



Call for Applications

(FULL SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE)

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The WASCAL Doctoral Research Programme in Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management (DRP-CC&DRM) is pleased to announce the opening of applications for its sixth (6th) batch of PhD students. This programme, hosted at Université de Lomé, Togo, is part of 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 fully West African international organisation focused on academic and transdisciplinary research, aimed at 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 collaborates with many agencies and universities across West Africa, creating a platform of excellence for knowledge exchange with its partners. WASCAL is funded by BMBF, as well as by multilateral and bilateral partners, and supported by its twelve (12) West African member countries, namely, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia and Togo.

WASCAL's mission is to offer information and knowledge services at local, national and regional levels to help West African member countries address the various challenges posed by Climate Change. This is achieved by providing capacity building support to young West African scholars in the fields of climate, natural and social sciences and by delivering climate and environmental services across its member countries.

1. GRP-CC&DRM GENERAL OBJECTIVE

The DRP-CC&DRM will help create human capacity to cope with the threats posed by Climate Change and reduce the impact of environmental hazards on communities.

2. DRP-CC&DRM SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The DRP-CC&DRM will educate international students to understand the threat and risks associated with Climate Change, get familiar with early warning systems and know ways and means to improve the coping capacity of populations who are affected. They will be exposed to interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary approaches to assessing threats and work in multidisciplinary teams with affected groups in harnessing their inherent resilience to hazards. Upon completion of their study, the students are expected to be able to:

- analyze with scientific tools and methods the threats and risks to society or communities to the impact of Climate Change;

- synthesize knowledge regarding integrated management strategies to Climate Change effects, specifically to improve human safety; and
- prepare background document and policy notes that offer options to deal with climate change; and assist communities in dealing with Climate Change hazards by adaptation and mitigation.

3. DRP-CC&DRM STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The DRP-CC&DRM is opened for students and professionals having a Master's degree (M.Sc.) with Mention "Assez-bien" or Second-class Upper division or equivalent, in relevant disciplines: Geography, Agronomy, Sociology, Environmental science, and other pertaining disciplines.

4. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS OF CANDIDATES TO THE PROGRAMME

- Be citizen of one of the twelve (12) member countries of WASCAL;
- Hold a minimum master's degree (M.Sc. with *Mention "Assez-bien"* or Second-class Upper division holder in the above cited disciplines)
- Provide a motivation letter
- Provide recommendation letters from three (3) referees
- Provide copy of birth certificate and passport
- Provide all academic transcripts (from Baccalaureate to master's degree)
- Provide a copy of master's diploma
- Provide an updated curriculum vitae
- Must have at least an intermediate level of English (see Language section on the application form).
- Age limit: 35

Note:

- If you are in another graduate programme, you should not apply for this DRP.
- Once a student is given admission by the Advisory Board of the Graduate programme, registration for the courses shall be done at Université de Lomé, according to the University's admission rules.
- All rules will be available at Université de Lomé through WASCAL Centre.
- The application form will be available on the member universities websites and at the DRP-CC&DRM website and secretariat (Immeuble WASCAL, opposite Bloc Pédagogique 2, Université de Lomé).
- Applicants with degrees issued in other languages than French must submit certified translations of their degrees into French. Additionally, they should provide contact details for the registrar's office of the universities where they completed their Master's and Bachelor's degrees, as well as the institution that awarded their Baccalaureate or Senior High School Diploma.

Deadline for application: January 31st, 2025.

***Female candidates are encouraged to apply.**

5. DRP-CC&DRM LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

The DRP-CC&DRM is an English-speaking graduate programme. The following are the language requirements:

1. Basic Certificate in English Language; and Functional Certificate in English Language;
2. A four-month intensive English language training course will be offered at the University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana, for the selected Francophone and Lusophone students before courses start.
3. At the end of this English language course, students will have to pass an English language proficiency test.
4. Students from English speaking countries will also read French language for 4 months at CIREL, Village du Bénin, Lomé, Togo.

6. DRP-CC&DRM SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

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

- Enrolled students will be required to maintain a graduate level Grade Point Average (GPA) of B to keep their scholarship;
- During the course curriculum phase, students will be required to develop a detailed research programme, including a research budget;

During the project/research stage, students are expected to present their progress reports regularly and be evaluated accordingly.

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

3-6 months travel to Germany for data analysis with a monthly stipend during the stay.

7. OUTLINE OF THE DRP-CC&DRM PROGRAMME

Students will read the subjects listed below.

Syllabus	
Common courses	Course title: climate change and disaster risks management
	Remote sensing/GIS
	Research Methodology
	Statistics and Geostatistics
	Atmospheric Science and West African Systems
	Climate Change Impacts, Adaptation and Mitigation
	Biodiversity
Core curriculum	Climate-related hazards and disaster prevention
	Disasters response
	Climate change Migration and Conflicts
	Introduction to Public and Environmental Health/Climate Change, Disaster and Public Health
	Research Methodology/Proposal Writing / Proposal Defense Seminars
	GIS & Remote Sensing and Modeling Approaches
Research Seminars	

	Advanced Statistics
	Social Science Methodology
	Ocean, climate Change and Pollution
	Post-Disaster Management
	Disaster Risks Management /Adaptation Measures
	Sustainable Development: Application to Human Security

8. RESEARCH PLAN PREPARATION

Successful candidates will write a research plan during the curriculum phase.

Field Work: The field work can be done inside or outside Togo, depending on expertise (supervisor), availability of equipment and accessibility to relevant data.

Final Write up and defense: The revision and editing of the final version of the dissertation will be done at Université de Lomé. The dissertation Defense will take place at Université de Lomé.

9. APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND CONTACT

Candidates may apply directly at the DRP – CC&DRM, Université de Lomé. All required documents should be sent via e-mail to Professor Komi AGBOKA’s Secretariat: sedorth@wascal-togo.org and copy to capacitybp@wascal.org; spr-wascal@univ-lome.tg

10. PUBLICATION OF THE SELECTION OUTCOME

- Université de Lomé, in collaboration with the DRP-CC&DRM Advisory Board, will shortlist candidates.
- The selected candidates will be interviewed.
- The selection interview is mandatory for the final selection of candidates.
- Successful candidates will then submit a hard copy of the application package at the DRP-CC&DRM Secretariat.

11. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For details regarding the programme, please refer to the WASCAL website at: www.wascal.org or www.wascal-togo.org.