

Eva Liliane Ujeneza was born in Kigali, Rwanda, and spent half her childhood in Canada, where her parents were pursuing postgraduate studies. In her final high school examinations in Rwanda she was among five students to obtain the best marks in her district. She has been passionate about mathematics since she was a young girl, and still enjoys solving hard problems she has been working on. During her university studies she appreciated that although real-life problems often have no single solution, mathematical models can help to simulate a number of potential scenarios.

Eva obtained a BSc in Applied Mathematics from the National University of Rwanda, in 2009. She received a scholarship from the African institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS), Cape Town, South Africa to study towards an MSc in Mathematical sciences. She was then awarded another scholarship to attend the University of Cape Town (UCT), where in 2014 she gained an MSc in Environmental and Geographical Sciences

Her PhD research is being performed at the South African Centre for Modelling and Analysis of Epidemiological Data (SACEMA), located at Stellenbosch University. Eva is modeling the reconstitution of the immune system of HIV positive patients that are on highly active antiretroviral therapy (HAART). Since their introduction in the 1990s, an increasing number of people are on HAART worldwide. This population is aging, and little is known about the long-term effects of these drugs on the immune system. Eva hopes that her studies will provide the global healthcare community with a better understanding of the potential impacts of HAART.

After her studies in South Africa, Eva hopes to contribute to the tertiary education in Rwanda. Her plan is to lecture mathematics at undergraduate level using interactive learning techniques she learned while studying, and subsequently tutoring, at AIMS and UCT. She is also dreams of helping closing the gender gap in science and empowering women, especially those from resource limited settings.