



GUIDELINES FOR APPLICANTS OF THE 1st COHORT

***Sustainable Energy & Materials, Energy Policy, Climate
Change, Energy Economics and Environment (SMECC2E)
Intra-Africa Academic Mobility Scheme***

29th May 2026

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Implemented by:



<https://smecc2e.unn.edu.ng/>

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DISCLAIMERS & DATA PROTECTION STATEMENTS

EU Disclaimer Statements

SMECC2E is Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Education and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA). Neither the European Union nor EACEA can be held responsible for them.

Scholarship Scam Warning

There is not application fee. Applicants will not be charged at any stage of the application or selection process. Please be cautious when receiving any publicity inviting you to apply for an Intra-Africa scholarship or a message to pay a fee to be selected as a scholarship holder. Before giving out any personal data, please always verify that the information comes from a trustworthy source.

Data Protection Notice

Personal data submitted through this application will be processed in accordance with EACEA's data protection policy and the EU Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

1. INTRODUCTION

Sustainable Energy & Materials, Energy Policy, Climate Change, Energy Economics and Environment (SMECC2E) Intra-Africa Mobility Project, is an ambitious cross-regional initiative which would be delivered by a consortium of seven (7) Higher Educational Institutes (HEIs) and coordinated by the University of Nigeria (UNN), has been selected for the award of a MOBAF Grant. The other members of the consortium are University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana, University of Rwanda (UR), Moi University (MOIU) Kenya, University of Sierra Leone (USL), Lupane State University (LSU) in Zimbabwe and the University of West Attica (UNIWA), Greece.

SMECC2E seeks to enhance Africa's economic, social, and human development by improving the skills and competencies of Masters and PhD students, trainees, and university staff (academic, technical, and administrative) in Clean Energy Transition and Climate Change-related areas.

The six thematic areas covered in the project are: Sustainable Energy, Sustainable Materials, Energy Policy, Climate Change (Mitigation and Adaptation), Energy Economics & Financing and Environment.

The project runs different mobility schemes, covering student mobilities (credit and degree-seeking), traineeships, and staff exchanges. Spanning over 48 months from January 2026, and with a total budget of €1,447,580, SMECC2E will deliver:

- 74 completed mobilities spread across the African Partner Institutions, and the thematic areas of the project, in the following categories:
 - 35 Masters mobilities (30% women, 30% credit-seeking).
 - 10 PhD mobilities (30% women, 30% credit-seeking).
 - 15 trainee mobilities.
 - 14 staff mobilities.
- 45 completed student internships
- 10 completed applied industry-linked research studies.
- 10+ co-published peer-reviewed research papers.

SMECC2E is strategically aligned with the EU Global Gateway Flagship Projects in Africa, particularly in climate, energy, digital, and transport sectors. Our consortium intends to leverage these synergies through industrial linkages, quality traineeships, and field engagements with companies implementing EU flagship projects in participating countries.

2. SCHOLARSHIPS INFORMATION

2.1. General Eligibility Requirements

- (i) **For students** (masters and doctorate):
 - a. **Target Group 1:** Be registered/admitted in or have obtained a degree (or equivalent) from one of the six African partner HEIs on the SMECC2E project.
 - b. **Target Group 2:** Be from another HEI, which is not participating as a partner but established in one of the eligible countries in Africa.
 - c. **Applicants who already have a masters degree are not eligible to apply for another masters degree. Similarly, applicants who already have a PhD degree are not eligible to apply for another PhD degree.**
- (ii) **For Trainees:** be a student enrolled in a bachelor/master/PhD programme in one of the African partners HEIs.
- (iii) **For Staff:** be working for one of the partners HEIs.

Note:

- (i) All applicants should not have already benefitted from another MOBAF 2022 - 2027 scholarship.
- (ii) Applications must be to an institution in an eligible country other than:
 - The applicant's country of origin.
 - The applicant's country of residence.
 - The country where the applicant has previously completed a degree programme.

