

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY, AKURE,  
NIGERIA**

**West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land  
Use (WASCAL),  
Graduate Study Programme in West Africa Climate System (GSP-WACS)**

**Background**

The West African Science Service Center on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL) is a German initiative and funded by the German Ministry of Science and Education (BMBF). The WASCAL Program is novel in concept and international in scope. The aim of WASCAL is the establishment of Graduate Study Programs (GSPs) in seven (7) foremost Universities across West Africa. The Federal University of Technology, Akure is the Lead University for the Graduate Study Program (GSP) on the West African Climate System (WACS). The programme is for the training of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) students only in all aspects of the West African Climate System. The others GSPs elsewhere in West Africa are in specific fields like in Water resources, Economic, Agriculture etc.

The FUTA WASCAL GSP on the West Africa Climate System admitted its first set of nine students from seven West African Countries (Nigeria, Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, and Niger Republic) in February 2012. The second set was admitted in January 2013. The Centre successfully graduated all the first set in a record time of three years in March 2015.

The center move to its present location on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2012, with state-of-art facilities like 24 hours uninterrupted internet access, video conference facility to connect to off-site students and lecturers, high performance computer cluster, climate change information infrastructure and E-library facilities.

Because of these facilities, the center in its short time of establishment has attracted several local and international training workshops thereby bringing visibility into the university.

### **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 multidimensional problems of the negative impacts of climate change and variability.

### **Program Objectives:**

The objectives of the GRP are to:

- provide theoretical and practical training in the West African climate system;
- 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;
- 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;
- 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 and;
- carry out its mandate in partnership with German institutions.

### **Program Structure.**

The WASCAL GSP program being a PhD program is structured to have more of research component however because of admission of students from varieties of academic background, there is a six months of course work preceding the field experiments.

The programme is structured as follows:

- ❖ Three months of common course and language program with other GSP, this is usually undertaken in Lome, Togo.
- ❖ Six months of teaching module, this is undertaken in the Centre in FUTA.
- ❖ Twenty months (28) of field work, this includes research visit to WASCAL Competence Centre in Ouagadougou Burkina-Faso and/or to any of the partner universities in South Africa, Europe and United States for data analysis.
- ❖ Last six in the GSP in FUTA for seminars and final examination.

#### **ADMISSION**

WASCAL GSP programme is open to candidates from WASCAL participating countries, these countries are Nigeria, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Niger, and Burkina Faso. Being a funded PhD programme, there is open call for application. Selection of candidate is done after competitive admission process which involves the University and WASCAL headquarter office in Accra Ghana.

#### **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) or equivalent 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 (le bac scientifique avec l'anglais et le math).
- Pass proficiency test in English.
- Candidates must be from the WASCAL countries (Nigeria, Senegal, Cote d'Ivoire, Republic of Benin, Togo, Ghana, Niger, Burkina Faso). It is also expected to cover other countries in ECOWAS in the nearest future

#### **Students selection Process**



The selection of students starts with a “call for application” to be issued by the lead university. The Graduate studies Division of WASCAL shall facilitate the harmonization and coherence of the students’ selection among the GRPs and MRPs and preserve the identity of the WASCAL GSPs.

Calls for application are disseminated through the internet and mailing list of WASCAL and its partners. Applications are received by email

The following criteria are generally used for the selection of students: academic record, gender, knowledge of quantitative tools, research proposal, publication, reference and minimum level of English Language. Recruitment process among the GRP and MRP programs are harmonized, while respecting other procedures of the individual universities.

The selection process shall follow the principles listed below:

- The applications (or summary of information extracted from application) shall be circulated by the GSPs to all the members of the selection committee(Advisory Board)
- Each committee member ranks the candidate according to the agreed criteria
- Two top candidates are preselected for each of the 10 countries for interview taking into account the different degrees/education of applicants from Anglophone or francophone might have
- Advisory board should have at least one Anglophone and one Francophone representative; rules and requirements of the country of the GSP are to be followed.
- The screening results and the list of preselected students are returned to the Capacity Building Director
- The top two candidates from each country are then interviewed by face-to-face at the GSP offices in their country of origin and interview results sent to the Director of Capacity Building
- The interview results will be discussed and approved by GSP advisory board and the approved list should be sent to the Director of Capacity Building
- The final selection will be done and approved by the capacity building director
- Representatives of the German partner Universities shall be part of the entire students’ selection process.

