



COSECSA

College of Surgeons of
East, Central and Southern Africa



COSECSA – SMILE TRAIN SHORT TERM EXCHANGE/ROTATION PROGRAMME

GOAL

To further develop and equip surgeons with the necessary skills in cleft lip and palate surgery and promote the exchange of knowledge and surgical skills among trainees across COSECSA Plastic Surgery Training hospitals in East, Central and Southern Africa.

OBJECTIVES

- + To promote the exchange of knowledge and surgical skills among trainees.
- + To create equity of training in specific surgical specialties and in particular cleft surgery.
- + To promote exchange of surgical leadership and management skills.
- + To improve access to cleft surgery in the specific surgical disciplines.
- + Improve the quality of training provided to the trainees in the COSECSA Region.
- + Increase networking among the selected trainees and institutions.

ABOUT THE SHORT-TERM EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Smile Train and the COSECSA, are collaborating on a short term (1-Month) exchange programme for COSECSA trainees who wish to widen the scope of their training in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. The exchange will occur at another COSECSA Plastic Surgery accredited hospital. The programme involves different nationalities moving from one country to another for capacity building.

- + 6 COSECSA Plastic Surgery trainees will be supported for the 2026 exchange programme.
- + The Exchange period is April - July 2026.
- + The period is one (1) month training in a COSECSA Plastic surgery accredited hospital.
- + It is only available for COSECSA FCS plastic surgery level trainees and excludes MCS Level & Non-COSECSA candidates.
- + The applicant must have applied and been accepted in a hospital accredited for training in plastic surgery by COSECSA.

NB: *It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure a training post is available and a work permit is obtained from the host country before applying (where applicable)*

APPLICATION PROCESS

<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Personal statement indicating expected results or outcomes, which scholarship applying for, preferred hospital for exchange training and supervisor details.✓ An updated Curriculum Vitae (CV)✓ A letter of support from the surgical training Programme Director of the current hospital of training.✓ Host acceptance letter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Complete application should be sent to COSECSA by filling the form HERE✓ Reference Number “EP-SMILETRAIN-COSECSA/2026/1” & Scholarship Name “COSECSA – SMILE TRAIN SHORT TERM EXCHANGE/ROTATION PROGRAMME”
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Application Deadline: 27th February 2026

Successful applicants will be notified 2-weeks after the deadline.

NB: Applications that do not meet all the requirements will not be considered

COSECSA ACCREDITED PLASTIC SURGERY TRAINING SITES

<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ AIC Kijabe, including AIC-CURE International Children’s Hospital, Kenya+ Comprehensive Rehabilitation Services in Uganda (CoRSU), Uganda+ Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital (QECH), Malawi+ University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK), Rwanda+ Mulago Hospital, Uganda+ Bugando Medical Centre, Tanzania	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Muhimbili National Hospital, Tanzania+ Parirenyatwa Hospital, Zimbabwe+ University Teaching Hospital, Lusaka (UTH), Zambia+ Yekatit 12 Hospital, Ethiopia+ ALERT Hospital, Ethiopia+ Jimma Medical Center, Ethiopia+ St.Paul’s Hospital MMC, Ethiopia+ Rwanda Military Hospital, Rwanda
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FINANCIAL SUPPORT

The exchange programme is funded by Smile Train for a 1-month training period in another COSECSA Plastic Surgery Training Site.

The Programme is administered through COSECSA to cover expenses towards:

- ✓ Host Training Site Facilitation Fee
- ✓ Accommodation
- ✓ Air Transport
- ✓ Living Subsidy
- ✓ Ground Transport
- ✓ Visa

NB: COSECSA and Smile Train will not meet any additional costs (e.g., Medical Licenses) apart from the costs stipulated above.