



The Pan African University steadily meeting the Agenda 2063

The Pan African University is the flagship academic institution of the African Union, which came into being following the decision of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union during its 15th Ordinary Session in July 2010 in Kampala Uganda (Assembly/AU/Dec.290 (XV)).

It was created as a response to the need of promoting quality training, research and innovation within Africa, to successfully meet the challenges set out under the Agenda 2063, as well as the Continent's developmental needs through a continuous injection of highly skilled human resources.

The Pan African University is comprised of five thematic Institutes hosted in existing institutions of higher learning operating at the graduate studies level, in the Western, Eastern, Central, Northern and Southern Regions:

- The Institute for Basic Sciences, Technology and Innovation (PAUSTI), hosted by the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, in Kenya (Eastern Africa);
- The Institute for Life and Earth Sciences (including Health and Agriculture (PAULESI), hosted by the University of Ibadan in Nigeria (Western Africa);
- The Institute for Governance, Humanities and Social Sciences (PAUGHSS), hosted by the University of Yaoundé II in Cameroon (Central Africa);
- The Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change (PAUWES), hosted by the University of Tlemcen in Algeria (Northern Africa);

- The Institute for Space Sciences (PAUSS), to be hosted by the Cape Peninsula University of Technology with seven (7) South African Universities in the Republic of South Africa (Southern Africa).

The Pan African University also receives political leadership, financial, human resources and technical support from AU Member States.

International donors on their part provide PAU with sound technical and financial assistance in the establishment and running of each Institute.

About 50 M.Sc./M.A. and Ph.D. programs are offered in key development areas in the four operational Institutes, some of them proposed by AU Member States, and others either by Regional Economic Communities or the AUC Departments.

I. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

In over 10 years of existence, the accomplishments of the Pan African University are incredibly impressive. This is an evidence of AU Member States' commitment to make this Institution an academic reference and the exemplification of African excellence in the world.

1. Selection and admission of Students

As the Pan African University is gradually expanding, the interest in this academic institution has gained momentum in recent years, as evidenced by the figures below.

First of all, the number of applicants is always on the rise. It increased by 241 percent between the 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 academic years.

Following the call for PAU scholarship applications on 15 June 2021 for the 2021-2022 academic year, 10,789 applications were received: on the one hand 8,658 in M.Sc./M.A. programs and 2,131 in Ph.D. programs; and on the other hand, 8,422 male candidates and 2,367 female applicants.

After deliberations, a total of 408 students were admitted in PAU Institutes in M.Sc./M.A. and Ph.D. programs: 94 in PAUGHSS, 120 in PAUSTI, 84 in PAUWES and 110 in PAULESI.

It should be recalled that the established criteria that guided the committee process included merit, country and regional spread, gender balance, age for Master's programs, age for Ph.D. programs and quota by country.

As concerns Member States benefitting the Pan African University scholarships, it increased from 21 in 2012/2013 to 51 in 2018/2019 and 2019/2020, and then to 53 in 2021/2022.

In all, since its inception in 2012, the University awarded about 3,000 scholarships in M.Sc./M.A. and Ph.D. programs to young Africans from all over the continent.

2. Students' Graduation



The Pan African University made great strides in meeting the demand for highly qualified human resources.

Over the 2012-2021 period, 1,616 students – 1,081 male students and 535 female students – graduated from PAU Institutes.



In the 2021 academic year alone, 381 students graduated – 221 males and 160 females – in both M.Sc./M.A. and Ph.D. programs as can be seen below:

- PAUGHSS : 136 (73 M ; 63 F) ;
- PAULESI : 117 (63 M ; 54 F) ;
- PAUSTI : 65 (45 M ; 20 F) ;
- PAUWES : 63 (40 M ; 23 F).

3. Scientific productivity

The productivity of PAU proved successful and rewarding in 2021 thanks to the outstanding performance of its students. It confirmed how dedicated PAU is in positioning science, technology and innovation as leverages for Africa's emergence.

Following the research outputs of the Pan African University Institutes, nine patents were registered. They all originated from PAUSTI students in Kenya.

Moreover, the Pan African University students and staff published about 600 scientific articles in peer-reviewed journals in the 2012-2021 period.

