



SPONSORED BY THE



Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

## **CALL FOR APPLICATIONS West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use**

With funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF)

**2025 Admissions into PhD Programme in Climate Change, Mining Environment, and Forestry (CEMiF)" at University GAMAL Abdel Nassar of Conakry, Republic of Guinea**

### **FULL SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE**

The Doctoral Research Programme in Climate Change, Mining Environment, And Forestry (Cemif)" of the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) hosted at the Université Gamel Abdel Nassar of Conakry (UGANC), Guinea, seeks to admit students for the PhD programme in the field of Climate Change, Mining Environment and Forestry in its applications. WASCAL is a West African international organization with focus on academic and multidisciplinary research, building graduate-level scientific capacity and serving policy makers in West Africa with science-based advices on adaptation to climate change impacts and land use management. It cooperates with many public and private Institutions including, research centres, agencies and Universities in the West African region and beyond, providing a knowledge platform of excellence in collaboration with its partners. WASCAL is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and its members countries, multilateral and bilateral partners and its 12 West African member countries, namely Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia and Togo.

In Guinea, the launch of the WASCAL doctoral program focuses on the theme "Climate Change, Mining Environment, Forest." The memorandum of understanding was signed at Gamal Nasser University of Conakry (UGANC) on January 24, 2024, between Guinean authorities, represented by the Rector of the University of WASCAL.

The establishment of the PhD Program in "Climate Change, Mining Environment, and Forestry" is a product of international scientific and educational cooperation, offering opportunities for both fundamental and applied research is an output of stakeholders consultation in Guinea and validated by the key partners. This program combines training with research to enable doctoral students to develop projects funded and supported by the WASCAL Center, the German government, and other partners.

The skills gained through this program will address climate change phenomena related to mining and forestry, covering various fields of geosciences and focusing on both scientific and applied aspects to tackle the increasingly concerning climate issues. The need to skills learners with environmental concern considering the social and low is also important. The doctoral program represents a significant opportunity for Guinea to investigate the causes and impacts of climate change and to carry out mining activities while preserving forests (carbon sinks) and water resources (making the country the water tower of West Africa). The investigations will also support assessment of the impacts of mining in the context of climate change and how smart solutions can be addressed to protect the natural resources, the environment.

### **Scholarship and Research Support**

The Graduate Research Programme is fully funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF). The scholarship includes monthly stipend, travel, and research project grant. The scholarship includes:

- (i) Monthly stipend to cover accommodation, and living expenses for the period of studies;
- (ii) Payment of university fees;
- (iii) Research budget;
- (iv) A personal laptop computer on loan for the duration of the programme
- (v) Four month English language courses for francophone students and French language courses for Anglophone students
- (vi) Network with national, regional and international experts

### **Other Sources of Funding**

Apart from WASCAL scholarship, students with other sources of funding (e.g. TEFUND, PTF, Governmental support, NGOs, other scholarship supports, self, etc.) are welcome. Such students will pay 1,000 Euros per session as tuition fees. They will also pay for accommodation and take care of living expenses. WASCAL can be contacted for the full estimated cost for such self-funded students.

### **Maximum Intake**

The programme will give full scholarships to selected applicants from 12-member WASCAL countries with the best results.

We invite applications from qualified candidates from a wide range of backgrounds (Basic Sciences, Engineering Sciences, Social Sciences and Humanities, Legal and Economics and any related disciplines).

### **Eligibility**

1. Candidates are required to have Masters' degree in Geosciences and Environment, Geoengineering, Mining and Water Management and Forests and other relevant disciplines; An average grade of at least 60% in their Masters Programme.
2. Candidates must possess at least, a Second-Class (Assez Bien) division in their First Degree.
3. Candidates must possess five (5) 'O' level credits as required in relevant subjects which must include Physics and Mathematics, Biology (le bac scientifique avec l'anglais et le math) that are equivalent to Anglophone university grading system.
4. Candidates must be citizens of WASCAL member countries (Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali).
5. Candidates must accompany their application with a research proposal addressing issues of climate change in the region, and a one-page letter of motivation. If admitted, the proposal will be fine-tuned under the guidance and mentorship of supervisors.
6. Skills would be an advantage but NOT necessarily a prerequisite.

### **Other Requirements**

- (i) Basic knowledge in meteorology, climate science, and related fields as well as research experience in these fields.
- (ii) Strong computational and analytical skills; research methodology and scientific writing skills.
- (iii) Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- (iv) This programme is a PhD by research. Thus, applicants must be able to demonstrate capacity for independent work and as well as good team spirit.
- (v) Intellectual capacity, maturity, effective decision making and problem-solving potentials.
- (vi) Proficiency in English language as the programme will be conducted in English.
- (vii) Candidates are expected to publish at least, 2 papers from own research findings in a reputable international peer-reviewed journal before qualifying to graduate.