The eligible countries in target groups 1 and 2 are shown on Table 1:

Table 1 - Eligible Countries in target Groups 1 and 2

Target Group	Region	List of Target Countries
Target Group 1	Consortium Members	Applicants from the six African partner HEIs namely: University of Nigeria (UNN), University of Cape Coast (UCC), Ghana, University of Rwanda (UR), Moi University (MOIU) Kenya, University of Sierra Leone (USL), Lupane State University (LSU) in Zimbabwe.
Target Group 2	Western African Countries	Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Benin, Gambia, Togo, Liberia, Gambia
	Southern Africa & Indian Ocean Countries	Botswana, Angola, Lesotho, ESwatini, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia, Namibia, Mauritania, Madagascar, Malawi, South Africa
	East & Central African Countries	Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia, Burundi, Central Africa Republic, Cameroon, Congo, Eritea, Tanzania, Uganda, South Sudan
	Northern Africa Countries	Morocco, Libya, Egypt, Algeria

Note: For Masters and PhD programmes (either degree seeking or credit seeking), with a total mobility period lasting for 9 months and above only, eligible and well performing applicants who apply to be hosted in institutions that are within the same African region as theirs would stand a better chance of being selected than those who apply outside their region. For instance, applicants from West Africa should choose a host Institution (Table 2) that is located in West Africa, same thing applies to applicants from East and Southern Africa. However, applicants from Northern Africa are welcome to apply to be hosted in any of the six partner HEIs implementing the SMECC2E project. For avoidance of doubt, applicants who are seeking a three- or six-month mobility stay, are welcome to apply to any of the partner institution.

Table 2 - Preferred hosting locations for Masters and PhD Mobilities lasting 9 months and above

Preferred host for applicants from West African Countries	Preferred host for applicants from East & Central African Countries	Preferred host for applicants from Southern Africa & Indian Ocean Countries
University of Nigeria University of Cape Coast University of Sierra Leone	University of Rwanda Moi University	Lupane State University

2.2. Types Of Mobility

There are different types of mobility within SMECC2E:

1. **Masters or PhD credit seeking mobility scheme:** The SMECC2E Master/PhD mobility will allow students who are currently enrolled in full-degree studies at their home institution, to apply to spend a study period (6 months for Masters, 6 or 9 months for PhD) at one of the consortium's partner institutions and return home after the exchange period to finish their degree programmes there. The period could be used to take some coursework, conduct academic research in a laboratory, as well as writing the thesis and journal papers. Successful applicants would be required to participate in a one-month internship/field trip scheme at a partner facility to acquire hands on skills/experience on one or more related thematic field(s). The home higher education institution of the SMECC2E scholarship recipient shall ensure that the study/research period spent at the SMECC2E Consortium partner is fully academically recognized.
2. **Masters or PhD degree seeking mobility scheme:** This programme is for masters or PhD degree seeking African students who are not yet registered in any programme. Eligible applicants would be expected to leave their home country and complete a master's or PhD program at a partner university in the consortium. The Masters and PhD study duration is for 24 and 36 months respectively. Successful applicants would be required to participate in a one-month internship/field trip scheme at a partner facility to acquire hands on skills/experience on one or more related thematic field(s).
3. **Staff mobility scheme:** Partner African Higher Education Institution's:
 - a. academic staff members are eligible to apply for short-term mobility opportunities, including benchmarking, research, guest lecturing, curriculum development, and knowledge sharing trips. This should usually be for 1 month stay.
 - b. non – academic Staff member can apply for short-term mobility opportunities in African private businesses that are operating in the clean energy transition or climate change sector or partner HEIs to develop capacity for international mobility. The mobility would typically last for one month. This mobility is intended to promote collaboration between African HEIs and the private sector.
4. **Traineeship mobility scheme:** Masters or PhD students can spend a part of their studies in one of the African HEIs under this programme or a private business associated with one of the EU Flagship projects. This scheme would enhance the skills of the participants in the thematic areas of SMECC2E and increase their professional networks beyond their home countries. This mobility is expected to last for 3

months.

2.3. Mobility Inflow Distribution For 1st Cohort

An indicative distribution of mobility across target groups is given on Table 3. This may be increased to optimize project implementation.

