



INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FORUM (ISF)

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TRANSCRIPT OF LECTURE:

How to successfully secure the Pan Africa University Scholarship (II)

LECTURER 1» **SCHOLAR ODINAKA ANI**

TRANSMISSION CREW» **Scholars: Justin, Raji, Salako, Lukman, Hussein, Hasbiyallah, Rasheed, Paulotimi, Etubi, Hydrospec and Obasekore**

ODINAKA (M.Sc student at the Pan African University Institute for Life and Earth Sciences, University of Ibadan)

Moderator: **Scholar Hussein**

LECTURE AGENDA

1. Introduction to the Pan African University including benefits of the scholarship.
2. How to apply
3. Basic requirements – with emphasis on developing a detailed CV for PAU
4. Writing the cover/motivational letter that meets the objectives of PAU.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PAU SCHOLARSHIP

The PAU is an integrated program of the African Union, which is a network of Universities that offer some selected programs in Masters and Phd. The Pan African University has four institutes namely:

-PAUSTI – Pan African University Institute for Basic Science located at Jumo Kenyatta University, Kenya.

-PAUGHSS – Pan African University Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences located at Cameroon.

-PAULESI – Pan African Institute for Life and Earth Sciences located in the University of Ibadan, Nigeria.

-PAUWES – Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences located at Algeria.

Applications usually open around May/June, but this year was a little bit delayed because of Covid-19. Getting admission to study at any of the Institutes can be easy depending on if you have all the required documents. There is no English Language test required. Although, the requirements change from year to year. This year, for the masters' program, it is required that the applicant is 30years for males or 35years for females.

Have an undergraduate degree with second class upper and higher, certified copy of transcript, an international passport or national identity card and passport sized photograph.

This year, you only require one recommendation letter from your former lecturer, but in addition, you need to include the names of 3 University lecturers with their email addresses and WhatsApp numbers. I will advise here that you get your reference letter from a Professor. And include at least one professor in the list of references. This is because, last year, the reference letters required were from two Professors. So, it's good to be on the safe side. Now another requirement this year may be a written or oral interview. It is also important to prepare your mind for that even though I did not undergo any interview last year.

Now, there was a motivation letter last year, but it's not one of the requirements this year. The scholarships are very competitive however, as they are offered to a few individuals in each of the fields. So, it is important to find the field that is most related to your undergraduate study and apply for that one.

The benefits of the scholarship include:

-Tuition fees

-Most direct flight to and from your country: for Nigerian scholars in Nigeria \$100

-Monthly stipend of \$588

-Subsidized accommodation. This is for only the Masters' program. I believe the other speaker will dwell more on the PhD.

in pdf. It is always the best to have them in pdf.

DEVELOPING A DETAILED CV FOR

PAU

The CV for application, you need a well detailed information about where you've worked before and how the work relates to the program you are applying for. You also need to include information about the publications you have especially related to the field you are applying for. It is also important to at least develop a cover letter in case it is required at the interview.

To develop a strong cover letter, you must ensure that the first paragraph is attractive and explicitly states why you are applying for the scholarship. You must be able to link your reason to what you currently do and thereafter state how the scholarship can improve your career.

HOW TO APPLY

Log on to au.pau.org/submission/ then register, with a username and password, have login information sent to your mail, open application page and provide data needed and upload relevant documents, save and finish.

Please ensure your documents (recommendation letter, cv) is

LECTURER 2» Scholar Dr. Sajo Mohammed

(PAULESI alumnus at UI and lecturer at the Department of Veterinary Microbiology, University of Maiduguri)

REQUIREMENTS FOR PAU DOCTORAL SCHOLARSHIP.