## Programme Duration and Structure

The PhD programme is a full-time programme with a duration of 46 months. It has the following components:

**Table 7:** Planning of the program's educational and research activities

<b>RUNTIME</b>	<b>TRAINING ACTIVITIES AND RESEARCH</b>	<b>OBJECTIVES</b>	<b>METHODOLOGY</b>
<b>4 months</b>	Basic training in English and French	Acquiring English language skills for French speakers  Acquiring knowledge of French for Anglophones	Learning English at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana  It is important to schedule French classes for English speakers.
<b>6 months</b>	Cross-functional refresher training based on the modules.  Each module can contain ECUEs  <i>Some modules are compulsory and others are optional. The optional modules offered are accepted by the management and the program committee</i>	Acquire the knowledge and skills needed to provide solutions to climate change, mining, and forest restoration and conservation.	Mobility of Teachers for the different courses.  Follow and learn the content of scheduled courses
	Thesis project writing	To allow the student to explore and capitalize on the knowledge needed to define a subject, and to ensure its implementation	After acquiring a relevant thesis topic and validating it, the student will have to take ownership of it and present the subject, its relevance and the

		to obtain results to be valued	objectives. This will be followed by the presentation of the methods to achieve the results, i.e. all the deliverables of the thesis required by WASCAL.  The methods of valorization of the results will be presented
<b>24 months</b>	Data Collection and Analysis	Collect data under the supervision of supervisors, of whom there are at least 2  Perform data analysis with appropriate software	Contribution of national, sub-regional and international teachers to doctoral students
<b>6 months</b>	Data analysis, writing of articles and thesis	Identify complex problems requiring a plurality of areas requiring knowledge and know-how (in the field and in laboratories)	With the support of a tutor or thesis director, the PhD student will succeed in developing a scientific document.
<b>6 months</b>	Thesis Writing, Evaluation and Defense	Validate the thesis with the scientific authorities	Submission to the Scientific Council  Send to reviewers  Defence

The following are the criteria for students to remain in the programme:

1. Sustainance of a minimum graduate level Grade Point Average (GPA) equivalent to a minimum of B grade (60%) from each course.
2. During the course curriculum phase, students will be required to develop a detailed research programme, including the budget, that has to be accepted by a supervisory

committee, consisting of graduate faculty members and endorsed by the Advisory Board. The study regime is full-time.

3. The PhD is an international degree obtained after study and serious research work carried out after 3 years and 10 months (46 months). The title is obtained after the student has finished writing a dissertation and presented the research results in front of a jury validated by the university authorities.
4. The authorization to register for the preparation of the thesis comes following the study of the file and the validation by the Rector of the Gamal Abdel Nasser University of Conakry.
5. Students enrolled in the PhD program should fulfill all the conditionalities as defined by the Doctoral School Council and the WASCAL Advisory Board.
6. During the project research phase, students are expected to present their progress reports regularly and be evaluated in accordance with UGANC Doctoral School Council regulations.

### **Application Process and Requirements**

The application process is jointly handled by WASCAL Capacity Building Department, Ghana and The Universite Gamel Abdel Nasser de Conakry, Guinea.

1. The application form must be submitted in two versions:
  - Version ONE: An electronic application form completed and saved as a PDF document (PLEASE NOTE: it must be "saved as" and NOT "printed as"). This can be done using any PDF reader app or Microsoft Edge, but NOT Google Chrome.
  - Version TWO: After completing the application form, print it, sign it, and then scan it as a PDF document.
2. **All documents must be signed, except for the electronic version of the application form.**
3. Application documents must be attached to an e-mail message to the following address: [porontare@outlook.fr](mailto:porontare@outlook.fr), and copy [capacitybp@wascal.org](mailto:capacitybp@wascal.org).
4. In the email message, write the subject title as "**WASCAL CCMS Application.**"
5. Each document must be attached separately; multiple pages of the same document cannot be combined into one attachment, or the application will be rejected.
6. The file name for each document should follow the format specified in the second column of the table below, e.g., "document\_yourlastname\_yourfirstname." For example, "trans\_cert\_seidou\_roland."
7. If you have a national identity card, a passport is not required for the application but needed when selected.
8. **The deadline for submitting applications is January 31st, 2025.**

9. For more information, please visit [www.wascal.org](http://www.wascal.org) or contact us at [porontare@outlook.fr](mailto:porontare@outlook.fr), copying [capacitybp@wascal.org](mailto:capacitybp@wascal.org)

### Checklist of Supporting Documents

Required Documents	Contents of the file name
➤ Completed application form	appl_formV1
➤ Completed, printed, signed and scanned application form	appl_formV2
➤ Curriculum vitae	CV
➤ A Copy of the National Identity Card (ID)/Passport	ID or Pass
➤ A cover letter (max. 2 pages).	motiv_letter
➤ A copy of the university degree certificate	univ_cert
➤ A copy of academic transcripts.	trans_cert
➤ A copy of the English language proficiency certificate or, failing that, a statement indicating and justifying your self-assessment as part of English language proficiency.	Eng
➤ Proof of professional experience in a field relevant to the course, if applicable	Exp
➤ Two letters of recommendation from teachers or researchers (associate professor or senior researcher rank at least).	recom_letter1 recom_letter2
➤ A written commitment to pay a registration fee of 30 euros in case of admission.	commit

Only shortlisted applicants will be invited for interview and the date will be communicated to shortlisted applicants in due course.