



## TRANSCRIPT OF LECTURE DELIVERED ON MAY 25, 2019.

### (FORUM 2)

#### THEME: How to Successfully Secure the Pan African University Scholarship

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#### SESSION 1: SECURING THE MASTERS SCHOLARSHIP

##### Background Information

The Pan African University (PAU) is an initiative of the African Union Commission (AUC) to provide quality postgraduate education geared towards the achievement of a prosperous, integrated and peaceful Africa. If your country is part of AUC then you are eligible to apply.

PAU has four different institutes in different parts of Africa and they offer different courses. The institutes are:

1. Pan African University Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI), hosted at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Kenya.
2. Pan African University Institute for Life and Earth Sciences—including Health and Agriculture (PAULESI), hosted at the University of Ibadan (UI), Nigeria.
3. Pan African University Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAUGHSS), hosted at the University of Yaounde II and the University of Buea, Cameroon.
4. Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences -including climate change (PAUWES), hosted at the University of Tlemcen, Algeria.

*For the specific courses offered by these institutes for MSc and PhD, see the PDF file through the link below:*

[https://au.int/sites/default/files/announcements/36607-annc-call\\_for\\_students\\_2018-2019\\_draft\\_12\\_feb\\_2018.pdf](https://au.int/sites/default/files/announcements/36607-annc-call_for_students_2018-2019_draft_12_feb_2018.pdf)

The PAU scholarship is very competitive and comes with amazing benefits, some of them are:

- ◆ The degree is a joint degree awarded from the Pan African University and its Host Universities.
- ◆ Vibrant, multi-cultural and Pan African learning and research environments.
- ◆ Research grant of up to \$3000 for MSc and \$6000 for PhD. There are other grants one can apply for if needed.
- ◆ Amazing stipends \$588 per month for Masters, and \$880 for PhD students, to support the student's living costs including food, housing, utilities, local transportation and medical insurance.
- ◆ Students not permanently resident in the country hosting the institute they are attending are entitled to a single, economy return air ticket for the most direct route between their country/city of permanent residence and the host country/city; and
- ◆ Students permanently resident in the country hosting the institute they are attending are entitled to \$100 to cover the cost of their travel.
- ◆ Each institute has its thematic partners and they make both technical and financial contributions. For example, the thematic partner of PAUSTI is Japan and they provide \$600 to all scholars as a seed research fund to start off their research. They also provide more research grants won based on need and also on a competitive basis. Mind you, this is different from the constant PAU research grant that cuts across board to all PAU institutes.

#### **Admission Requirements for Masters Programmes**

Candidates must satisfy the following conditions:

1. Undergraduate degree from a recognized university, with at least a second class upper division or its equivalent, **in a relevant field**;
2. Certified copies of relevant certificates, transcripts (from university and high school),
3. National passport (personal details page);
4. Clear coloured passport-size photograph (2cmx2cm);
5. Detailed CV;
6. Recommendation letters from **2 Professors**
7. A letter of motivation justifying why you want to pursue your study in the Pan African University;
8. Maximum age of 30 years for male and 35 years for female applicants.

Note that:

- ◆ Candidates may be required to undergo a written/oral examination after preselection.
- ◆ Candidates for the Master in Conference Interpreting and Translation programmes are required to have excellent knowledge of at least two of the African Union's official languages (Arabic, English, French and Portuguese).

### **What type of candidate is PAU looking for?**

Candidates with **potential, motivation, talent** and who **desire to play transformative leadership roles** as academics, professionals, industrialists, innovators and entrepreneurs are particularly encouraged to apply.

Reading this tells you the type of candidate PAU is looking for. Thus you should present yourself as this type of candidate through the following:

- ◆ Motivation Letter
- ◆ CV
- ◆ Education Background (Results and Transcripts)
- ◆ Work history (including volunteer experience)
- ◆ Workshops and seminars attended
- ◆ Publication
- ◆ Patents and Awards
- ◆ Training and certification
- ◆ Recommendation letters

I will like to state emphatically that none of the above should be taken for granted or as less important. They are all important in portraying you as the desired candidate.

Now I will be talking on some of the above in "brief" detail as they are the keys to convincing the selection panel that you are the type of candidate PAU is looking for:

#### **◆ Motivation Letter**

The motivation letter for this scholarship is provided in the field where you are asked:

#### ***Reasons for applying for the PAU scholarship (150 WORDS)***

Since it is 150 words, the expectation is that you come up with a write-up that in few words answers the following:

- ~ Who are you? (including your past achievements)
- ~ What have you done in the past or you're currently doing to contribute to the development of Africa?
- ~ Why are you applying for this scholarship?

- ~ How will this scholarship help you reach your goals and aspiration?
- ~ How do you intend to give back to Africa and create a positive impact as a result of obtaining this scholarship and studying your desired course?

You can also state your financial need, but note that they will not grant you the scholarship just because you are from a poor family. The best is to create the impression that despite your poor background, you've been able to achieve excellence and gaining this scholarship will be instrumental in helping you proceed in your academic journey, since you cannot afford the cost of a post graduate study.

#### ♦ **Curriculum Vitae (CV)**

Your CV is one document that summarizes who you are, so please be keen when writing this.