Table 3 - Opportunities available in the 1st Cohort

	Masters degree seeking	Masters Credit Seeking Masters	Degree seeking PhD	Research Credit Seeking PhD	Credit Seeking PhDs (Benchwork)	Trainees	Non - Academic Staff	Academic Staff	sub-total
Duration in Months	24	6	36	9	6	3	1	1	
UNN	1	1	1	-	1	4	-	-	8
UCC	1	1	1	-	1	-	1	1	6
MOIU	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
UR	1	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	6
LSU	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	4
USL	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	3
Total	7	5	3	1	3	8	2	2	31

Table 4 shows the distribution of the scholarships across the target groups.

Table 4 – Distribution of Scholarships across target groups

Type of mobility	Target Group 1	Target Group 2	TOTAL
Masters	7	5	12
Doctorates	4	3	7
Staff	4	0	4
Trainee	8	0	8
TOTAL	23	8	31

IMPORTANT: Types of mobility and their distribution might change to meet the project's need. Please refer to the SMECC2E website ([Mobility and Opportunities - Sustainable Energy & Materials, Energy policy, Climate Change, Energy Economics and Environment](https://smecc2e.unn.edu.ng/Mobility-and-Opportunities-Sustainable-Energy-Materials-Energy-policy-Climate-Change-Energy-Economics-and-Environment)) for the most updated list of opportunities.

2.4. Maximum Scholarship Award

The maximum contribution to each successful applicant/ scholarship holder is presented on Table 5.

Table 5 – Total Contribution to scholarship holders

Mobility type	Duration (Months)	Monthly rate	Maximum amount to be awarded to the student for the entire scholarship duration
Master Mobility – Degree Seeking	24	€ 890	€ 21,360
Master Mobility - Credit Seeking	6	€ 890	€ 5,340
PhD Mobility – Degree seeking	36	€ 1,230	€ 44,280
PhD Mobility - Credit Seeking - Research	9	€ 1,230	€ 11,070
PhD Mobility - Credit Seeking – Benchwork	6	€ 1,230	€ 7,380
Traineeship Mobility	3	€ 1,230	€ 3,690
Staff Mobility	1 – 1.5	€ 2,370	varies

The total contribution to scholarship holder covers the awardee's:

- Monthly subsistence/allowance for students & Trainees for the full mobility periods. For staff a daily allowance/subsistence is calculated and pro-rated.
- Settling - in allowance (for stays above 10 months)
- Extra Allowance per academic session for female students (for stays beyond 10 month)
- Travel Costs - Cost of single return flights for students staying less than 12 months, while students staying more than 12 months are entitled to two round trip tickets.
- Visa Cost and/or Residency Permit Cost
- Student support during the one-month internship/field trip period.

In addition to the above mentioned, the Institutional contribution of partner HEIs would be used to cover the following costs on behalf of the awardee's:

- Consolidated Fees /Participation fees for the academic/trainee program.
- Insurance cost
- Basic research cost where applicable.

3. STUDENT MOBILITY

3.1. Study Programmes on Offer

For the 1st cohort of applications, the partner institutions offer opportunities for Masters / PhD credit and Degree seeking in the following area of studies:

Table 6 – List of Academic Programmes on Offer

S/No	Beneficiary name	Country	Type of programme	Name of the programme	Thematic Areas Linked
1	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Master	Renewable and New Energy Systems (RNES)	Sustainable Energy
2	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Doctorate	Renewable and New Energy Systems (RNES)	Sustainable Energy
3	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Master	Energy Policy, Regulation and Management (EPRM)	Energy Policy & Regulation
4	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Doctorate	Energy Policy, Regulation and Management (EPRM)	Energy Policy & Regulation
5	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Master	Sustainable Energy Materials Engineering (SEM)	Sustainable Materials Development
6	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Doctorate	Sustainable Energy Materials Engineering (SEM)	Sustainable Materials Development
7	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Master	Climate Change Studies, Energy and Environment	Climate Change Studies & Environment
8	University of Nigeria	Nigeria	Doctorate	Climate Change Studies, Energy and Environment	Climate Change Studies & Environment
9	University of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Master	Energy Studies	Sustainable Energy
10	University of Sierra Leone	Sierra Leone	Doctorate ¹	Engineering	Sustainable Energy
11	Moi University	Kenya	Master	Sustainable Energy and Energy Access	Sustainable Energy
12	Moi University	Kenya	Doctorate	Energy Studies	Sustainable Energy
13	Moi University	Kenya	Master	Electrical Engineering (Instrumentation)	Sustainable Energy
14	University of Rwanda	Rwanda	Master	Renewable Energy	Sustainable Energy

¹ Only credit seeking is available for the PhD Programme at the University of Serria Leone.

