



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
WORLD BANK ACE IMPACT III | ACECOR PROJECT
AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN COASTAL RESILIENCE



Sam Jonah
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SCHOLARSHIP POLICY



ASSISTANT
REGISTRAR



The University of Cape Coast (UCC), in partnering with the World Bank under the new Africa Centre of Excellence (ACE III) Impact Project, will promote coastal resilience within the West and Central African sub-regions. The objective of ACECoR is to support the development of technical and scientific capacity of young African professionals to develop integrated solutions to address coastal degradation in the countries of intervention through short- to long-term professional and academic training programmes. ACECoR will carry out education, research and outreach programmes. These programmes will be implemented in collaboration with other academic institutions and industries within the country, sub-region and at the global level to ensure a multi- and interdisciplinary approach to addressing coastal degradation across the sub-region



Welcome message from the Director of ACECoR



Prof. Denis Worlanyo Aheto
Director, Centre for Coastal Management - Africa Centre of Excellence in Coastal Resilience (ACECoR)

Welcome to ACECoR. As a research candidate you are a part of the wider research community and an important part of the University of Cape Coast's strategic goal to continuously invest in developing human capacity for the accelerated development of Africa through innovation, research and partnerships.

1. Our vision

To be a global centre of excellence in coastal resilience through collaboration with industry, private and public institutions.

2. Our mission

To achieve sustainable management and use of coastal environment through training of human resource, and demand-driven research to support coastal policy development in Africa.

3. Our aims

ACECoR aims at achieving excellence in training both students and professionals in selected areas as a way of enhancing coastal resilience and promoting policies through;

- Training Professionals
- Learning Environment
- Human Resource Capacity
- Industry Sector Partnerships

We are committed to building a youthful workforce to drive Africa's emerging blue economy through research and innovation.

Visit <https://acecor.ucc.edu.gh>

Scholarship Policy

1. Preamble

As part of its mandate to train young African scholars in areas pertinent to enhancing coastal resilience, the Africa Centre of Excellence in Coastal Resilience (ACECoR) provides scholarships to support the studies and research of students through a competitive selection process. ACECoR attaches high importance to judicious use of its limited financial resources. For this reason, the Centre prioritizes channelling its financial support into the studies of studious candidates with credible academic credentials, and who demonstrate remarkable academic achievement in their studies at the Centre. This policy has been compiled to guide the Centre and its students as well as prospective students on the scholarship categories, application and selection process and modalities for disbursement in the management and utilisation of scholarship funds.

2. Background to ACECoR Scholarships

Students who enrol on ACECoR programmes are required to pay the appropriate fees approved by the University of Cape Coast for the programmes as applies to citizens of Ghana and Regional or international students. ACECoR provides scholarships and other funding support opportunities for Ghanaian and other African students who need such supports, and who apply

for the scholarships during the advertisement, either prior to their admission or during their study. The scholarship may be full or partial depending on the availability of funds. The decision of the Centre to grant full or partial funding to any candidate shall be subject to the qualification criteria and other requirements to be provided in the advertisement and assessment of candidates for admissions as well as the availability of funds. Scholarships are provided for students who enrol in programmes run at ACECoR (visit website to see current programmes) to undertake studies that fall within any of the five research thematic areas namely (a) Coastal Geomorphology and Engineering, (b) Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation, (c) Blue economy, Governance and Social Resilience, (d) Disaster and Risk Management and (e) Ecosystems and Biodiversity (See details in Section 2 of the ACECoR Research Guidelines at and Section 6 of the Student Handbook. Priority is given to applicants whose research focus on addressing challenges of coastal environment and coastal resources degradation.

3. Scholarship advertisement, application and selection process

3.1. Advertisement

ACECoR scholarships are advertised annually usually at the same time between January and June when University of Cape Coast opens its applications for admissions into graduate programmes. The adverts are published on the ACECoR website at the Call for Applications page, the scholarship page, and other professional and social media platforms of the Centre for Coastal Management including LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. External advertisements are also coordinated through the Association of African Universities.

COASTAL RESILIENCE

The overarching goal of ACECoR is to support technical capacity development of young African professionals to address issues of coastal degradation, as well as promote the sustainable utilization and management of marine and coastal assets on the continent.

