



FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF
TECHNOLOGY OWERRI

AFRICA CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN FUTURE ENERGIES AND ELECTROCHEMICAL SYSTEMS (ACE-FUELS)

ACE-FUELS SCHOLARSHIPS POLICY



ACE | FUELS

**Africa Center of Excellence in Future
Energies & Electrochemical Systems**

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1. PREAMBLE

The primary purpose of ACE-FUELS scholarships is to offer financial assistance to select students, as well as to attract and retain high quality students. This is intended to motivate the recipients to greater achievements and to improve performance and research outputs.

2. POLICY OBJECTIVE

This policy establishes the framework for consideration and award of the Centre's portfolio of scholarships.

3. DEFINITION OF TERMS

- a) Scholarship is defined as a grant/payment/financial aid awarded based on academic merit or other specified criteria, to support a student's education.
- b) A full scholarship covers all costs associated with attendance, including tuition and sometimes accommodation and even living costs.
- c) A partial scholarship covers some of the costs associated with attendance.
- d) Externally funded scholarship means a scholarship funded by a third party, such as companies, private foundations, and government agencies.
- e) Internally funded scholarship means a scholarship funded by ACE-FUELS
- f) Co-funded scholarship means a scholarship partially funded by ACE-FUELS and partially funded by a third party
- g) Research support grants are small grants awarded to students from partner Departments, to offset some research related costs.

4. ELIGIBILITY FOR ACE-FUELS SCHOLARSHIPS

All scholarships in the ACE-FUELS portfolio shall be restricted only to fulltime MSc and PhD students enrolled in the Centre's programmes, unless otherwise explicitly stated.

- i. Deserving regional students may be offered full scholarships.
- ii. Deserving local students will be offered partial scholarships.
- iii. ACE-FUELS students from partner Departments, who have successfully completed coursework and have approved research proposals shall benefit from research support funding.

5. SCHOLARSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

All scholarship announcements shall be published on time and widely disseminated to the university community, ACE-FUELS students and intending applicants to the Centre's programmes. Information to be included in the announcement include:

- i. The scholarship amount and scope
- ii. The donor or source
- iii. Eligibility and selection criteria

- iv. Application information and procedures
- v. Submission deadlines
- vi. Selection dates
- vii. Scholarship acceptance deadline

6. SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

- i. To begin with, scholarship applicants must first apply for any of the Centre's MSc or PhD programmes.
- ii. Applications for scholarship shall be processed when the applicants have satisfactorily completed the application for any of the Centre's MSc or PhD programmes, submitted all the required documentation to verify eligibility, paid the application fee and obtained a unique Application Number.
- iii. Only applicants who have satisfactorily fulfilled the eligibility requirements for the MSc or PhD programmes applied for will finally be considered for a scholarship.
- iv. Scholarship announcements, application forms and guidelines shall be posted on the Centre's website.

7. SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

The scholarship selection process is transparently and professionally overseen by the Selection Committee. Selection shall essentially be on the basis of applicant's academic record, leadership potential, nationality and financial situation. Certain externally funded scholarships may consider further criteria where necessary. The Scholarships selection process involves nine (9) steps, as outlined in Figure 1.

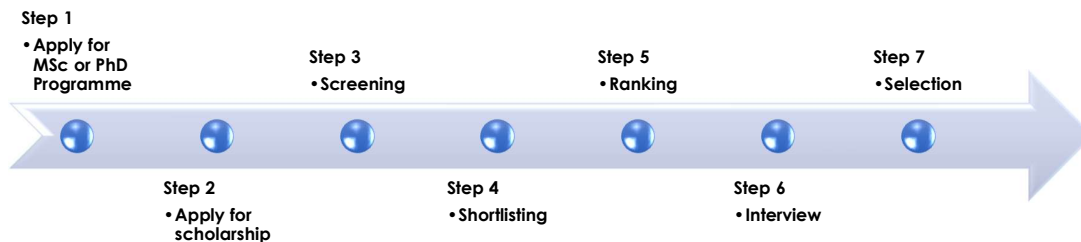


Figure 1: ACE-FUELS scholarship selection process

Final selection of successful recipients is undertaken by the Selection Committee and approved by the Centre Leader, and the decision is final. Successful recipients are informed in writing and awards are announced publicly. Scholarship recipients are required to accept the scholarship offer and sign the scholarship agreement. Failure to do so by the acceptance deadline will result in forfeiture of the offer and the

scholarship will be deemed as declined. Scholarship awards will be terminated on the day of successful external examination.

8. SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT PROCESS

- i. Full and partial tuition fee scholarships will be paid directly into the recipient's fees account on confirmation of admission status and registration.
- ii. Full and partial accommodation fee scholarships will be paid directly to the account of the FUTO Student Affairs Unit.
- iii. Research support grants shall be paid directly into the student's research account and used to offset approved research expenses that are properly receipted.

MSc scholarship shall be one off payments, while PhD scholarships shall be paid annually, up to a maximum of three years, upon successful application for scholarship renewal. Research support grants shall be paid once, on approval of the student's research proposal.

9. GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

ACE-FUELS students are expected to maintain a high level of achievement in their studies. Scholarship recipients will be monitored against the relevant regulations throughout the tenure of the scholarship to ensure that their eligibility to hold the scholarship is maintained. The minimum scholarship requirements outlined below apply to all MSc and PhD students who have been offered any form of scholarship by the Centre.

- i. Scholarship recipients are expected to perform at the level of B or above in any course graded (A-F).
- ii. A minimum grade of B may be acceptable for only one course. Two grades of B may be cause for withdrawal of scholarship.
- iii. Any grade below B is a fail grade and shall lead to withdrawal of scholarship.
- iv. Students must maintain a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least 4.5/5 in order to be considered in good academic standing.
- v. Any student who fails to maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 4.5 at the end of any given semester may have their scholarship withdrawn.

Recommendations for scholarship withdrawal require approval by the Centre Leader. Students of poor academic standing may be granted special permission by the Centre Leader and placed on probationary status, based on the recommendation of the Scholarships Committee, with a remediation plan for realigning the student to acceptable academic standing. The Scholarship Committee must communicate the probation or withdrawal recommendation in writing to the Centre Leader, with a copy of the letter sent to the student. This withdrawal policy applies at any stage of students' programme, irrespective of whether or not they have advanced to

candidacy. Affected students can lodge an appeal for reconsideration, in writing, to the Centre Leader.

10. TERMINATION OF SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship awards will be terminated outrightly if any one of the below cases is established:

- i. That the recipient did not fulfil an admission requirement or provided false or misleading information during application.
- ii. The recipient's studentship of the Centre is withdrawn for any reason.
- iii. The recipient is found guilty of a serious case of academic or research misconduct.
- iv. The recipient ceases to be a full-time student.
- v. The recipient fails to meet minimum attendance as reflected in the ACE-FUELS Attendance Policy.
- vi. The recipient does not resume study at the end of a period of approved voluntary withdrawal or leave without written authorization.
- vii. The recipient is found guilty of a criminal offence.

There shall be no opportunity for appeal following termination of scholarship.

11. RESPONSIBLE AUTHORITY FOR POLICY

All ACE-FUELS scholarships are established and awarded in accordance with this policy.

Responsibilities

The ACE-FUELS Scholarships Committee is responsible for scholarships in accordance with their terms of reference.

The Centre Leader is responsible for managing all scholarships funds and ensuring that scholarships are awarded and undertaken in accordance with the Scholarship Policy. All scholarship opportunities, regulations and application processes are to be published on the Centre's website and advertised as appropriate.