15	University of Rwanda	Rwanda	Master	Energy Economics	Energy Economics/Energy Finance
16	University of Rwanda	Rwanda	Doctorate ²	Renewable Energy	Sustainable Energy
17	University of Rwanda	Rwanda	Doctorate ³	Energy Economics	Energy Economics/Energy Finance
18	University of Rwanda	Rwanda	Master	Electrical power systems	Sustainable Energy
19	University of Rwanda	Rwanda	Doctorate ⁴	Electrical power systems	Sustainable Energy
20	Lupane State University	Zimbabwe	Master	Climate change & Sustainable Development	Climate Change Adaptation & Mitigation
21	Lupane State University	Zimbabwe	Master	Environmental Geography and Sustainability (M.Phil)	Environmental Studies
22	Lupane State University	Zimbabwe	Doctorate	Environmental Geography and Sustainability (D.Phil)	Environmental Studies
23	Lupane State University	Zimbabwe	Master	Geoinformatics and Remote Sensing (M.Phil)	Environmental Studies
24	Lupane State University	Zimbabwe	Doctorate	Geoinformatics and Remote Sensing (D.Phil)	Environmental Studies
25	University of Cape Coast	Ghana	Master	Environmental Science	Environmental Studies, Sustainable Energy
26	University of Cape Coast	Ghana	Doctorate	Land Use Planning and Environmental Sciences	Environmental Studies, Sustainable Energy
27	University of Cape Coast	Ghana	Master	Clean Energy and Environment (M.Sc.)	Environmental Studies, Sustainable Energy
28	University of Cape Coast	Ghana	Master	Clean Energy and Environment (M.Phil)	Environmental Studies, Sustainable Energy
29	University of Cape Coast	Ghana	Doctorate	Clean Energy and Environment (Ph.D.)	Environmental Studies, Sustainable Energy

Detailed Information on the above-mentioned programmes can be found on the ANNEXES attached to this guideline

² Only ccredit seeking is available for the PhD Programmes at the University of Rwanda.

³ Only ccredit seeking is available for the PhD Programme at the University of Rwanda.

⁴ Only ccredit seeking is available for the PhD Programme at the University of Rwanda.

3.2 Credit Recognition System

Information on the courses and associated credits offered by partner institutions may be found on the ANNEXES attached to this guideline. The applicant must discuss the proposed study plan with the head of department and/or programme leader at their home institution and receive a written endorsement and statement indicating which home credit exemptions will be granted for the mobility. This statement must accompany confirmation of degree enrolment and be uploaded to the application website.

Credit – seeking mobility will only be considered and awarded if such an endorsement has been obtained. Credit – seeking students will receive a transcript from the host institution stating the completed courses, and the home institution will grant recognition from courses taken during the mobility and exemption from home courses as per the statement from the home head of department and/or programme leader.

3.3 Traineeship Opportunities for the 1st Cohort

The traineeship opportunities for the 1st Cohort would be hosted in Nigeria and Rwanda. The core training programmes to be covered are listed below.

3.3.1 Nigeria

Training Module	Description	Thematic Area
Solar PV & Mini-grid Design & Installation	Practical system sizing, installation, and commissioning of solar and mini-grid systems	Sustainable Energy / Clean Energy Transition
HOMER & LEAP Modelling	Energy system simulation and policy scenario modelling using HOMER and LEAP tools	Energy Policy
Sustainable Materials Characterization	Hands-on training using SEM, FTIR, and XRF for material analysis	Sustainable Materials / Circular Economy
3D Printing	Design and fabrication using 3D printing technologies	Advanced Manufacturing /
MATLAB for Energy & Climate Studies	Data analysis, modelling, and simulation using MATLAB for climate and energy systems	Energy Analytics / Climate Science

3.3.2 Rwanda

Training Module	Description	Thematic Area
Climate Financing	Accessing and managing climate funds and green investments	Climate Finance
Renewable Energy Business Case Development	Feasibility studies and investment case preparation for RE projects	Energy Economics
HOMER & LEAP Modelling	Advanced modelling for energy planning and decision-making	Energy Systems Modelling
Solar PV & Mini-grid Design & Installation	Practical deployment of solar systems and mini-grids	Clean Energy Deployment

Note: For this call, Applicants should only select either University of Rwanda or University of Nigeria as a possible host HEI for their Traineeship programmes.

