



**AFRICAN CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE FOR
DRUG RESEARCH, HERBAL MEDICINE DEVELOPMENT
AND REGULATORY SCIENCE
(ACEDHARS)
UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS, LAGOS, NIGERIA**



SCHOLARSHIP POLICY

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The African Center of Excellence for Drug Research, Herbal Medicines Development and Regulatory Science (ACEDHARS) was established to train skilled manpower on quality assurance, standardization of dosages, reproducibility of herbal preparations, drug development, drug repurposing and safety monitoring of drugs in West and Central African region. The Center is currently part of the World Bank ACE Impact project aimed at developing skilled manpower to bridge the gap in addressing regional development challenges. A lot of emphasis of the ACE Impact project is on regional development and promoting the participation of females in STEM programme across the region

2.0 CENTER STUDENTSHIP

The Center studentship is determined by the Center Management based on availability of funds per session. The Center provides financial support for all categories of students therefore admission into the Center programs is dependent on the availability of fund every session. Hence, the Center admits students based on candidates' previous academic performance and the performance at the admission examination exercise conducted by the Center. Only the bests are admitted! Other factors such as nationality, gender and Sectoral/ Institutional partnership also influence the admission of candidates.

Programs funded by the Center are

- a) 2019/2020 programs of participatory departments in Center:
 - i) Masters in Pharmacognosy
 - ii) Masters and Ph.D. in Pharmacology
 - iii) Masters in Chemistry
 - iv) Masters in Pharmaceutical Chemistry
- b) 2020/2021 and forthwith programs of departments in the Center:
 - i) Masters in Herbal Medicine
 - ii) Masters and Ph.D. in Biomedical Toxicology
 - iii) Masters and Ph.D. in Pharmacovigilance
 - iv) Masters in Drug Development
 - v) Masters and Ph.D. in Regulatory Science

3.0 GENDER IN THE CENTER

To foster the attainment of the objectives of the ACE Impact project, ACEDHARS prioritizes the enrolment of female students in all its programs so as to help

- a) improve the participation of females in STEM programme across the region
- b) promote gender parity
- c) foster the achievement of the concept of the World Bank ACE Project.

To this end, the Center targets a **minimum** of 30% enrollment of females in all its programs and courses. Therefore, admission at all times will be more in favor of females than males.

4.0 PROVISION FOR REGIONAL AS OPPOSED TO NATIONAL STUDENTS

The Center is situated in Nigeria, hence candidates of Nigerians nationality are regarded as “**national students**” irrespective of where they apply from while all candidates from other West African countries, Central Africa countries and the Republic of Djibouti, are regarded as “**regional students**”. Any nationality beyond these is an “**international student**”. Therefore, towards the regionalization goal of the ACE Impact project, the Center targets a **minimum** of 30% enrollment of regional students in all its Masters and Ph.D. programs as well as short courses.

5.0 SCHOLARSHIPS

- a) The Center offers the full scholarship to **regional** candidates admitted into Masters and Ph.D. programs in the Center. Full scholarship in ACEDHARS covers:
 - i. Admission application fee,
 - ii. Student’s visa fee (if required)
 - iii. Student’s Return ticket (only one irrespective of program and only if required)
 - iv. Postgraduate Tuition and sundry fees (University approved rate for student’s category)
 - v. Accommodation fee for University hostel except for regional Female student with a child or children. The latter will be accommodated outside campus in a one-bedroom apartment chosen and paid for by the Center. *The admission of regional females is not affected by her choice to come to the University with or without children (the question does arise during admission process).*
 - vi. A monthly stipend of \$150 for a maximum of 18 months for Masters candidates and three years for a PhD candidate.
 - vii. Research grant: A small one-time research grant of \$1000 for Masters and \$4,000 for Ph.D. is provided for each student. It should be noted that the allocated amount will be accessible by way of requesting for specific research needs (consumables, reagents, cost of analysis/bench fees) through the procurement office of the Center. The grant will be awarded to the student following agreement on the research topic with the proposed supervisor and submission of a research proposal showing timeline and cost of execution of research to the Center Research Committee. On no account will cash be disbursed to any student. Any student who requires additional fund to complete the research will be allowed to make such request by submitting a justification for the extra expenses and defending the additional budget before the Center Research Committee. In this case, a maximum amount of \$500 for

Masters and \$1,500 Ph.D. can be assessed subject to approval of the Center Research Committee.

- b) **Partner Staff-candidates** are offered full scholarship for Masters and Ph.D. programs in the Center irrespective of country of origin based on the partnership agreement. This category of students are Full-time staff of ACEDHARS' Sectoral and Institutional partner establishments that have been recommended for admission by the establishment and is successful at the admission process of the Center.
- c) **National and International candidates** (excluding those in category b. above) for Masters and Ph.D. programs in the Center will be offered all grants available in the Center (see 4.0 below) but no Scholarship.

