AFRICAN UNION

الاتحاد الأفريقي

UNION AFRICAINE

UNIÃO AFRICANA

Addis Ababa, ETHIOPIA   P. O. Box 3243   Telephone: 251 11 5517700   Fax: 251 11 5 517844

website: www.africa-union.org

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

**FIRST EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF THE
CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF EDUCATION
OF THE AFRICAN UNION (COMEDAF IV+)
NAIROBI, KENYA
11 - 13 MAY 2011**

AU/ EXPT/EDUC/3j (IV+)

TERMS OF REFERENCE
FOR THE SELECTION
OF STUDENTS

Terms of Reference for the Selection of Students

2.1   Introduction

The Pan African University (PAU) is a trans-Africa University set up by the African Union. It comprises five leading institutes, one in each of the five sub-regions of Africa. In turn, linked to each of the five institutes are a group/set of satellite Centres located in different parts of the continent.

The major goals of the PAU include the desire to strengthen and accelerate the pace of socio-economic and cultural development in Africa, as well as to foster and promote cooperation amongst the member States of the African Union (AU), by enhancing the capacity of young professionals and scientists with broader innovative and developmental perspectives in their respective fields, that will benefit the wider community and catalyze the transformation of the continent.

The strategies to be used to achieve those goals will include: regional and trans regional collaboration in teaching/training and research programmes; and dynamic staff and students' mobility across the continent.

To contribute to the realization of these strategies and ultimate goals it is of crucial importance that the selection of students targets the very best talented candidates from all over the continent. Those top quality African postgraduate students will be attracted to areas of research strength in the best PAU institutes. The selection for admission/enrolment shall therefore be extremely stringent and competitive.

2.2   Management and Coordination of the Admissions Process

A Directorate of Graduate Studies and scholarships (GSS) shall be established within the Rectorate of the PAU to oversee and coordinate the students' application and selection processes, in conjunction with the different PAU institutes.

An application form for admission to the various study programmes of the PAU shall be designed and uploaded on the PAU website to be readily accessed by the applicants.

Advertisements shall then be sent out to invite applications over a period of 3 months for a start-up but for subsequent years will be advertised throughout the year. Advertisements shall be repeated monthly before the closing date for receiving the applications.

The applications shall be received and sorted out by the Directorate of GSS and sent out to the respective institutes for the selection process.

Each institute shall set up a standing Graduate Studies Committee, to be chaired by the Director of the Institute, that shall, among other things, conduct the selection process, giving clear rationale for the selection or non-selection of certain applicants. The processed selection lists shall then be returned to the Directorate of GSS, with the minutes of the Institute Graduate Studies Committees. The DGSS shall then release the different admission lists and issue admission letters to the selected candidates and also write the non-selected students stating reasons why they are not selected.

To uphold transparency and objectivity in the selection process, every institute of the PAU, in conjunction with its satellite Centres shall draw up the requisite specific requirements for admission to their respective thematic areas.

2.3 Eligibility Criteria

(a) General Criteria

i) Admission shall be first and foremost on the basis outstanding academic achievement as exhibited in the performance at bachelor's or Masters levels.

ii) Applicants shall be talented and enterprising graduates with promising and strong leadership potential, seeking to undertake postgraduate study/research in Africa.

iii) Applications shall be for both taught and research postgraduate degrees: Masters and Doctor of Philosophy.

iv) In addition to prioritizing academic achievement, selection could also take into account some desirable cross-cutting issues so as to encourage diversity in the class/programme. They include:
- Regional/sub-regional balance
- Gender balance
- ICT literacy
- Proficiency in English or French is mandatory
- Satisfactory medical report for some courses as instructed by the department concerned

(b) Masters' Degree Programmes

i) An applicant must be a holder of at least a Second Class degree (preferably Upper Division) or its equivalent awarded by a reputable University or any other recognized institution.
ii) Other specific requirements will vary from programme to programme.

(c) **Doctor of Philosophy**

i) Applicants should possess a Masters degree from a recognized university in a field relevant to the area of further studies.
ii) Must present an acceptable research proposal of not less than 3pages and not exceeding 10pages in the proposed area of study/research.
iii) Other specific requirements will vary from programme to programme.