

PhD Position – Phage–Cholera Dynamics (University of Geneva)

Based in Geneva, with fieldwork in Uvira (DRC)

We are recruiting a highly motivated **PhD student** to join the Geneva Disease Dynamics Group at the **University of Geneva (UNIGE)**. The PhD will focus primarily on our interdisciplinary project exploring how bacteriophages shape cholera transmission and disease severity in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

Project focuses

- Characterize the diversity of cholera-specific phages in clinical and environmental samples
- Develop and apply assays (plaque assays, qPCR) to quantify *V. cholerae* O1--specific phages
- Integrate microbiology and field epidemiology data from clinical surveillance and household cohort studies to understand how phage may shape clinical outcomes, transmission and overall outbreak dynamics in a cholera endemic setting

The student will be primarily supervised by **Andrew Azman (UNIGE)** with mentoring opportunities from **Kimberly Seed (UC Berkeley)**, **Melanie Blokesch (EPFL)**, **Jackie Knee (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)** and **Placide Mbala (INRB, DRC)**.

We are looking for someone who:

- Has **previous wet-lab experience** (ideally including phage work or bacterial culture)
- Is able to spend **extended periods in Uvira (DRC)** to support lab / field activities
- Has **experience working on research in the eastern provinces of DRC**
- **Speaks English and French** (professional working proficiency)
- Has the desire to expand their quantitative abilities during the course of their PhD
- Has a Masters degree in a related field (epidemiology, biology, ecology)
- Is motivated to work in an international, interdisciplinary research team

We offer:

- Fully funded 4-year PhD position (Swiss PhD contract, 100% salary)
- Direct collaboration with five phage/cholera experts
- Training in phage biology, field epidemiology, and quantitative methods

Start date: September 2026

Location: Geneva, Switzerland, with regular field missions to Uvira (DRC)

How to apply:

Send a CV (max 2 pages) + short statement of interest to **andrew.azman@unige.ch** with the subject line “*PhD Application – Phage Cholera Dynamics*”. Applications will be reviewed on a rolling basis but should be received before February 2026.