

Quick Start Guide - CMU-Africa Information Assistant

Application is Running!

Your CMU-Africa Information Assistant is now running at: **http://localhost:8501**

Configuration Steps

Step 1: Get Your API Keys

You'll need API keys from two services:

OpenAI API Key

1. Go to [OpenAI Platform](https://platform.openai.com/) (https://platform.openai.com/)
2. Sign up or log in
3. Navigate to API Keys section
4. Create a new API key
5. Copy the key (starts with `sk-...`)

Pinecone API Key & Environment

1. Go to [Pinecone](https://www.pinecone.io/) (https://www.pinecone.io/)
2. Sign up or log in (free tier available)
3. Create a new project (if you haven't already)
4. Go to "API Keys" section
5. Copy your API Key
6. Note your Environment (e.g., `us-east-1`, `us-west-1`)

Step 2: Configure in the Application

In the sidebar (left side of the screen):

1. **OpenAI API Key:** Paste your OpenAI API key
2. **Pinecone API Key:** Paste your Pinecone API key
3. **Pinecone Environment:** Enter your Pinecone environment (e.g., `us-east-1`)
4. Click **"Save Configuration"** button






Note: The application will automatically:

- Connect to Pinecone
- Create an index if it doesn't exist
- Load the sample CMU-Africa knowledge base

This may take 15-30 seconds on first setup.

Using the Chat Interface

Once configured, you can:

1. **Ask Questions** in the chat input at the bottom:
 - “What are the shuttle bus timings?”
 - “What Master’s programs does CMU-Africa offer?”
 - “Tell me about the MSEAI program”
 - “Are there scholarships available?”
2. **View Sources:** Click on “ Sources” below responses to see where the information came from
3. **Provide Feedback:** Use  or  buttons to rate responses
4. **Change Language:** Select from English, Français, or Kinyarwanda in the sidebar
5. **Manage Chats:**
 - Click “ New Chat” to start fresh
 - View previous sessions in the sidebar
 - Delete old chats with  button




Admin Panel

Access the Admin Panel from the sidebar navigation to:

- **Add Documents:** Add new information to the knowledge base
- **Bulk Upload:** Upload multiple documents via JSON file
- **View Feedback:** See user feedback and statistics
- **Manage Knowledge Base:** Delete outdated documents

Multi-Language Support

Switch between languages in the sidebar:

-  English
-  Français (French)
-  Kinyarwanda

The UI and responses will adapt to your selected language.

Sample Knowledge Base

The application comes pre-loaded with information about:

-  Bus/Shuttle Services
-  Degree Programs (MSIT, MSECE, MSEAI)
-  Faculty & Research
-  Campus Facilities
-  Admissions & Scholarships
-  Career Services
-  Contact Information

Troubleshooting

Application won't start

```
cd /home/ubuntu/code_artifacts/cmu-africa-assistant
streamlit run app.py
```

Can't connect to Pinecone

- Verify your API key is correct
- Check your environment name matches Pinecone dashboard
- Ensure you have an active Pinecone account

OpenAI errors

- Verify your API key is valid
- Check you have credits available
- Ensure API key has proper permissions

Configuration not saving

- Re-enter all three fields (OpenAI key, Pinecone key, Environment)
- Click "Save Configuration" button
- Wait for success message



Updating Knowledge Base

Via Admin Panel

1. Go to Admin Panel (from sidebar)
2. Fill in document details
3. Click "Upload to Knowledge Base"

Via JSON File

1. Edit `data/cmu_africa_knowledge_base.json`
2. Add new entries following the format
3. Use Admin Panel > Bulk Upload to reload

JSON Format:

```
{
  "id": "unique_id",
  "title": "Document Title",
  "category": "Category",
  "content": "Your content here...",
  "keywords": ["keyword1", "keyword2"]
}
```



Security Tips

- **Never share your API keys** publicly
- **Use environment variables** for production







- **Monitor your API usage** on OpenAI and Pinecone dashboards
- **Rotate keys** regularly for security

More Information

For detailed documentation, see:

- **README.md** - Comprehensive documentation
- **Data Folder** - Sample knowledge base files
- **Source Code** - Well-commented Python files

Next Steps

1.  Configure API keys
2.  Test the chat interface
3.  Try different languages
4.  Add custom CMU-Africa data
5.  Share with your team
6.  Deploy to production (see README.md)

Tips for Best Results

- **Be specific** in your questions
- **Use natural language** - the AI understands context
- **Check sources** to verify information
- **Provide feedback** to help improve responses
- **Update knowledge base** regularly with latest CMU-Africa info

Need Help?

- Check **README.md** for detailed troubleshooting
- Review application logs in `/tmp/streamlit_output.log`
- Contact CMU-Africa IT support for assistance

Enjoy using your CMU-Africa Information Assistant! 