4. Building the entrepreneurial skills of PAU Students



Fostering entrepreneurship is one of PAU's main pillars to attaining its strategic vision in ascertaining Africa's entrepreneurial skills and readiness to innovation.

In this regard, the Institution launched the PAU Innovation Challenge. It aims at promoting the entrepreneurial mindset and translating PAU research work into market-oriented products to create jobs and income.



The pioneer edition, organized in partnership with GIZ, the African Development Bank and the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development, took place in two phases: firstly, in April 2020 for the launching and secondly in

June 2021 for the Grand Final in Algeria during a zoom event. It was held within the context of travel restrictions and lockdowns due to the Covid-19 outbreak.

A total of 241 people (147 male and 94 female, including 27 Alumni) took part in the contest, with 22 teams from PAUWES, 12 from PAUGHSS, 19 from PAUSTI and 16 from PAULESI. They were required to propose new solutions, which contribute to the Continent's economic, cultural, environmental and social development.

At the end of the process, three teams were awarded prizes as follows:

- 1st rank: PAUWES Team: SoCool: USD 5,000
- 2nd rank: PAUSTI Team: DISHASILI: USD 3,000

- 3rd rank/Audience selection: PAUSTI Team: DISHASILI: USD 1,000

Also, PAU Institutes are gradually developing their Entrepreneurship hubs. PAUSTI launched its AfD-funded Incubation Centre for Excellence, to spur creative thinking and collaborative problem solving, encourage support and promote technology innovations, as well as test and commercialize new ideas. PAUWES and PAULESI joined the bandwagon, while PAUGHSS is on the way to set up its Incubation Hub.



5. The Pan African Virtual and E-University (PAVEU), the online space to educate more Africans

The Pan African Virtual and E-University (PAVEU) was launched in December 2019 to increase accessibility of professional and academic education across the Continent. It is expected to enhance PAU financial sustainability through more online programs.

The following courses are offered:

- Cloud and Virtualization Concept (VMware): 753 candidates;
- Media and Information Literacy (UNESCO): 775 candidates;
- Competence for employability (AVU): 1,229 candidates.

So far, the Pan African Virtual and E-University was able to reach a good number of achievements, some of which include:

- Designing and developing ten online courses jointly with PAUWES for an online post-graduate program covering the topic of Mini-grid, Digitalization and Entrepreneurship;
- Designing and developing three online courses on Media Literacy and Pandemic with the case study of Covid-19 as six months certified programs in the frame

of Pan African Health Information, Resources and Training Partnership (PAHIRTTP);

- Designing and developing an online course on entrepreneurship in the framework of the cooperation with UN Office for South-South (UNOSSC).

PAVEU is planning to scale up the number of courses during the 2021/2022 academic year, while making up to meet decisive challenge like building on better communication to ameliorate course delivery and develop the online learning environment.

6. Developing policies for better efficiency

After the adoption of the PAU Strategic Plan (2020-2024) by the Pan African University Council in February 2019, the PAU Rectorate devised a number of policy documents with the support of GIZ in 2021:

- PAU Portfolio Program Review ;
- PAUWES Master on Climate Change
- PAU Quality Assurance
- PAU Guide for Incubation / PAU Career Services
- PAUWES Teaching and Learning Quality
- 2022 PAU Communication Strategy
- PAU Gender Action Plan
- 2022 PAU Alumni Survey

II. STRENGTHENING PAU'S STRUCTURE FOR BETTER COST-EFFECTIVENESS

To enhance the University's consistency with the AU reform agenda and human resources requirements of a world class academic and research institution, consolidating PAU institutional development process with the proper staffing structure and the necessary funds to sustain it, is key.

The Pan African University is resolutely determined to finding long-lasting solutions, to reach international education standards and better accomplish its mission as a centre for excellence not only for post-graduate education and applied research, but also for an economic, environmental and social problem-solving institution at the service of Africa's development.

The challenges will certainly prove effective in transforming our vision of an ever-bright continent proud of the human riches revealed by the Pan African University, if the AU Member States and international donors work in synergy through the investment of more resources accordingly. This is only how PAU will contribute in shaping the Africa envisioned by our leaders.

