



## Call for Proposals

### 6 PhD scholarships at the Centre for the Study and Promotion of Cultural Sustainability at the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria)

#### SDG Graduate School

#### 'Performing Sustainability. Cultures and Development in West Africa'

The interdisciplinary Graduate School 'Performing Sustainability. Cultures and Development in West Africa' is a collaborative training network for postgraduate students of the University of Hildesheim (Germany), the University of Maiduguri (Nigeria) and the University of Cape Coast (Ghana). The initiative is funded by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and focuses on innovative research that brings together approaches from performance, arts and culture to bear on sustainable development as defined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). A specific focus of the Graduate School is on issues of peace and conflict resolution.

We hereby announce the availability of six 10-month scholarships for African students at the PhD level at the Centre for the Study and Promotion of Cultural Sustainability at the University of Maiduguri, Nigeria. The scholarships will commence in March 2020 until December 2020, with the possibility of extension to up to three years depending on the funding agency.

The Graduate School is based on two intensive doctoral workshops on cultural sustainability, peace and conflict studies and global education held annually at the University of Cape Coast (Ghana) and in Abuja (Nigeria). During the two-week workshops, experts from various areas will teach specific topics related to the research subjects as well as didactics and methodology for all scholarship holders. Additionally, online tutorials will be part of the program. Throughout the year, the students will pursue their doctoral program at their home universities (course work) and conduct research.

Participants in the Graduate School will pay the respective tuition fees for the programs they are enrolled in themselves. All costs in relation to the Graduate School (Workshops etc.) will be covered. Scholarship holders will additionally receive a monthly stipend.

In case of the extension of the program after 2020 and the continuation of the scholarships, a three-month exchange to the University of Hildesheim in Germany and research internships will be part of the program.

### Focus of Research Proposals

Research proposals should focus on various topics connecting artistic performance, arts and culture in West Africa with UN Sustainable Development Goal 16 ('Peace, justice and strong institutions') and related SDGs. Topics can address the following issues among others:

- Role of film, theatre, literature, media in contexts of migration and in development processes in conflict zones
- Arts mediation, arts education and cultural policy in West Africa
- Music and performing arts in societal transformation processes; role of sound archives in cultural education and cultural sustainability
- Creative industries and cultural institutions (Museums, Theatres, Art schools, etc.)
- Interdisciplinary fields (Gender studies, Decolonialization, Global Learning, Diversity Education, Culture and Philosophy etc.) in relation to arts and culture

The research projects should be conducted in local contexts and be directed towards solving problems voiced out by local agents and stakeholders. Research projects should therefore include an applied approach aiming at sustainable, mid- and long-term solutions in the fields of culture, education, policy or socio-cultural development. We highly encourage students to apply with a research project based on qualitative research methods or ethnographic field research.

Relevant literature regarding the research focus of the Graduate School can be requested through the local coordinators.

### Target Group

The Graduate School offers the opportunity to learn and exchange experiences in an international academic environment with scholars from Nigeria, Ghana, Germany, and elsewhere. It is targeting qualified young scholars and students of the humanities. A precondition for entering the Graduate School are the regulations of the Postgraduate School of the University of Maiduguri. The students are not allowed to be registered in any other graduate program of a university other than Maiduguri.

In addition, the University of Hildesheim (Germany) offers the option of a „cotutelle de these“, a split-side doctoral program, which provides certification from the two participating universities.

### Application and Selection Process

The working language of the Graduate School is English. A very good command of English in oral and written communication is mandatory. Candidates apply with a project proposal which must include issues and topics clearly related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The proposal should also contain the following information: Description of the current state of research, the resulting research questions and the intended research methods, a list of relevant literature and other potential research materials (e.g. documents, interviews, sound archives, media sources), a description of the targeted results and ideas for an applied project based on the outcome of the research.

Candidates will be selected based on their qualification and motivation. Special emphasis is placed on gender balance. We particularly encourage women and people with diverse backgrounds to apply.

The deadline for application is 31<sup>st</sup> July 2019. No application after this date will be accepted.

To apply please submit your application (preferably in one PDF document) via email to: [performing-sustainability@uni-hildesheim.de](mailto:performing-sustainability@uni-hildesheim.de)

- Online Application Form (<https://forms.gle/xzed1rF9m93sHQXi6>)
- Research project proposal (maximum 5 pages, excluding literature list)
- Motivation letter (2 pages) stating qualifications and interest
- CV
- 2 Letters of academic reference
- Certificates and other relevant credentials as prescribed by the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Maiduguri: O' Level with credit in English, Language and Mathematics; M.A. or M.Sc. Certificate with B average result, National Youth Service Corps Certificate

Short-listed candidates will be informed by September 2019. Interviews will be held in Abuja in October 2019.

For further information please visit our website: [www.uni-hildesheim.de/sustainability](http://www.uni-hildesheim.de/sustainability)

We are looking forward to receive your application. Please do not hesitate to contact us for further inquiry: [performing-sustainability@uni-hildesheim.de](mailto:performing-sustainability@uni-hildesheim.de)

Contact of Coordinators of the Graduate School:

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United Nations  
Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization



• UNESCO Chair  
• Cultural Policy for the Arts in Development  
• University of Hildesheim, Germany

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