Candidates must meet the following requirements: Max age of 35 years for male and 40 years for female applicants; A Master's degree in a relevant field from PAU or any internationally recognized university. Certified copies of relevant certificates, transcripts, Passport or National I.D. card (personal details page); Clear colored passport size photograph (2cmx2cm); Detail CV; Recommendation letters from 2 Professors; A 3 to 4 page Research Concept Note (tentative title, research questions, objectives, significance of the research etc); Names of 3 reference University Teachers (with email address and WhatsApp number);(mandatory); <https://au-pau.org/submission/>

TIPS ON WRITING THE RESEARCH CONCEPT NOTE

The research concept note is simply the summary or outline of research proposal. It should be simple and direct. The following should be considered when writing concept note for PAU PhD scholarship:

Tentative title: Your title should be pleasing and not more than more than 15-20 words **Research Questions:** This should be specific and direct **Objective:** the aim of what you want to achieve in the proposed research **Significant of the research:** Why do you choose the topic and of importance to the society especially Africa. **Methodology:** If possible new or latest method of approach **Financial summary:** Don't budget more than expected. Try to get prices from reliable source.

ACING THE WRITTEN/ORAL INTERVIEW FOR PHD CANDIDATES

Written/oral interview for PhD candidates This session is not usually carried out by most of PAU institutions except PAUWES and it was done via Skype (i.e for the oral interview). Just try to express yourself well.

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. Feel free to ask questions.

GENERIC QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

- Q. Please, can you please help explain the \$100 for Nigerians. What does that mean?
- A. It's the cost of travel because it is believed you reside in Nigeria. That's if you get a program in PAULESI
- Q. Like mine is for Science and Technology. That's in Kenya. But when will session start? Is it for next year cohorts?
- A. Last session started December but I doubt if you will start December. it's still possible anyway
- Q. Based on this comment of yours, does it imply that one must apply to program in which they have related undergraduate degree and also relevant work experiences?
- A. It's usually better to select program linked to your field, because the slots are limited, so they require people who will apply the knowledge gained in their field. But if you have prerequisite experience, you can try it out.
- Q. *There is an option for a cover letter in the application portal for Masters applicants. What is the word limit and are we meant to include the address like the job application cover letter?*
- A. There is no particular stated word limit but it would be preferred if it's not more than one page with about four paragraphs.
- Q. *A cover letter is required for the Master's program, how do we go about that?*
- A. Check ISF drive archives for samples even for CVs
- Q. *Detailing where you have worked and hoe it relates to the program you are applying for. What is if I have not worked in any establishment that is related to my chosen program, and I have no publication, do I stand a chance?*
- A. Yes, especially with prayers
- Q. *You said no motivation letter, Sir? But seems there is cover letter, any difference between both? this year.*
- A. I talked about a cover letter earlier if it is required. Otherwise, It is not part of the stated requirements

- Q. *Can the person that provides recommendation letter still be included in the other three referees requested for?*
- A. I think you should provide other people here. Since they changed the format this year.
- Q. *Can a non-academic staff (one who is not a professor nor Dr.) give you a recommendation that sells at all?*
- A. Preferably a professor but if no one is available no problem. Because a lecturer is called professor in some countries. But not in Nigeria, a professor must be a professor.
- Q. *Can I reuse the recommendation letter I used last year?*
- A. No, I don't think so. It is advisable to use a current recommendation letter.
- Q. *A PAU scholar told me not to include that I'm a Graduate Assistant in my CV and/or cover letter as it may reduce my chances of being selected (as I already have a job). Please, how true is this?*
- A. Not true. It is not a job it is a scholarship; they even need people like you who will impact the knowledge acquire on others.
- Q. *I am a fresh graduate and I'm yet to serve. I have not been employed before and work experience is needed for the application, what's my fate?*
- A. You can still apply stating how the MSc will help in your dream of developing Africa, citing examples of conditions you do not like in your field.
- Q. *Can a Biochemist apply for biotechnology/molecular Biology?*
- A. I believe you can try this out so far, its related to Your field. Yes, your work as Chemistry teacher should also state how much you want to change You want to change the deficiencies you have Noticed in the field.
- Can be a science (Chemistry) teacher be a work Experience?

