



## Call for Applications

West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Biodiversity  
With funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

### **2021 ADMISSIONS INTO PHD PROGRAMME IN CLIMATE CHANGE AND BIODIVERSITY**

**(FULL SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE)**

The WASCAL Doctoral Research Programme in **Climate Change and Biodiversity** is pleased to announce for application for its fourth batch of students to the study of Ph.D. Research Program in Climate Change and Biodiversity by the Training and Research Unit (UFR) at the Université Felix Houphouët-Boigny Abidjan, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire under the Capacity Building Programme of West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

WASCAL is a wholly West African international organization with focus on academic and transdisciplinary research, building graduate-level scientific capacity and serving policy makers in West Africa with science-based advice on adaptation to climate change impacts and land use management. It cooperates with many agencies and universities in the region, providing a knowledge platform of excellence for its partners. WASCAL is funded by BMBF, multilateral and bilateral partners and its 11 West African member countries, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, , Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia and Togo.

WASCAL's mission is to provide information and knowledge services at the local, national and regional levels to West African member countries to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. We do this through capacity building support to young West African scholars in fields of climate, natural and social sciences and by delivering climate and environmental services in member countries.

The programme provides a full scholarship to successful candidates from WASCAL member countries. Potential candidates are invited to submit an application for selection. There is opportunity for additional applicants to be selected based on their financial capabilities.

## **ELIGIBILITY**

Candidate entry requirements:

- Have a master's degree in Ecology, Biology, Botany, Zoology, Environmental Sciences, Forestry, Agriculture, Aquaculture, Fisheries, Livestock or other relevant disciplines, normally with an average of at least 60% in their master's degree programme.
- Be from one of the WASCAL countries.
- Have at least an intermediate-level in English language.
- Have at least Second-Class Upper Division in their first degree.
- Candidates must submit a two-page letter of motivation on background and academic interests. They also must provide names and contacts of two (2) referees, one of whom has been his/her Master's thesis supervisor.
- Candidates must attach a pdf version of their master's degree abstract to their application.
- Candidates should not be more than 35 years old.
- Female candidates are encouraged to apply.
- Candidates should not be doing their PhD in another programme

## **LANGUAGE**

The Graduate Research Programme is a structured PhD with English as the language of instruction. Therefore, the following are the language requirements:

- Basic Certificate in English Language.
- Functional Certificate in English Language.

A four-month intensive English language training course will be offered at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana, for the selected francophone students before beginning the programme.

French language courses will also be offered for anglophone students at University of Lomé as part of the programme.

The language course is geared towards giving participants a comprehensive and practical understanding of the French and English language, culture and traditions as well as to contribute to fostering international friendships particularly among the francophones, the lucophones and the anglophones.

At the end of the Language courses, students will have to pass a language proficiency test.

## **SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH SUPPORT**

The scholarship and research support will normally be provided following the criteria below:

- Basically, students after admission will be required to maintain a graduate level Grade Point Average (GPA) of B or a minimum of B from the course.
- During the course curriculum phase, students will be required to develop a detailed research programme, including budget, that will have to be accepted by his/her committee, consisting of at least four graduate faculty members, and endorsed by the Graduate Council.
- During the project/research stage, students are expected to present their progress reports regularly and be evaluated accordingly.

All scholarship-holding PhD fellows will receive a monthly stipend to cover accommodation and other expenses during their study period.

Research funds will also be made available to students after approval of their research budget by their advisor/supervisor and by WASCAL.

The disbursement of scholarship funds will be connected to the successful delivery of research work deliverables to be agreed upon between the project coordinator, the supervisor and the PhD fellow at the onset of the research work.

The PhD fellow will travel only to Germany once during the PhD fellowship period to work with scientists at German universities or research centres. The trip will be 3 – 6 months in duration. Airfare will be paid by WASCAL and a monthly stipend will also be provided for each month spent in Germany.

## THE PROGRAMME

The PhD in Climate Change and Biodiversity is a well-structured programme consisting of six (6) months of taught courses in the following:

### **General Concepts in Ecology and Ecosystems of world CCB41**

General Concepts in Ecology and Ecosystems of world, Biodiversity Taxonomy and evolution of organisms, Climate systems and climate change, and Scientific skills.

### **Statistics and Modeling Tools CCB42**

Sampling Strategies and Statistical Analyses, Biological modeling tools, GIS, Remote Sensing.

### **Biodiversity Management CCB43**

Biodiversity measurement, Biomonitoring, Agrobiodiversity and Agroforestry systems, conservation and valorization of biodiversity (protected area agro-system) Biotechnology and Sustainable management of ecosystems.

### **Climate Science and Biodiversity CCB44**

Carbon emissions and sequestration, Biological response to climate change, Diversity of Algae and Virus, Diversity of Fungi and Plant-Animal Interactions.

### **Human Dimension in Biodiversity CCB46**

Economics of Biodiversity and ecosystem services, Social consideration of Biodiversity and Environmental law and International Conventions.

After taught courses, field work will be conducted for 24 months by each student for his/her PhD writing and defense of dissertation.

## EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Participants graduating from this multidisciplinary and multinational programme will gain skills as scientific officers, managers of natural resources or academics. They are expected to find employment in conservation agencies and bodies, land and forestry agencies, research institutions, natural reserves, overseas aid programmes, international NGOs, environmental protection agencies, departments of agriculture, water resources or soil, and universities.

## APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND CONTACT

Candidates may apply directly to the GRP CC&B by submitting all information requested via link and e-mail:

Link: [www.wascal.org](http://www.wascal.org); [www.wascal.ci.org](http://www.wascal.ci.org)

Email: Prof Konaté Souleymane ; [skonate@yahoo.fr](mailto:skonate@yahoo.fr) ( Cell +225 07 07 07 67 33 /+225 05 86 9779 01)

Prof Kouassi Edouard; [kouasedward@yahoo.fr](mailto:kouasedward@yahoo.fr) (Cell +225 05 05 71 91 08)

And copy [capacitybp@wascal.org](mailto:capacitybp@wascal.org)

To complete the application form see WASCAL website at [www.wascal.org](http://www.wascal.org)

**Start date of Call for application:** April 15, 2021

**Deadline for applications:** June 30, 2021

## **PUBLICATION OF THE SELECTION OUTCOME**

UFHB in collaboration with the GRP CC&B Advisory Board will short list candidates. There may be the need for a selection interview via telephone, Skype or Messenger. The date of the interview will be communicated after short listing. The selection interview is mandatory to support the final selection of candidates.

***Successful candidates will then submit a hardcopy of the application package.***

The shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview. Selected students will be asked to present original diplomas at the time of registration.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

For details regarding the programme please refer to WASCAL website at [www.wascal.org](http://www.wascal.org)