6.0 GRANTS FOR MASTERS AND PH.D. PROGRAMS IN THE CENTER.

a) *English Proficiency Course Grant*

All students from Francophone countries are offered a grant of \$500 for a period of two months preceding the year of their admission so as to undertake English language course to ensure smooth running of their program. This grant will cover feeding, accommodation and subsistence for the period.

b) *Internship Grant*

All students of the Center are required to go on a one-month internship with a Sectoral partner of the Center. The Center will secure placement for students. Internship grant will be awarded based on the following modalities

- i. Students will be rated based on CGPA of 1st semester result, where students have same CGPA, examination scores will be compared)
- ii. An internship set is a group of students admitted in same session, irrespective of type of program i.e. Masters or PhD
- iii. Overall best student in a set, CGPA must be 5.00 (where more than one student, examination scores will be compared), gets an internship grant \$4000 and internship placement outside the continent for internship
- iv. Next 3 students (CGPA must be above 4.00; where more than one student, examination scores will be compared), gets an internship grant \$1500 and internship placement within the region
- v. Next 3 students (CGPA must be above 3.00; where more than one student, examination scores will be compared), gets an internship grant of two hundred thousand naira and internship placement within the Nigeria but outside Lagos
- vi. All other students get internship grant of fifty thousand naira and internship placement within Lagos State.

c) Research Dissemination Grants

- i) Conference grant: This will cover travel allowance and Conference registration fee for one student per department annually, to present a paper at a national or regional academic conference. The beneficiary of the conference grant is the student whose research output can be translated into income generating product.
- ii) Publication grant: The Center will pay the publication fee of all manuscripts co-authored by a student and accepted for publication in an open access non-predatory journal, that is listed in the ISI, Scopus or PubMed database. The manuscript must be a product of the research undertaken by the student. The publication fee shall be paid directly to the journal body. No student will bear any cost of publications related to the research carried out in the Center.

7.0 FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR SHORT COURSES

Short courses in the Center are a minimum of 40 hours delivered through conventional classroom teaching and online both synchronously and asynchronously.

- a) All short courses (online and onsite in Nigeria) will be COST FREE to all **Regional candidates**
- b) **National candidates** will get 50% rebate on the cost fee of all Center online short courses

8.0 APPLYING FOR STUDENTSHIP

Fifteen students to be enrolled in the Center program in 2019/2020 session are determined by their performance at the admission process of one of the following: M.Sc. Pharmacognosy, M.Sc. Pharmaceutical Chemistry, M.Sc. Chemistry and M.Sc. / Ph.D. Pharmacology and the students' Supervisors membership in the Center.

All candidate interested in the Center program from 2020/2021 session following, must go through the process below:

- a) Read the admission advertisement from the Center (Center fliers and website – www.acedhars.unilag.edu.ng) and the University of Lagos School of Postgraduate School (SPGS; national newspapers, SPGS website www.spgs.unilag.edu.ng).
- b) Send a letter of interest with all supporting documents to the Center Leader via Email to acedhars@unilag.edu.ng
- c) Receive directive from the Center to proceed to SPGS website to process application.
- d) Process an application to the SPGS via www.spgs.unilag.edu.ng (application fee of regional students who finally gain admission will be refunded by the Center upon arrival of the student in the University)
- e) All candidates shall be subjected to a selection process involving one or two of the following: written examination, oral interview, submission of Ph.D. research proposal
- f) A Letter of Admission into Program issued SPGS and a Letter of Center Studentship Offer with Scholarship & / Grant issued ACEDHARS will be sent to successful candidates.

9.0 FUND ACCESSIBILITY

Candidates who have been granted studentship of the Center will be contacted by the Center Project Manager as follows

- a) Regional student will send in International travel documents for Center to assist with visa and purchase return ticket to Nigeria
- b) Project Manager will arrange to pick up regional students at the Lagos International airport
- c) All fees to be paid to SPGS by students awarded scholarship will be paid directly by the Center to the SPGS account
- d) All students must submit personal banking details from a Nigerian Bank (regional students have to open Nigerian account)
- e) All students must complete the requisition sheet for processing of Stipends (quarterly), Internship grant and Conference grant as at when due.
- f) All students must process Research Project Budget for approval by the Center
- g) All students must complete the Research grant disbursement ledger for consumables approved in the Research Project Budget.

Students should contact the Project Manager for further information on Fund accessibility and disbursement

10.0 TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIP AND GRANTS

All Scholarships and Grants offered by the Center are subject to the studentship status of the candidate. Students are expected to maintain their studentship by

- a) Attending courses classes as at when due; 70% attendance must ne guaranteed before end of lectures
- b) Participation in Center Events (70%) – orientation, social student events, entrepreneurship training, grant proposal and manuscripts writing class
- c) Submission of research project reports as at when due.
- d) Compliance with all University regulations
- e) Compliance with all student hostel regulations

A loss of studentship will follow a breech of any of the above expectations. An erring student will be notified of identified breeches in any of the above expectations and student will be given a week to defend action(s). ALL pending disbursements will be stopped as soon as studentship is terminated by the Center. Such student must return all items in his/her possession that have been purchased by the Center and this includes accommodation, equipment, consumables.

For further enquiries on the all Financial support offered to students by the Center contact:

Mrs Ibifunke Alfred

ACEDHARS Project Manager

Email: acedhars@unilag.edu.ng; awahab@unilag.edu.ng

Mobile: +234 8035225459