

Joint Skills Enhancement Program for Master Students

of the University of Ghana
and the University of Bonn

May 26 – September 29, 2023



**STUDY
FOR
LIFE**

Getting
Started



Professional
Skills



Career
Steps



International
Community



Two Continents, One Study Hall

The University of Ghana and the University of Bonn have a strategic partnership in place connecting the two institutions on multiple academic levels, promoting joint research projects, academic dialogue between researchers of various disciplines and student exchanges. After the successful premiere in 2022, a virtual study room opens for the second time this summer semester for use by fourteen master's-level students from the two universities. Around this, a joint interdisciplinary skills enhancement program will be offered to impart valuable studying competencies and other soft skills.

The program offers:

- Access to an exclusive qualification program with no enrollment fee
- Workshops conducted exclusively in English
- Academic competency and soft skill enhancement
- Experienced, highly qualified trainers
- Africa & Europe: Expanding students' learning radius from home base
- A change of perspective to cultivate intercultural competency
- Important international networking at an early academic stage

Program completion:

- Students receive a certificate jointly issued by the University of Ghana and the University of Bonn for completing the program
- Credit at the University of Bonn: The program completion credits count towards earning the Certificate of Intercultural Competency

Requirements:

- Enrolled in a master's degree program at the University of Bonn or the University of Ghana
- Study phase: Second half of the master's program
- Regular participation in the offered workshops. The workshops usually take place on Fridays in the time from 09:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. (Ghana time) / 11:30 a.m. - 03.00 p.m. (German Time).
- Very good knowledge of English
- Interest in active international networking

Program

Official Opening with representatives of both universities on
Friday, May 26, 2023 - 09:30 a.m. (Ghana time) / 11:30 a.m. (German time)

The opening is followed by the first part of the Intercultural Training:

Intercultural Awareness and Exchange

Berit Stoppa

Date: May 26, June 9 & August 11, 2023

09:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. (Ghana time)

11:30 a.m. – 03:00 p.m. (German time)



Studying within an international environment has a lot of advantages and offers opportunities for intercultural exchange. Specifically in the time of increasing offers of virtual lectures, international exchange with students of partner universities can be enhanced by intercultural trainings.

The training on intercultural awareness and exchange offers basic knowledge of cultural dimensions and intercultural communication, opportunities to get in touch with fellow Ghanaian/German students and to get to know each other's academic everyday life by a mix of inputs, individual and group work, discussions, and reflection activities. The training is split into three parts.

After the training, participants have a basic understanding of the dimensions of intercultural communication, have reflected on their own background and cultural environment, are aware of the relevance of stereotypes and the challenges of intercultural communication and have received ideas on how to overcome them. They also have acquired basic knowledge of Ghana and Germany respectively and have exchanged with master students of the University of Ghana/University of Bonn on an informal basis.

Task and Time Management

Dr. Jan Schmidt

Date: June 02 & 16, 2023

09:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. (Ghana time)

11:30 a.m. – 03:00 p.m. (German time)

The course on task and time management will address the practical dimensions of handling different projects and jobs: How to plan your time and e.g. prioritize tasks especially in a context where different fields (e.g. pursuing your studies while preparing for an exam) need to be coordinated.

Effective Communication

Prof. Margaret Ivy Amoakohene

Dates: June 23, 30 & July 7, 2023

09:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. (Ghana time)

11:30 a.m. – 03:00 p.m. (German time)

The course on effective communication is intended to help participants understand the fundamental principles underpinning various aspects of communication: personal, interpersonal, group (business, organisational) and mass communication. The course addresses the processes of communication, skills needed for effective communication, communication in the business and organisational environment and communication with/through the mass media. It seeks to improve participants' verbal (oral, written)

and nonverbal communication to enable them develop good internal and external relations, improve decision-making and enable speedy problem-solving to enhance productivity.

Proposal Writing/Grantsmanship

Prof. Felix A. Asante

Date: July 21 & 28, 2023

09:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. (Ghana time)

11:30 a.m. – 03:00 p.m. (German time)

One of the challenges that confront young researchers is how to write a good research proposal that appeal to potential PhD supervisors/Committees and funders. This workshop offers insight into how young academics and researchers could develop workable proposals for postgraduate studies especially at the PhD level as well as for funding purposes. Students will be introduced to the key steps in writing effective and fundable proposals including how to write a compelling problem statement and preparation of a simple line-item

budget. The participants will also be introduced to potential funding sources for small research grants. The workshop will be of immense benefit to graduate students and first-time grant writers who work or intend to work in academic and research institutions.

Project Management

Dr. Jan Schmidt

Dates: August 18, 25 & September 08 & 22, 2023

(October 6 - Alternative date in case of necessary postponement)

09:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. (Ghana time)

11:30 a.m. – 03:00 p.m. (German time)

Everybody is talking about projects: In research, in industry, in your volunteer engagement. It's all about milestones, phases, gantt diagrams and resources. The reason for this is that it's absolutely helpful to plan what you do in an efficient manner and to use tried and tested tools and methods. Therefore, the course project management introduces basic tools and approaches but also creates a link to practice: We will apply the different tools to case examples and thus will get more familiar with them and learn about possible pitfalls.

Argumentation in Scientific Writing

Gordon N. Fliess

Dates: September 1, 15 & 29, 2023

09:30 a.m. – 01:00 p.m. (Ghana time)

11:30 a.m. – 03:00 p.m. (German time)

Participants of the course "Argumentation in Scientific Writing" learn valuable techniques to write precise and convincing scientific texts. The course starts with basic concepts of reasoning and logic: validity and soundness of arguments, deductive and inductive reasoning, common types of logical inferences. From these basics, we derive useful techniques for argumentation in scientific texts. We will also address more general principles for good academic (and, incidentally, other non-fictional) writing. These help the participants not only to structure their texts optimally but also to write in a more precise and accessible manner. Participants get the chance to apply the acquired skills directly to their own work, and they get individual feedback after the course.

To apply for the program, please complete the registration form by May 5, 2023:

If the number of applicants exceeds availability, admission to the program will be decided by a committee, in which case you will be notified by May 12, 2023.

Application deadline expired



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