It is clearly stated on the PAU website that you should submit a **detailed CV**. This does not mean that you should be verbose and submit a CV of 20 pages. In a 2 to 3 pages CV (for master's degree) you can convey all you need to convey. Remember, this should be an academic CV, so going up to 3 pages is acceptable.

Your CV should contain the following:

##### ~ *Educational Background*

Include all relevant educational accomplishments including the grades where applicable.

##### ~ *Work history*

State your professional work experience and, in two to three lines, write about what you achieved while in that position. As much as possible, this should relate to the course you are applying for (you can show how it relates in a brief description).

##### ~ *Leadership and Community Development Experience*

In addition to your professional experience, you should include your volunteer experience. Remember, PAU is interested in a candidate that will be willing to transform Africa, so this is your chance to show how you have transformed your community in the past. This will give them the assurance that if you've done something meaningful in the past, given an opportunity, you can do something better for the community.

Leadership experience could be Secretary, President etc. of associations and clubs, Student Representative Positions, or Community Development projects you've been part of (Your role and the impact made).

##### ~ *Conferences, Workshops and Seminars attended*

The classroom is not the only place one can learn. Attending workshops, conferences and seminars shows you are genuinely interested in the field. It also shows that you are abreast with the latest developments in your field of study. So do well to include the workshops, conferences and seminars you have attended that are mostly related to the course you are applying for.

~ *Publication/Research Experience*

Do well to include your publications.

If you do not have any work published in journals, do not leave this place blank. Include your undergraduate research or post graduate research (you can state “an unpublished undergraduate thesis”)

~ *Patents and Awards*

Awards and patents go a long way in portraying you as an achiever. So include your awards in any or all of these areas as it applies to you: academic, entrepreneurial, work related (e.g. employee of the month, most disciple employee), research related (like best paper award) and leadership/community development awards (e.g. NYSC award as best president) and so on.

~ *Training and certification*

There are specific expertise that you may not get in the four walls of a university. These expertise can be gained by attending trainings and gaining certifications from reputable institutions. It is important that you include the certifications you have and training you have attended. As much as possible it should be related to the course you are applying for.

◆ **Recommendation Letters**

Recommendation letters are key parts of your application. Your recommenders should confirm all the good qualities you have shown as well as the ones you have and more. See this as a validation of all what you have said about yourself and as an insight into who you are on a personal, relational, academic and professional level.

You are to upload three references. Two academic references and one non-academic reference (e.g. from your pastor, emir, employer, chief etc.)

(You are to upload your reference letter. Ensure it is on an institution letterhead paper and duly signed.)

***Make sure you save your files in the way requested. This is very important.***

**Application Procedure**

Applications should be completed online at [www.au-pau.org](http://www.au-pau.org)

We have made a video that shows a step by step guide on how to go about the application on the portal; to view, go through the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QK5X8dvc2Sc#action=share>

Deadline for application for the present call is June 27, 2019. Apply before this date, because close to this date the website may not be stable due to many people assessing it at the same time.

In conclusion, as said earlier, the PAU scholarship is arguably the most prestigious scholarship on the African soil, and as such, it is competitive and attracts very many outstanding applications. After you've done your best, I encourage you to pray and rely on God to do the rest. He makes all things beautiful in his time.

## **SESSION 2: SECURING THE PhD SCHOLARSHIP**

Just a recapitulation of—and an addition to—what the first presenter has said:

### **Admission Requirements for Doctoral Programmes**

- ◆ A Master's degree in a relevant field from PAU or any internationally recognized university
- ◆ Certified copies of relevant certificates, transcripts, National I.D card and passport
- ◆ A 3 to 4-page research concept note (tentative title, research questions, objectives, significance of the research etc.)
- ◆ Recommendation letters from two professors
- ◆ Clear coloured passport sized photograph (2cm by 2cm)
- ◆ Maximum age of 35 years for male and 40 years for female applicants
- ◆ The African union commission will offer full scholarships to the successful African candidates. Scholarship awardees should be committed to working in African after graduation.

### **Benefits of PhD Scholarship**

- ◆ Round flight ticket
- ◆ School fee
- ◆ Monthly stipend (about \$880) for 36 months
- ◆ Research grant (between \$6000-12000) depending on your department

### **Criteria for selection**

The screening team gives scores to applicants according to age limit, qualifications and publications, cover letter (motivation), research proposal and recommendation letters. Then each country slot of the applicants will be considered. Therefore, someone can have higher scores than candidates from other countries but will not be selected because their country's slots have been occupied by applicants from the same country with higher scores.

The host country where the institute is located has 20% slot while other African countries will have a share of 80% slot.

Thank you for your attention.

## Questions & Answers

- Q. is any English Language proficiency test result required for this scholarship?
- A. No.
- Q. My specific course is not open for study under the PAU; what should I do?
- A. You can apply for any programme **closely related** to your previous course of study.
- Q. No confirmation email was received after the application process?
- A. Contact the management via the email address provided on the website, the problem will be resolved.
- Q. Can I apply for two different degrees (MSc and PhD), with the hope that one would click at the least?
- A. I do not think this is possible, just apply for one and be hopeful.
- Q. Is First Class degree a priority for gaining or being a beneficiary of this Scholarship?
- A. Yes, 70% are First Class but 2.1 are considered too, especially female applicants.
- Q. How many Scholarship do they award annually; I mean for MSc specifically?
- A. One scholarship annually.



Joe Average

For International Scholarship Forum