ACECoR

Visit <https://acecoradmissions.ucc.edu.gh/> to apply for ACECoR postgraduate programmes



3.2. Application process

Applicants must qualify for admission to master's and doctorate programmes at the University of Cape Coast. All programmes run at ACECoR are hosted in specific academic departments within UCC and have separate application procedures from the scholarship which is provided by the Centre. It is therefore important for prospective applicants to note that application into the programmes is independent from application for scholarship. Prospective candidates are first required to apply to UCC for admission into the listed MPhil and PhD Degree Programmes run at ACECoR, before applying for scholarship. To apply to UCC for admission into a programme, applicants must purchase the UCC admissions voucher and login to the online Registration Portal with the PIN and SERIAL numbers. Also, read carefully the graduate admissions brochure.

To apply to ACECoR for scholarship, fill the online scholarship application form on the ACECoR website and upload the following documents:

- » Confirmation page of application to UCC for the selected programme
- » Certified true copies of academic certificates and transcripts
- » Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- » Statement of Motivation
- » Two (2) letters of recommendation (at least one from a former lecturer/supervisor)
- » A 2-3 (for MPhil) or 3-5 (for PhD) page research proposal in the preferred area of research

NB: Omission of any of the documents will be deemed incomplete application and not considered.

3.3. Selection criteria and process

3.3.1. Initial Shortlisting

Applications are checked for complete provision of all required forms, documents and information in accordance with the admissions criteria. Independent assessments are then conducted on all eligible applications by the academic advisory board of ACECoR in accordance with Criteria 1. Applicants who score 70% or higher in the above criteria are shortlisted for interview and details of the date and time are communicated through email as well as the applicants' online portals created during the application process. Unsuccessful applicants are also notified through their portals and email.

Criteria 1	Maximum score	Weighting (%)
Academic Excellence	10	40
Relevant Academic Background	5	20
Level of Language Skills	3	12
Motivation and Potential	5	20
Relevant Work Experience	2	8
Total	25	100

3.3.2. Final Selection Process

Interviews are conducted face to face for applicants based in Ghana, and online (through skype, zoom, etc. where appropriate) for the regional applicants. The scoring criteria (Criteria 2) for the interview are shown below.

Criteria 2	Maximum score
Comportment and expression	10
General Knowledge	10
Knowledge of subject area	30
Application of Knowledge	15
Proposed Research	25
Knowledge of statistics	5
Knowledge of ACECoR Project	5
Total	100

Description of Criteria

» **Comportment and expression** - This includes the outlook of the candidate (whether he/she appears prepared for a formal interview in terms of outfit, hair keeping, etc.), gestures and mannerism, loudness, articulation, confidence, fluency, etc.

» **General Knowledge** - Knowledge of candidate in basic science, fundamentals of social science (where applicable), current issues around the world in the subject (i.e. coastal, environmental, fisheries, oceanographic issues), including political, legislative, legal, social, etc. constitutes the questions for this section.

» **Knowledge of subject area** - This section is for the test of knowledge of the candidate in the programme he/she has applied to study. It covers knowledge of principles, theories, mechanisms, philosophies, processes, models and other technicalities in the subject area(s) of the programme.

» **Application of Knowledge** - This section is intended to assess how the candidate can demonstrate application or utilisation of the knowledge in Section 3 (i.e. theories, mechanisms, processes, models, etc.) in industry, management, conservation, etc.

» **Proposed Research** - Questions for assessment of the proposed research by the candidate should cover usefulness and feasibility of the research in addressing contemporary challenges within the field, soundness and achievability of objectives, candidate's knowledge in research methods, appropriateness of proposed methods for the research, data analyses tools, etc.

» **Knowledge of statistics** - This section tests the knowledge of candidate in statistics (descriptive and inferential), and how statistics will be applied in his/her proposed research.

» **ACECoR Project** - Questions on this section should focus on the knowledge of candidate on ACECoR (the source of funds, objectives of the project, implementing partners/institutions, duration, etc.).

The minimum pass mark for the interview is 60%, and the final selection of candidates is based on a multiplicity of criteria and considerations including having diversity of backgrounds, meeting the World Bank's Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) for the ACECoR project which comprises meeting specific proportions of female and male students, national and regional allocations, etc.

