



INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FORUM (ISF)

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Transcript of Lecture:

AIMS Scholarship – Series 2

Saturday 7th December, 2019; 08:00PM WAT

Lecturer: Scholar Oluwasegun Micheal IBRAHIM.

B.Sc. Industrial Mathematics, Adekunle Ajasin University Akungba-Akoko, Nigeria.

M.Sc. Industrial Mathematics, University of Benin, Nigeria.

M.Sc. Mathematical Sciences, African Institute for Mathematical Sciences, Rwanda.

Doctoral Candidate (PTDF Scholarship recipient, 2019) tenable at the University of Benin, Nigeria.

Research interests: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=4wXUpEwAAAAJ&hl=en>

Moderator: Scholar Theorem

Transmission Crew: Scholars Lukgaf, Yahya, Halogen, Obasekore

Admin: Researcher Bankole & ISFM Scholar Obasekore Hameed

Lecture Agenda

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AIMS: Background

African Institute for Mathematical Sciences (AIMS) was founded by Prof. Neil Turok in 2003. The AIMS program began with a centre in South Africa, thereafter, they have succeeded in building an associated network of linked Institutes in some other African countries.

AIMS currently has six (6) centres across Africa. These include:

- South Africa (<https://aims.ac.za/?lang=en>)
- Rwanda (<https://aims.ac.rw/>)
- Ghana (<https://aims.edu.gh/>)
- Senegal (<https://aims-senegal.org/>)
- Tanzania (<https://www.aims.ac.tz/>)
- Cameroon (<https://aims-cameroon.org/>)

AIMS brings together promising African Mathematical Sciences students with the aim of solving problems emanating from Africa (e.g. climate change, infectious disease, financial risk, etc).

The set of students who graduated from AIMS, SA before 2012 were awarded a Diploma degree in Mathematical Sciences, but years after, things have changed. They now award M.Sc. in Mathematical Sciences effective 2012.

AIMS: Funding

AIMS is a non-governmental organization that receives funding from its host countries, MasterCard and some other developed countries such as Germany, Canada, UK, etc.

A lot of scholars on this group (ISF) have won the Mastercard scholarship, thus, we are all aware of their interest in gender sensitivity; leadership skills; and the financial state of their beneficiaries.

Expectedly, a sum of 25 000 Canadian Dollars' worth of the scholarship will be awarded to each student. This will lead to the following benefits:

- Free tuition
- Free flight ticket (to and from the host country)
- Free accommodation.
- State-of-the-art facilities
- Free feeding
- Free healthcare

However, AIMS will oversee the spending on accommodation, feeding, etc as listed above. Scholars can only have access to monthly stipends of 100 Canadian Dollars for AIMS Masters Degree / AIMS Masters Co-Operative.

Programs offered by AIMS

1. **AIMS Masters Degree:** For course work and research work (all centres'). The duration is 1 year.
2. **AIMS Masters Co-Operative:** For course work, industrial attachment and research work (Rwanda, Cameroon and Senegal centres'). The duration is 18 months.
3. **AIMS (African) Masters in Machine Intelligence:** Rwanda centre only. The duration is 1 year. This is new with just one graduating set.

***Note:** Our interest is in the AIMS Masters Degree since the advert is recent. Other programs are worth exploring. The program links can be found in the subsequent session.*

Registration Portals for AIMS Programs

The central web link is <https://www.nexteinstein.org/apply/>. There are lots of things to explore on this page. To be more specific, you can have the following links:

1. **AIMS Masters Degree:** <https://www.nexteinstein.org/apply/aims-structured-masters-degree-application/>
2. **AIMS Masters Co-Operative:** <https://www.nexteinstein.org/apply/aims-co-operative-masters-degree-application/>
3. **AIMS (African) Masters in Machine Intelligence:** <https://aimsammi.org/admissions/#>

***Note:** Endeavor to always explore the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section of the AIMS website. During your registration, always remember to save your progress.*

Application Period for AIMS Programs

The application window for **AIMS Masters Degree** is usually from December 1st to March 31st (with possible extension) yearly. Applicants are encouraged to apply as early as possible to improve their chances of acceptance.

