develop and coordinate fellowship, mentoring and research leadership programmes for early-career researchers.
- Coordinate internships and cross-site exchanges to strengthen technical, clinical and research management expertise across partner institutions.
- Support early career scientists through supervision, research placements and integration within ongoing international research projects.
- Monitor and evaluate capacity strengthening activities using predefined training, mentorship and institutional performance indicators.

Scientific coordination

- Coordinate the University of Navarra's contributions to the Capacity Strengthening and Training programme.
- Liaise with African partner institutions.
- Coordinate and organize consortium and work package meetings.
- Track milestones and deliverables.
- Prepare Horizon Europe/EDCTP reports.
- Support reporting during each 18-month reporting cycle.

International collaboration

- Participate in site assessments.
- Travel to partner institutions.
- Support Africa CDC and regional collaboration activities.
- Co-represent UNAV at consortium meetings, scientific conferences and stakeholder engagements.

2. Qualifications

The position is **open to candidates at different career stages** with the possibility to adapt it accordingly, from MDs with research experience, to research scientists with MSc to post-doc level. The specific responsibilities and compensations will be matched as needed.



Candidates from the global south and those with field experience are particularly encouraged to apply.

Essential qualifications

- Relevant qualifications in public health, epidemiology, medicine, global health, implementation science or a related discipline.
- A track record of scientific publications appropriate to career stage.
- Experience conducting health research in low- and middle-income countries, preferably in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Experience in clinical research, implementation research, health systems research and/or epidemic preparedness.
- Experience coordinating international collaborations and engaging with diverse stakeholders across academic, governmental and public health institutions.
- Excellent scientific writing and communication skills, including experience preparing manuscripts, technical reports and research proposals.
- Strong organizational, project management and coordination skills, with the ability to manage multiple activities and deadlines.
- Excellent interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively within multidisciplinary and multicultural international teams.
- Fluency in spoken and written English
- Willingness to undertake international travel up to 20% of the time.

Desirable qualifications

- Knowledge of clinical trial methodology, Good Clinical Practice (GCP), and research governance.
- Experience developing and implementing capacity-strengthening initiatives, including mentoring, workshops, fellowships or training programmes.
- Experience interacting with ethics committees, regulatory authorities or research governance structures.
- Experience in infectious diseases, global health, outbreak preparedness or implementation science.
- Written/spoken Spanish, French or Portuguese could be assets

3. We offer

- **The opportunity to help shape one of Africa's largest epidemic preparedness and clinical research capacity initiatives from its inception and to play a leading role in [SINCEP-Africa](#), a €14 million Global Health EDCTP programme involving more than 20 institutions across Africa and Europe.**
- A full-time research position at the **Navarra Center for International Development (NCID)**, University of Navarra.
- Salary will be commensurate with qualifications and experience, in accordance with University of Navarra policies.



- An initial **3.5–4-year contract**, subject to project funding.
- Excellent opportunities for career development, scientific leadership and progression towards independent funding.
- A unique opportunity to build an international research profile through publications, grant writing, supervision of postgraduate students and leadership of multinational collaborations.
- A dynamic and international research environment with excellent opportunities to collaborate with leading experts in global health, clinical research, implementation science and epidemic preparedness.
- Opportunities to contribute to high-impact scientific publications, competitive grant applications and international research networks.
- International travel to partner institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa and participation in consortium meetings, workshops and scientific conferences.
- Access to state-of-the-art research infrastructure, multidisciplinary collaborations and the University's Data Science and Artificial Intelligence ecosystem.
- Flexible working arrangements, professional development opportunities and access to university training programmes.
- A high quality of life in Pamplona, one of Spain's safest and most livable cities.
- Access to Spain's universal healthcare system and generous annual leave in accordance with University of Navarra policies.
- Flexible working arrangements and opportunities for international travel.
- An inclusive, collaborative and family-friendly working environment at one of Europe's leading research universities.

Pamplona offers an exceptional quality of life, combining affordable living, excellent public services, outstanding schools, easy access to the Pyrenees and northern Spain, and one of the safest urban environments in Europe.

4. How to apply

Interested candidates should submit:

- a cover letter describing their motivation and relevant experience;
- a detailed CV;
- contact details for at least two relevant referees.

Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis until the position is filled.

The applications must be submitted through Euraxess platform: [link](#).