3.4. Notification of applicants

Successful applicants are informally informed through their emails and portals followed by official letter from the Pro Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Coast. Unsuccessful applicants are also notified through their portals and email

4. Scholarship categories and packages

4.1. Full and partial scholarships

ACECoR awards full and partial scholarships. A full scholarship covers tuition, accommodation, stipend and research grant. A conference and other travel grants may also be included where applicable and when necessary. A partial scholarship covers one or more of (or a percentage of) tuition, accommodation, stipend and research grant, but not all. A partially funded student may also receive conference and other travel grants where applicable and when necessary. The Centre reserves the right to review and define what constitutes a partial scholarship for an awardee.

4.2. General disbursement of scholarship funds

The tuition and accommodation costs are directly paid to the University by the project while the research grant which covers field work and laboratory expenses is managed by the project in consultation with the supervisors of the students. At

the end of each academic year, the Centre expects to receive a progress report on the academic performance of each funded student. Subject to satisfactory report, the sponsorship for the ensuing year will continue. In the event of a student being incapacitated on grounds of health in the course of his or her study, the award may be terminated.

4.3. Disbursement modalities for Ghanaian and Regional Students

Given the limited availability of funds, regular funding from ACECoR provided as either partial or full scholarships are disbursed in the following way:

» Ghanaian students pursuing MPhil are provided with a partial scholarship in the first year of study covering tuition and accommodation, and a full scholarship in the second year covering tuition, accommodation, research grant and stipend.

» Ghanaian students pursuing PhD are given partial funding covering tuition, accommodation and research grant in the first year, and full scholarship in the second and third-years covering tuition, accommodation, stipend and research grant.

» Regional students pursuing MPhil are provided with a full scholarship covering tuition, accommodation and stipend in the first year, and tuition, accommodation, research grant and stipend in the second year covering.

» Regional students of PhD programmes shall receive full funding covering tuition, accommodation, stipend and research grant in all the three years of study.

NB: It is important for students to note that:

» The scholarship covers a proportion of 75% of the total cost of pursuing the MPhil and PhD programmes of the Centre. The students who receive the scholarship are therefore expected to have their own means of catering for the rest of the 25% of the cost of their study at the Centre, which will cover air travel (in the case of regional students) and other personal expenses.

» Scholarships and all other forms of funding support awarded by ACECoR are subject to annual renewal, and may be maintained as full scholarships, enhanced from partial to full scholarship, reduced from full to partial scholarship, or may be totally withdrawn subject to the ability of the student to fulfil the academic performance requirements in Section 4.4 (a – e) as well as other provisions in Sections 8.1 – 8.4 of this handbook.

» Prior to being granted scholarship, successful applicants shall acknowledge their acceptance of all terms and conditions associated with the offer by signing the scholarship offer agreement.

5. Required academic performance (also in Section 4.4 of ACECoR student handbook)

a) All financial support/scholarships provided to students by the Centre shall be subject to annual renewal, subject to records of academic performance of the student and any other considerations that the Centre may deem relevant.

b) An MPhil or PhD student who receives a full scholarship from the Centre in the first year of his/her study is required to obtain a CGPA of 3.0 or better in order to have his/her scholarship renewed for the subsequent year.

c) The inability of a fully funded student to meet the requirements in (b) above shall render his/her scholarship to be scaled down to partial funding if the candidate obtains a CGPA below 3.0, and withdrawal of the scholarship if the candidate obtains a CGPA below 2.5 (Refer to Section 4.3 (c) as per SGS-UCC provisions).

d) An MPhil or PhD student who receives a partial scholarship from the Centre in the first year of his/her study is required to obtain a CGPA of 3.0 or better in order to have his/her scholarship renewed and enhanced to full scholarship subject to other considerations.

e) The inability of a partly funded student to meet the requirements in (d) above shall render his/her scholarship maintained as partial funding if the candidate obtains a CGPA between 2.5 and 2.9, and withdrawal of the partial scholarship if the candidate obtains a CGPA below 2.5.

6. Gender and Regional Considerations

As a Centre of excellence that strives to promote multi-cultural and gender sensitive environment, 30% of ACECoR's scholarship is reserved for candidates from other countries with priority for West and Central Africa while a minimum of 30% of all Centre's admissions are also reserved for females. Females are encouraged to apply as they have equal chances of gaining admission to ACECoR programmes. The Centre has provisions on maternity leave for students who become pregnant while on the programme (see Section 9.1 of the ACECoR student handbook). Moreover, there are pre-school facilities on UCC campus and its surroundings, and ACECoR will facilitate the admission of children of such students. A space of convenience shall be created for nursing mothers to attend to their babies when necessary.