For the other two AIMS programs, kindly refer to the web links provided above. **AIMS Masters Co-Operative:** [\[link\]](#) & **AIMS (African) Masters in Machine Intelligence:** [\[link\]](#)

Key Documents Required by AIMS

- B.Sc. and/or M.Sc. result/certificate
- B.Sc. and/or M.Sc. transcript
- Recommendation letters (2)
- Application essay draft

Eligibility for AIMS Scholarship

- A minimum of four (4) years Bachelors degree and/or Masters degree
- Strong academic background in a relevant field (second class upper with 70% equivalent can apply)

Note: Females are strongly encouraged to apply.

Important Things to Note about the AIMS Scholarship

- You are advised to write short essays (this is where you have to distinguish yourself).
- Take the leadership skills aspect serious.
- You will need two professors for your recommendation, a Ph.D. holder is also acceptable.
- Early application and submission is key.
- Choose your centres' wisely.
- If you are currently running a B.Sc./M.Sc., you can also apply. However, ensure that your expected date of graduation should come before the selection committee begins their general evaluation.
For MSc student, you can provide them with a student copy (course work) of your M.Sc. transcript. Personally, I applied during my first Masters. I submitted the first and second-semester course work only.
- Graduates from these areas may apply:
 - Mathematics (Pure, Applied and Industrial)
 - Statistics
 - Physics
 - Engineering related courses
 - Computer Science
 - Combined degrees (like Mathematics and Economics, Mathematics and Computer, etc.).
- Network with AIMS Alumni, they are very free. We have some beneficiaries on the ISF platform.
- Make sure your referees have valid emails. If possible, make use of institutional emails.

Things I could not do while at AIMS due to ignorance:

1. I was unable to apply for another M.Sc./Ph.D. while in the program. I would have been able to request recommendation letters from the lecturers from the US, UK, Germany, etc.
2. I was unable to convince a professor outside Africa to supervise my AIMS Masters thesis. It will be easier to contact such a professor for a Ph.D. opportunity after the program.

3. I was unable to write my English proficiency test while at AIMS. Methinks it may be easier to pass those exams in relatively obscure English-speaking/French-speaking countries than well-established English-speaking countries like Nigeria.
4. It is also easier to process your VISA from those countries than Lagos, Nigeria.

NOTE: Kindly pay keen attention to these sections during your application. Please, don't leave any one empty.

AIMS African Institute for Mathematical Sciences
NEXT EINSTEIN INITIATIVE

Home Logout

You are logged in as [REDACTED]

Your application reference code [REDACTED]

AIMS Master's 2020-21 On-line Application

FRANCAIS

Application Status: Draft

- [Status](#)
- [Personal Info](#)
- [Education & Employment](#)
- [Skills & Interest](#)
- [Leadership & community service](#)
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AIMS Master's 2020-21 On-line Application

All admitted students at AIMS are provided full bursary. The following questions are related to your background interests, your leadership potential and your commitment to community service. Please respond with as much detail as possible.

8. LEADERSHIP AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

a). Please name a person or movement that has inspired you and describe how this has affected your life.

You have **500** characters left.

b). Describe any previously held leadership position, activities, or experiences: (i.e. position where you guided people, a project, or a cause)

(e.g. prefect, head girl/boy, president/secretary of a club, team captain, youth or community leader)

You have **500** characters left.

c). How do you define leadership?

You have **500** characters left.

d). What does leadership mean to you?

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Good luck with your application.

Questions & Answers

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- Q:** Which of the centres would you advise we choose? **A:** Well, some countries are very competitive. Particularly the South Africa centre.
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- Q:** What are the prospects upon graduating from AIMS? **A:** There are lots of opportunities. Just that you will have to look out for them. And there are different ways of networking while in the program.
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- Q:** I do not speak French; how would I cope in a francophone centre? **A:** Courses are taught in the English Language. However, students from the francophone background are expected to have attained a level (basic perhaps) of English proficiency. Foreign lecturers/tutors are usually encouraged to master both English and French.
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