4. BEFORE YOU APPLY - APPLICATION PROCESS

4.1. Preparation

The applicant should:

- (a) Verify the eligibility criteria (if a candidate does not fulfil all of the eligibility criteria, S/he should not submit an application, as the application will be considered ineligible and not be evaluated).
- (b) Identify the Target Group to which s/he belongs and the available scholarships.
- (c) Select one host institution. It is highly recommended that applicants select one host institution from the available options but always with consideration to the language and background requirements defined by the host institution and programme.
- (d) Visit the [SMECC2E application portal and read the guidelines for applicants](#).
- (e) Collect all necessary information and documents to complete the Application Form: Several documents are mandatory and the online system will not allow the application to be submitted without them. In case of unreadable documents, the application will be considered ineligible and will not be evaluated.
- (f) Select the host institution with consideration to the following:
 - i. The language requirements of the host institution.
 - ii. The required academic background for the field of study.
 - iii. **The available courses for the 1st cohort as listed on Table 6** of this document.
 - iv. The need to adapt to different cultural realities at the host institution and also to different climate conditions, in case of selection.
- (g) Student applicants should prepare a mobility project proposal describing the aims, activities and foreseen study/work plan and taking into consideration the objectives and goals of the host programme and of the SMECC2E project. The proposal must be clear in its methodology, impact and benefit, as well as its feasibility within the timeframe established by the duration of the scholarship.
- (h) Staff should liaise with the home and prospective host universities on the programme of activities, e.g., lectures or administrative work to be delivered; research activities to be carried out; type of training to be followed; etc. This text will be included in the online application.
- (i) Prepare a motivation letter to be submitted to the prospective host institution with regard to the benefits and expected outcomes of the mobility. This text will be included in the online application.

4.2. Online Submission Procedure

The Application Form is completed through the following steps:

- (a) All applications would be done via the [SMECC2E application portal](#).
- (b) In order to access the form, the applicants should have a valid e-mail address and an internet connection. Communication of results will be done exclusively to the applicants e-mail via the portal.
- (c) Applicants should then complete the [online Application Form](#). The system will save a draft of the application every time the “Save” button is pressed, allowing it to be revised, edited and completed. The applicants should carefully prepare and revise the application before pressing the “Submit” button.
- (d) After pressing “Submit” button, it is not possible to make any additional changes to the application.
- (e) The Application Form must be completed in English.
- (f) The deadline for the submission of online application is provided on the SMECC2E website. The Coordinating Office will do everything possible to avoid system failures, but cannot assume any responsibility should applicants encounter technical difficulties preventing submission just before the deadline. Applicants must therefore avoid last minute applications. **Applications sent by any other means, e.g. mail, fax or e-mail, will NOT be accepted.**
- (g) Once the “Submit” button has been pressed, the application is closed and sent to the Coordinating Office. A digital notice of submission is sent to the applicant by email as well as a full copy of the application. This notice does not constitute a confirmation of eligibility nor of selection; it only confirms submission of the application.
- (h) All applicants for student mobility are advised to prepare a work plan and research proposal in consultation with their own institution supervisor and supervisor from the prospective host institution.

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4.3. Documents To Be Submitted

Digital copies of several documents are required and must be uploaded to the SMECC2E Portal. If the candidate fails to submit all required documents the application will be excluded without any possibility of appeal.

