



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS
FOR
MASTER RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN INFORMATICS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
2021/2022 ACADEMIC SESSION
(FULL SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE)

The **Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso**, is pleased to announce for application for its third batch of students to the study of Master Research Programme in Informatics for Climate Change (MRP-INFORMCC) in Burkina Faso under the Capacity Building Programme of West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), with funding from the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF).

WASCAL is a wholly West African international organization with focus on academic and transdisciplinary research, building graduate-level scientific capacity and serving policy makers in West Africa with science-based advice on adaptation to climate change impacts and land use management. It cooperates with many agencies and universities in the region, providing a knowledge platform of excellence for its partners. WASCAL is funded by BMBF, multilateral and bilateral partners and its 11 West African member countries, namely: Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, and Togo.

WASCAL's mission is to provide information and knowledge services at the local, national and regional levels to West African member countries to cope with the adverse impacts of climate change. We do this through capacity building support to young West African scholars in fields of climate, natural and social sciences and by delivering climate and environmental services in member countries.

PROGRAMME OFFERED: MASTER RESEARCH PROGRAMME IN INFORMATICS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE (MRP-INFORMCC)

The Master's Research Programme in Informatics for Climate Change (MRP-INFORMCC) is implemented at the Université Joseph KI-ZERBO (Burkina Faso). MRP-INFORMCC is aimed at training a critical mass of experts with adequate scientific computation and climate data management skills in West Africa. This Master's programme includes all aspect of data management and administration of high-performance computing facility that will be used to run

regional climate models and its auxiliaries for operational and research institutions and universities in West Africa. Students will be exposed to interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches to climate data analysis and management skills as well as operations and maintenance of HPC systems. Upon completion of their study, the students are expected to acquire adequate knowledge in:

- climate and environmental data storage and management,
- climate data analysis techniques and provision of climate data service,
- the operation, installation, and maintenance of the HPC,
- current licensed climate data analysis software/packages,
- the use of open sources climate data analysis packages.

These skills offer several opportunities for graduates. They can pursue doctoral studies or undertake professional careers in meteorological agencies, research centres, universities, public administration, private sector, NGOs, International Institutions etc.

PROGRAMME DURATION

The time frame for the master's programme is two years. During the first-year students participate in the course programme of their Master Research Programme and work on their research outline. Research will be conducted during the second year within a period of six to nine months. Students would be expected to complete their thesis and internships with relevant government ministries, the national meteorological/hydrological agencies or relevant industry during the last three to six months of their study.

The 24 months full time programme has the following components:

- i) Preparatory phase: Four (04) months of Language proficiency courses in English Language for Francophones and Lusophones at the University of Cape Coast in Ghana; and French language for Anglophones, at the University of Lomé in Togo;
- ii) Lectures – 14 months, comprising 3 semesters at the Université Joseph KI-ZERBO (UJKZ);
- iii) Research Proposal preparation – concurrent with (ii) above;
- iv) Internship/Field/Research Work/ – 4 months. Students are expected to select topics that are in line with the research agenda, mission and objectives of WASCAL;
- v) Final Thesis write-up and defence – 2 months.

SCHOLARSHIP AND RESEARCH SUPPORT

WASCAL will grant scholarships to selected students under the “WASCAL Graduate Studies Programme”. The scholarship is extended annually upon successful completion of study programme.

The scholarship includes:

- monthly stipend to cover accommodation, and living expenses for the period of studies;

- payment of university fees;
- research budget;
- a personal laptop computer on loan for the duration of the programme.

In addition to the selected students for the WASCAL scholarship, limited places will be offered to high-performing candidates capable of covering the cost of training at the rate of 2290 euros per year. For these, the fees must be paid to the Accounting Agency of the Université JKZ before the start of each year's courses.

ELIGIBILITY

Candidates applying for Master Research Programme in Informatics for Climate Change (MRP-INFORMCC) must have a minimum of BSc degree (second class upper division) or equivalent in Social, Physical and Natural Sciences and Engineering (Computer Science, Physics, Meteorology and Climate science, Geography, Geoscience, Economics, Agriculture, Mathematics, Statistics, Computer Engineering, Electrical or Electronic Engineering).

Other general requirements include:

1. Citizen of WASCAL member country.
2. Five credits including Mathematics and English Language that are also equivalent to Francophone university grading system.
3. Proficiency in English Language.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS

The application process is handled jointly by WASCAL and the Université Joseph KI-ZERBO. Applications are to be submitted online.

- (a) All applicants are required to download and fill the application form on www.wascal.org
- (b) The following documents are required for the application with the corresponding names of the files:

Num	Document required	File name
1	Filled application form	Appl-form
2	Copy of academic degree (B.Sc or equivalent) ^(*)	Degree
3	B.Sc Official Transcript or equivalent ^(*)	Transcript (1, 2, 3...)
4	Detailed Curriculum Vitae	CV
5	WASSCE or SSCE Certificate (Anglophone Countries)	WASSCE or SSCE
6	Baccalaureat Certificate (Francophone countries)	BAC
7	Letter of motivation	Letter-Motiv
8	Letter from the Head of Department in the University where the applicant obtained his/her First Degree with detailed contact address and phone number (s)	Letter-HD
9	Support letter from employer (if employed) granting study leave for the two (2) years duration of the programme	Letter-employer

Num	Document required	File name
10	Copy of Certificate of Nationality or State of Origin	CN
11	A copy of English proficiency test or, in alternative, a statement indicating and justifying your self-assessment in the context of English proficiency.	English
12	Research pre-proposal or description of research interest (max. 2 pages)	Proposal
13	Recommendation letters from two (02) referees, one of whom must be his/her First-Degree supervisor. If employed, the second letter must come from the immediate supervisor/boss in his/her work. The letters must contain detailed functional contact addresses (e-mail, skype and postal etc.) and telephone numbers of the referees	Recom 1; Recom2

(*) **official English translations if the originals are not in English (for Lusophones)**

c) The complete application folder must include 13 separate files. Each Applicant must ensure that they do not provide 2 or more items from the list in the same file. Incomplete application will be cancelled.

d) Applicants must fill out a form at the following link:

<https://forms.gle/hDHJWNsTDVHhzLoS6>

⇒ **All applicants are required to submit the completed application form (complete with all attachments in (b) above) by email addressed to: mrp.informcc@gmail.com; capacitybp@wascal.org**

⇒ **Partially completed forms will be discarded**

⇒ **Each document must be attached individually and as a single document**

⇒ **All applicants must fill out the form at the following link:**
<https://forms.gle/hDHJWNsTDVHhzLoS6>

DEADLINE:

All applications must be received by June 30, 2021. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted and invited for interviews.

Further information can be obtained on-line at www.wascal.org

The Director
Prof. Tanga Pierre ZOUNGRANA