7. Sourcing complementary funding

All students associated with the Africa Centre of Excellence in Coastal Resilience (ACECoR) Project are encouraged to seek and acquire additional grants and scholarships for their thesis and other research



activities. To avoid conflict of interest between the World Bank and other donor programs, and to streamline documentation on complementary funding:

- » All funds sourced by students shall be complementary to the ACECoR funding, and should be in line with the student's thesis research working topic.
- » All scholarship holders are required to officially inform and share information with the ACECoR Project Office on the conditions associated with the call for application for grants and scholarships they wish to apply for.
- » All students are required to submit copies of all grant applications for fellowships, travel grants, field research and stipends to the ACECoR Project Office for concurrence and documentation.
- » Students who secure complementary funding shall be responsible for the managements of such funds.

The above provisions are to avoid conflict in data use, and to support data protection issues or comply to regulations of funded projects, and more importantly assist to develop appropriate research strategy and complementary outputs.

8. Assistantship to be rendered during studies

Every student will be required to render an assistantship to the Centre or other Divisions of the University of Cape Coast on non-payment basis during his/her period of study as may be determined by the Centre. The assistantship may take the form of academic, research, administrative or any other form that may be deemed necessary by the Centre. The time allocation to this service shall be determined

by the Centre in consultation with the student and supervisor.

9. Presence on campus throughout study

All ACECoR funded students are full time students of the University of Cape Coast. Students are therefore required to be present on campus, participate fully in all classes, seminars and other activities, and be available for frequent meeting of their supervisors throughout their study. Any student found to be habitually absent (i.e. absent from class or seminars for three consecutive times) or unreachable to the Centre and supervisors shall be first queried by Centre, and subsequently have the scholarship withdrawn if the act continues.

10. Sanctions for Criminal activities

An awardee who is found engaging in any illegal or criminal act, academic or non-academic shall be withdrawn from the scholarship and be required to refund all monies received by the student or paid on his/her behalf. Such a student will also be made to face the disciplinary actions of the University of Cape Coast and the laws of the Republic of Ghana.

11. Provision of Guarantors

Each awardee is required to complete the ACECoR Scholarship Offer and Performance Agreement Form and provide two Guarantors to complete their respective sections on the form. Guarantors agree to take responsibility for repayments of all monies received by the student or paid on his/her behalf in the event that the student is required to refund the monies but he/she fails to do so.

Contacts for further Inquiry

For further inquiries on scholarships at ACECoR, please contact the ACECoR Academic Coordinator, Dr. Isaac Okyere on iokyere@ucc.edu.gh, or the ACECoR Assistant Registrar on acecor@ucc.edu.gh.

Document links

- » ACECoR Programmes <https://acecor.ucc.edu.gh/academics/programmes>
- » ACECoR Research Guidelines <https://acecor.ucc.edu.gh/publication/acecor-research-guidelines-2020>
- » ACECoR Students Handbook <https://acecor.ucc.edu.gh/publications/student-handbook>
- » ACECoR Admissions <https://acecoradmissions.ucc.edu.gh/>
- » ACECoR Scholarship Information <https://acecoradmissions.ucc.edu.gh/scholarship>
- » LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/centre-for-coastal-management-africa-centre-of-excellence-in-coastal-resilience/>
- » Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ccmuccgh/>
- » Twitter https://twitter.com/ccm_ucc
- » Instagram https://www.instagram.com/ccm_ucc/
- » YouTube https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5aYtBTv9YP_YEckrvQBcJw
- » AAU <https://blog.aau.org>
- » UCC Postgraduate Programmes and Requirements <https://ucc.edu.gh/admission-notice/post-graduate-regular-programmes>
- » Graduate Admissions Brochure <https://sgs.ucc.edu.gh/sites/default/files/Brochure2019.pdf>
- » Scholarship Offer Agreement Form <https://acecor.ucc.edu.gh/publication/acecor-scholarship-offer-agreement-for>

FURTHER INFORMATION

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