Supporting Document Types	Scholarship Category						
	Masters Degree Seeking	Masters Credit Seeking - Research Work	Masters Credit Seeking - Coursework	PhD Credit Seeking	PhD Degree Seeking	Traineeship	Staff
International Passport (West African and Southern African Applicants) / National ID Document for other regions)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes
Valid proof of employment at partner institution							yes
Valid proof of registration/enrolment in a Master's Programme (for Masters Applicants) / PhD Programme (for PhD applicants) at the home institution		yes	yes	yes		yes	
Valid proof of application for admission to relevant graduate Programme at SMECC2E partner institution outside your country	Yes				yes		
Bachelor's degree certificate	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes
Bachelor's degree transcript – duly dated, signed and stamped by the awarding institution	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	
Master's degree certificate				Yes	Yes		
Master's degree transcript - duly dated, signed and stamped by the awarding institution				Yes	Yes		
Curriculum Vitae (maximum four pages)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes
Motivation letter	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes
Two reference letters. One from current and/or previous academic supervisor.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	

Supporting Document Types	Scholarship Category						
	Masters Degree Seeking	Masters Credit Seeking - Research Work	Masters Credit Seeking - Coursework	PhD Credit Seeking	PhD Degree Seeking	Traineeship	Staff
SMECC2E research project proposal or work plan.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		
Mobility work plan or teaching/training proposal/training plan.						yes	Yes
Previous Intra-Africa/ACP mobility award declaration. This is a declaration whose template is provided by SMECC2E consortium. You can find the template to be used in the “Download” section, at the top right of the SMECC2E webpage.	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes
Letter of support from host institution (if available)		yes		yes		yes	yes
Evidence of publication (Maximum of three merged as one PDF)				Yes	Yes		
Documents confirming disadvantaged group status (if applicable)	yes	yes	yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
Transcript of Masters/PhD coursework completed at the home institution		yes		Yes			
Language proficiency certificates / proof of previous study (if required by the host university)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes
Declaration of Medical Fitness	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	yes	yes

All documents must be attached to the online Application Form. Applicants that are incomplete or have blank or unreadable documents will be considered ineligible. If an applicant wishes to attach more than one document in the same field (e.g. support letters from the home institution), one file should be attached that includes all documents, up to a maximum of 2MB.

5. ELIGIBILITY CHECKS, EVALUATION AND SELECTION PROCESS

A Call for application for the 1st Cohort is launched on 1st June 2026 on the SMECC2E website, portal and other social media handles of the project. **The call will end on 16th July 2026.**

Note: All applicants should not have already benefitted from another MOBAF 2022 - 2027 scholarship.

5.1. Administrative/Eligibility Checks.

Applications will pass through a preliminary screening whose goal will be to check the formal eligibility of the candidatures:

- **Completeness:** all the mandatory documents have been uploaded by the candidate in her/his official SMECC2E application form.
- **Eligibility requirements:** all the eligibility requirements have been met by the candidate:
 - nationality;
 - not benefitting from former another MOBAF 2022 - 2027 scholarship;
 - other general requirement that the partnership would like to set.
- **Disadvantaged Group:** in the case the candidate has declared to belong to a disadvantaged group supporting documents shall have been provided and will be checked by the Selection Committee.

The administrative check will be assessed upon the following application documents:

- Information provided in the application form
- Documents uploaded in the application

5.2 Evaluation Phases & Criteria

The evaluation of applicants would be done in two phases:

1. **Document Evaluation:** The desktop evaluation would be done by assessing the documentation submitted by the applicant. The evaluation criteria for this phase is presented on Table 7. The total score from this phase would be weighted by 70%.
2. **Online Interview:** At the end of the document evaluation phase, the top ranked applicants in each scholarship category would be invited for an online interview with the selection committee. The total score from this phase would be weighted by 30%.

Table 7 – Evaluation Criteria for Document Evaluation Phase

Evaluation Criteria		Maximum Points Available						
Criteria	Description	Master's Degree Seeking	Masters Research Credit	Masters Course - Credit Seeking	PhD Credit Seeking	PhD Degree Seeking	Traineeship	Staff
A. Academic Performance for student Applicants / Academic Profile for Staff Applicants	The applicant's previous academic performance will be evaluated based on Bachelor's and/or Master's degree results.	25%	25%	25%	15%	15%	25%	15%
	Evaluation components include:							
	Relevant Bachelors and Master's degree academic performance for PhD applicants Only							
	Relevant Bachelor's degree academic performance (for others)							
	Assessors will consider:							
	Grade Point Average (GPA).							
	Academic honours or distinctions.							
B. Academic Publications	Degree-Seeking/credit seeking programme will receive additional consideration based on evidence of:	0%	0%	0%	15%	15%	0%	0%
	Scientific publications related to SMECC2E thematic areas							
	Participation in research projects							
	Conference presentations							
	Patents or innovative research outputs.							

