

THE FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AKURE, NIGERIA

Graduate Research Program in West African Climate System (GRP-WACS)

CALL FOR APPLICATION

Applications are required from suitably qualified candidates into the Graduate Research Program in West African Climate System (GRP-WACS). The program is highly competitive and offers admission to only **ten candidates, one from each WASCAL countries** (Nigeria, Ghana, republic of Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Senegal and The Gambia).

PROGRAM OFFERED:

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) in Climate Science.

PROGRAM PHILOSOPHY

The philosophy of the WASCAL GRP is to train climate scientists empowered with adequate scientific and professional capacities needed to provide appropriate and effective solutions to the multi-dimensional problems of the negative impacts of climate change and variability.

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

The objectives of the GRP are to

- (a) Provide theoretical and practical training in the West African climate system;
- (b) Produce, through multi-disciplinary approach, the required critical mass of climate scientists needed for the daunting task of developing effective and sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies needed to assist the governments of West Africa.
- (c) Develop the intellectual capital and potential of the region to address the threats and negative impacts of climate change and variability as they would impact vital economic sectors such as agriculture, weather forecasting services, water resources, transport industry, energy, the environment and natural disaster management efforts.
- (d) Network the Lead University with the academic research communities in the region on climate change issues through collaboration with other GRPs in the partner Universities also supported by WASCAL. This will maximize their capabilities to improve the training of meteorologists and climate scientists for better overall results and increased benefit to West Africa.
- (e) Carry out its mandate in partnership with German institutions

THE NEED FOR THE GRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM (GRP):

West Africa has been identified by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2007) as one of the areas of the world that is most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change but with the least existing adaptation and mitigation capacities. Also, present global and regional climate models are incapable of representing or capturing the many local peculiarities that determine and shape the climate of West Africa. Furthermore, comprehensive solutions to climate change impacts are multi-dimensional and thus require a multi-disciplinary approach.

Although meteorology and climate science education programs exist in a few West African countries, even fewer number offer these courses at the Masters and Ph.D levels and, in such cases, far below the critical mass needed for the task of developing effective and sustainable adaptation and mitigation strategies that could assist the governments of the region. Therefore, there is a strong need to encourage and support the few universities and research institutions to synergize their efforts on a regional basis and thus maximize their capabilities to improve the training of meteorologists and climate scientists for better overall results and increased benefit to West Africa.

PROGRAM DURATION

The Ph. D in the West African Climate System is a full time program, with a sponsored duration of 36 months. It has the following components:

- i) Lecture component – six (6) months
- ii) Research Plan preparation – 7 months, 6 concurrent with (i) above
- iii) Field/Research Work – eighteen (18) months
- iv) Visit to Germany – six(6) months – also for Research work
- v) Final Thesis write-up and defence – five (5) months

ACADEMIC LECTURERS

Graduate Research Program (GRP) students will have the rare opportunity of having a truly international program with a full complement of international faculty/staff drawn from the Federal University of Technology, Akure, the Partner University (Augsburg University/KIT, Germany) and the International Advisory Board Universities [Univesite Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar (UCAD), Senegal; University Abdou Moumouni, Niamey, Niger; Univesite d'Abomey-Calavi, Benin Republic; Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Tech., Kumasi, Ghana and University Cocody-Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire]

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates should have Masters Degree in Meteorology, Atmospheric Physics, climatology, and other relevant disciplines, normally with an average of at least 60% in their Masters Programme.

Candidates must possess at least Second Class (Upper Division) in their first degree;

All candidates must possess five (5) 'O' level credits as required in relevant subjects but must include English Language, Physics and Mathematics (bac scientifique, option math et physique et anglais);

Pass proficiency test in English;

Candidates must be from the WASCAL countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal and Togo).

Candidates should give names and email addresses of three(3) referees, one of whom must be his/her Master's thesis supervisor

Candidates must submit both soft and hard copies of their project pre-proposal, which will be fine-tuned under the guidance of their supervisors, if admitted.

Candidates must demonstrate adequate intellectual capacity, maturity and effective decision making and problem solving potentials.

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The Graduate Research Program is a structured Ph.D with English as language of instruction. Therefore the following are the language requirements:

- Credit passes in English language at O/L West African School Certificate Examinations or at baccalaureate.

- Francophone candidates must have an intermediate level of English. In general, a computer-based TOEFL score of 213 (or the equivalent) is required for entry into graduate research programs. Applicants with limited English skills are encouraged to use the time between application and the final selection process (August 2012), to attend English training classes at their own charge.

Please note that a 2 to 3 months English proficiency course will be offered to selected francophone students at the University of Cape Coast, in Ghana, to help meet entry requirement.

HOW TO APPLY

(a) All applicants are required to download and fill the application form at www.wascal.futa.edu.ng

(b) The following documents are required for the Application: project pre-proposal, resume or curriculum vitae; recommendation letters from three (3) referees, one of whom must be your M. Sc supervisor; test scores for GRE or TOEFL or both); academic transcripts (with their official English translations if the originals are not in English).

You can submit your pre-proposal and recommendation online with your application.

(c) All applicants are required to submit the completed application form (complete with all attachments in b above) by email to:

wascal@futa.edu.ng or to: jobik2000@yahoo.com

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

The Graduate Research Program is fully funded by the German Government and includes monthly stipend (€500), visit to Germany, travel and research project grant.

The following are the criteria for students' scholarship and continued research support:

- students after admission will be required to maintain a graduate level equivalent to Grade Point Average (GPA) of B or a minimum of B from each course.
- During the course curriculum phase, students will be required to develop a detailed research programme, including the budget, that has to be accepted by his/her supervisory committee, consisting of at least two graduate faculty members, and endorsed by the Advisory Board. During the project/research stage, students are expected to present their progress reports regularly and be evaluated in accordance with FUTA Post Graduate School Regulations.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION: June 30, 2012

The list of successful candidates will be decided by end of August, 2012.