CALL FOR APPLICATION

DOCTORAL RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY (DRP-CCE)

2021-2025

1. INTRODUCTION

Energy is a major issue in the world. More than 80% of the energy comes from fossil fuels, a finite resource unevenly distributed beneath the Earth's surface. Thus, reserves of fossil fuels are progressively decreasing, and their continued use produces harmful pollutants and greenhouse gases associated with global warming and climate change. But energy is a basic necessity for human activity and economic and social development.

In its Fourth Assessment Report, the Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) has confirmed that climate change is real, and Africa is "one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change and climate variability". The continent's vulnerability is exacerbated, by endemic poverty, economic and institutional weakness, and limited access to infrastructure, technology, and energy. Thus, for its ongoing development, Africa needs more energy despite its vulnerability to the changing climate.

Moreover, the region continues to face several critical challenges related to its energy sector such as energy access, energy security and unsustainable use of wood resources. The main challenge remains how to satisfy the increasing energy demand without exacerbating observed social,

economic and environmental problems caused by the changing climate. This international Doctoral Research Programme in Climate Change and Energy (DRP-CCE) lead by Abdou Moumouni

University of Niamey, in Niger and implemented in collaboration with renowned African, German and others international universities and institutions, aims at offering top-ranking students an integrated learning environment in which they acquire skills that qualify them as climate change and energy specialists.

The DRP-CCE is designed to prepare the next generation to address the energy challenges of adaptation and resilience to climate change in West Africa. The programme interdisciplinary approach allows a better understanding of West Africa energy infrastructures, their strength and weaknesses, energy policies, practices in a changing climate context and the search for sustainable solutions.

Through this present call, University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey is launching its Doctoral Programme on Climate Change and Energy for the academic year 2021-2025. The programme provides full scholarship to successful candidates from WASCAL member countries. Potential candidates are invited to submit an application for selection.

2. OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this DRP is to prepare and train a new generation of interdisciplinary professionals capable of proposing adapted solutions to face the above-mentioned climate change and energy crisis. Upon completion of their study, graduates are expected to be able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the science related to a changing climate and global warming, knowledge of the impacts of climate change, vulnerability of natural systems and the built environment, and methods for adaptation using the alternative source of energy.
- Develop a deep comprehension of energy production, delivery, and consumption for both traditional systems and sustainable energy alternatives with special emphasis on energy efficiency, energy management and local available renewable energy.

3. ELIGIBILITY

The Doctoral Research Programme-Climate Change and Energy (DRP-CCE) is opened to students and engineers with a Master of Science Degree in scientific or in engineering disciplines with a minimum of (Mention “Assez-bien” or Second Class Upper or equivalent). Candidates with technical strengths in Physics, Chemistry, Civil & Environmental, Electrical or Mechanical Engineering are preferred.

Requirements of candidates to the programme:

i. Completed application form.
ii. Be citizen of one of the following WASCAL member countries: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, and Togo.
iii. Submit a letter of motivation (2 pages maximum: Why you want to study CCE, why you are well-suited to this programme, how this programme will fit into your professional vision, how your home country and west-Africa stand to benefit after your training, any other relevant information and/or experience).
iv. Provide all transcripts and copies of diplomas,
v. Provide a detailed Curriculum Vitae,
vi. Fee-paying form for self-financing candidates,
vii. Three reference letters (one from a supervisor at the master's level)
viii. Two recent passport-sized photographs
ix. Evidence of current and previous employments (if applicable)
x. Submit a motivational letter.
xi. Francophone candidates must have an intermediate level of English (see Language section below).

4. FEE-PAYING STUDENTS

The programme will support students with scholarship as well as accommodate fee-paying or self-financing students All applicants are encouraged to indicate on the fee-paying forms their willingness or otherwise to be enrolled as self-financing students with alternative means of scholarship in case they are not selected for the scholarship.

5. LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT

The Doctoral Research Programme-Climate Change and Energy will be conducted in English. The following are the language requirements for admission:

- West African School Certificate (WASCE) credit in English or its equivalent
- Functional Certificate in English Language.

Francophone candidates must have an intermediate level of English. Applicants with limited English skills are encouraged to use the time between application and interview, to attend English training classes at their own expense.

Please note that a 4-month English proficiency course will be provided to selected francophone students at the University of Cape Coast, in Ghana, to help meet entry requirements.

6. SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

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

- After admission, students will be required to maintain a graduate level Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of B or a minimum of B from the course.
- During the course curriculum phase, students will be required to develop a detailed research proposal including a budget.
- During the project/research stage, students are expected to present their progress reports regularly and be evaluated accordingly.

- All scholarship-holding DRP fellows will receive a stipend of €350.00 per month (but will receive €250.00 during pre-course English language preparations) to cover accommodation and other expenses for the duration of their study at DRP-CCE in Niger. Research support will also be made available to students after approval of their research budget by their advisor/supervisor and WASCAL.

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

- Field research will be sponsored after a successful course work and defense of a PhD proposal. The PhD fellow has the opportunity to travel to Germany once during the PhD fellowship period to participate in PhD level courses and join supervision, if his/her condition allows him to.

- The trip will be 3-6 months in duration. Airfare will be paid for by WASCAL and a monthly stipend to cater for lodging and personal expenses will also be provided for each month spent in Germany.

7. PROGRAMME

Duration of the Graduate Research Programme in Climate Change and Energy (GRP-CCE) is up to 46 months including 4 months language training. DRP-CCE students will follow 6 months taught courses curriculum, 24 months of research and field work, 2-6 months scientific visit to German partner Universities (subject to availability of funds) and 6 months of final residency at University Abdou Moumouni and thesis write-up. During the course work phase, students will be required to develop a detailed research programme (proposal) (including budget). The proposal plan should be completed validated the student's principal advisor and the DRP Director before.

8. EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

The expected employment opportunities after this formation are national and international government agencies, research institutions, extractive industries, and energy processing companies, such as oil companies, the mining industry, power producers, and equipment builders. Employment will also be found in environmental consulting companies, with local and international NGOs interested in environmental and energy issues.

9. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND CONTACT

Candidates may apply directly to the Doctoral Research Programme by sending all required information to: drp-cce@wascal-ne.org

Please copy to:

- ☞ rabadamou@wascal-ne.org ,
- ☞ weto.s@wascal.org capacitybp@wascal.org.

The application form can be obtained via http://www.wascal-ne.org or at www.wascal.org.

Deadline for application: **June 30th, 2021.**

10. PUBLICATION OF THE SELECTION OUTCOME

University Abdou Moumouni of Niamey in collaboration with the GRP Climate Change and Energy Regional Advisory Board will short list candidates. There may be the need for a selection interview. The date of the interview will be communicated after the short listing. The list of successful candidates will be published by **July 21, 2021**.

All successful candidates will be required to submit hardcopies of the application package upon arrival at the University for verification and authentication before being interviewed.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information regarding the programme could be found at WASCAL website at: www.wascal-ne.org or www.wascal.org,