Evaluation Criteria		Maximum Points Available						
Criteria	Description	Master's Degree Seeking	Masters Research Credit	Masters Course - Credit Seeking	PhD Credit Seeking	PhD Degree Seeking	Traineeship	Staff
	These achievements demonstrate research maturity and academic potential.							
C. Relevance to SMECC2E objectives	Applicants will be evaluated based on the alignment of their academic background and research interests with the objectives of the SMECC2E project.	25%	25%	25%	20%	20%	25%	25%
	Evaluation considerations include:							
	Relevance of the applicant's academic discipline to SMECC2E thematic areas							
	Complementarity between the candidate's expertise and host university research strengths							
D. Research Proposal (for Masters & PhD Applicants) / Work-Plan / Study Plan / Learning Agreement (for coursework credit)/ Mobility Work Plan (For	Potential contribution to the consortium's research priorities.	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	20%	10%
	Applicants must submit a research proposal or work plan or academic plan as applicable outlining their intended research during mobility.							
	Evaluation will focus on:							
	Scientific quality and originality/feasibility of the proposal / proposed study or mobility plan							
	Feasibility of the research plan							
	Alignment with SMECC2E project themes							
	Expected academic and societal impact, outcome and skills development.							
	Integration with the applicant's home institution academic programme (for credit mobility).							

Evaluation Criteria								
		Maximum Points Available						
Criteria	Description	Master's Degree Seeking	Masters Research Credit	Masters Course - Credit Seeking	PhD Credit Seeking	PhD Degree Seeking	Traineeship	Staff
Staff Mobility)/ Traineeship Plan	Potential contribution to sustainable development in Africa.							
	For credit mobility applicants, the research plan should clearly demonstrate how the mobility period contributes to the applicant's doctoral research.							
E. Motivati on of Candidates	The motivation letter will be evaluated based on:	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%
	Clarity of academic and research objectives							
	Relevance of mobility to the applicant's career development							
	Commitment to contributing to knowledge development and innovation in Africa							
F. Recomm endation Letter / Commitment letter from proposed host institution	Understanding of the SMECC2E project objectives.	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	20%
	Two reference letters will be assessed to verify the candidate's:							
	Research capability							
	Academic integrity							
	Potential for graduate-level research							
	Professional conduct.							
	Preference will be given to references from academic supervisors or senior researchers familiar with the applicant's research work.							

Evaluation Criteria		Maximum Points Available						
Criteria	Description	Master's Degree Seeking	Masters Research Credit	Masters Course - Credit Seeking	PhD Credit Seeking	PhD Degree Seeking	Traineeship	Staff
G. Language Proficiency (5%)	Applicants must demonstrate adequate language proficiency in the language of instruction at the host institution.	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	5%	0%
	Evidence may include:							
	Standardized language test certificates							
	Previous academic instruction in the relevant language.							
	The requirement will follow the admission regulations of the host university.							
H. Institutional Impact	Potential contribution to institutional capacity building, curriculum development, or research collaboration	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	15%
I. Cross-cutting Considerations	Additional points will be awarded to support equity and diversity goals of the programme.	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	10%	5%
	These include:							
	Gender balance (encouraging female participation)							
	Inclusion of applicants from disadvantaged groups							
	Representation from underrepresented countries or regions							
	Applicants from conflict-affected or economically disadvantaged areas.							
		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

5.3. Academic Eligibility & Quality.

Admission office and/or Academic supervisors at the Host universities coordinated by the SMECC2E Local Management Unit at each institution would perform an academic eligibility check. Checking whether the candidate meets the admission requirements (including language requirements) of the programme s/he applied for:

5.4. Appeal Procedure for Unsuccessful Applicants

5.4.1. Purpose of the Appeal Procedure

The SMECC2E Intra-Africa Mobility Project is committed to ensuring a **fair, transparent, objective, and merit-based selection process** for all scholarship applicants. While selection decisions are based on clearly defined eligibility requirements, evaluation criteria, and available mobility slots, unsuccessful applicants shall have the right to request a review of the outcome through a formal appeal mechanism.

The appeal procedure is intended to:

- Ensure transparency and fairness in scholarship selection
- Allow applicants to raise concerns regarding procedural irregularities
- Promote accountability in the evaluation process
- Strengthen trust in the integrity of the SMECC2E scholarship programme
- Provide an avenue for correcting genuine administrative or procedural errors

The appeal mechanism is **not intended to re-evaluate academic merit or substitute evaluator judgement**, but rather to determine whether the selection process was conducted fairly and in accordance with approved procedures.

5.4.2. Grounds for Appeal

Applicants may submit an appeal only on one or more of the grounds on Table 8.

Table 8 - Applicants may submit an appeal only on one or more of the following grounds:

Grounds for Appeal	Example
Administrative Error	• Incorrect recording of applicant information • Omission of submitted documents during evaluation • Calculation errors in scoring • Wrong applicant categorization
Procedural Irregularity	• Failure to follow published selection criteria • Non-compliance with stated evaluation procedures • Inconsistency in application assessment
Technical/System Error	• Portal malfunction affecting submission • Missing uploaded documents due to system failure • Incorrect application status generated by the system
Conflict of Interest or Ethical Concern	• Evidence of evaluator bias • Undisclosed conflict of interest • Unethical conduct during selection

5.4.3. Non-Appealable Matters

The following shall not constitute valid grounds for appeal:

- Disagreement with evaluators' academic judgement
- Low ranking due to competition from stronger candidates
- Failure to meet eligibility requirements
- Submission of incomplete documents by the applicant
- Late submission of application materials
- Lack of available scholarship slots.

An appeal shall not be used as an opportunity to submit new documents or substantially revise the original application after the deadline.

Unsuccessful applicants wishing to appeal must submit their appeal within 7 calendar days of receiving the official notification of non-selection. Appeals submitted after the deadline shall not be considered.

5.4.4. Appeal Submission Process

Applicants shall submit appeals through the SMECC2E Online Portal. Applicant must clearly indicate the ground(s) for appeal:

- Administrative Error
- Procedural Irregularity
- Technical/System Error
- Ethical Concern/Conflict of Interest

Applicants must clearly explain:

- the issue identified
- evidence supporting the appeal
- how the issue may have affected the outcome

5.4.5. Appeal Review Committee

Appeals shall be reviewed by an Independent Appeals Review Committee (IARC) appointed by the SMECC2E Project Coordination Team.

The committee should consist of:

1. Representative of the Coordinating Institution (UNN)
2. Quality Assurance Officer
3. Independent Academic Reviewer not involved in original evaluation
4. Representative from another partner institution (*where necessary*)

To avoid bias Individuals involved in the initial evaluation of the applicant shall not participate in the appeal review.

5.4.6. Possible Appeal Outcomes

The committee may determine:

Table 9 – Possible Appeal Outcomes.

Category	Description	Outcome
Appeal not upheld	No evidence of procedural or administrative error	Original decision stands.
Appeal Partially Upheld	Minor procedural issue identified, but outcome unaffected.	Recommendation issued for process improvement.
Appeal upheld	Evidence confirms material procedural or administrative error.	• re-scoring of application • re-evaluation by independent reviewers • interview reconsideration • movement to reserve list • scholarship offer (where justified)

5.4.7. Communication & Finality of Appeal Decision

Applicants shall receive a Formal Appeal Decision Letter containing:

- outcome of appeal
- summary of review findings
- reasons for decision
- any corrective actions taken

The decision of the Independent Appeals Review Committee shall be final and binding.

Implemented by:



<https://smec2e.unn.edu.ng/>

6. CONTACTS AND SUPPORT

Project website: <https://smecc2e.unn.edu.ng/>

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For enquiries related to specific partner institution, please kindly contact the underlisted:

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7. ANNEXES

Annex 1 - Academic Programmes hosted at the University of Nigeria, Nigeria

Annex 2 - Academic Programmes hosted at the University of Serria Leone, Serria Leone

Annex 3 - Academic Programmes hosted at Moi University, Kenya

Annex 4 - Academic Programmes hosted at the University of Rwanda, Rwanda

Annex 5 - Academic Programmes hosted at the Lupane State University, Zimbabwe

Annex 6 - Academic Programmes hosted at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana