



The Association of African Universities (AAU), whose Headquarters is in Accra, Ghana in Collaboration with DMI-St. John the Baptist University, Malawi is pleased to announce a 4-days Workshop entitled:
INNOVATIVE AND QUALITY RESEARCH METHODS KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS FOR THE 21st CENTURY

March 19th -22nd 2019, Sogecoa Golden Peacock Hotel, Lilongwe, MALAWI

THEME: Retooling Research, Grant Writing, Paper for Publication, Patenting, Communication & Supervision Skills for Africa's Socio-economic Development in the 21st Century





GLIMPSE OF EARLIER WORKSHOP

Preamble and Rationale

Virtually all development players now concur that for any meaningful and sustainable economic growth to be realized and sustained tertiary education must be centrally placed in the development agenda of nations. Countries around the world are striving to build the sector as part of their priority strategic development plan. Indeed, building a tertiary education system is no more a luxury but a national and continental imperative critical for Africa's development and global competitiveness. Quality and relevance of university education have emerged as serious concerns of the sector for some time now. Such workshops are very important because African universities need to engage in high quality research to produce evidence-based solutions to the African community problems in every sector if indeed there has to be an improvement in the productivity and performance of African economies and other developments that will have significant impact in improving African lives. The workshop enables participants to focus on the international perspective in the context of the African continent (Think globally but act Locally) so that African research outputs end up being more relevant and useful in responding to the African communities' challenges with feasible solutions.

It also is widely accepted that there is growing need for more African scholars and scientists to contribute to innovation and development on the African continent and to enhance Africa's participation in the knowledge economy. We have also witnessed, in recent years, huge increases in the numbers of doctoral enrolments and graduates at many African universities. As a result, the demand for well-prepared doctoral supervisors has increased to the same degree. The AAU recognizes the role played by research in socio-economic development and to this end has designed this course to provide current, relevant and expert support to researchers as one of its major activities. This is in accordance with International University Standards in fulfillment of its role to facilitate quality teaching & learning, research and community service activities in the African Higher Education community. Through this course, they are therefore, able to compete at the highest level in accordance with the current international standards and best practices in Higher Education.

Part of The AAU's mission is to contribute to the development of African Higher Education through the advancement of knowledge and skills in research in order to inculcate innovativeness and creativity in both students and lecturers through such research workshops for their own benefit and that of their institutions, nations, the African continent and the international community at large. This workshop also fulfills the current great need to meet the new and growing demand for both Masters and Doctoral supervisors which has grown exponentially due to the increase in students pursuing Post Graduate Studies in Africa.

AAU therefore, developed a course especially targeting doctoral supervisors, post graduate students, those who work in the Post Graduate Centres and everyone else who wishes to retool in terms of Research Methods knowledge and skills. The training workshop also seeks to fulfil one of CESA's 12 strategic objectives which is:

Revitalizing and expanding tertiary education, **research and innovation** to address continental challenges and promote global competitiveness (**GOAL 9**). It is also guided by some of the priority

areas agreed upon in the *Declaration and Action Plan of the 1st Higher Education Summit on Revitalizing Higher Education for Africa's Future* held in Dakar, Senegal (10-12 March, 2015):

GOAL 3. Increase investment in higher education to facilitate development, promote stability, enhance access and equity; develop, recruit and retain excellent academic staff and **pursue cutting-edge research** and provision of high quality teaching.

GOAL 4. Pursue excellence in teaching and learning, **research and scholarship**, public service and provision of solutions to the development challenges and opportunities facing African peoples across the continent.

It is against this background that the AAU is providing the short **intensive** training course on generic research skills to equip lecturers and students with the foundations for carrying out quality and meaningful research, guide and supervise students' research projects and effectively mark students' research objectively, accurately and thoroughly, based on the knowledge and skills to be obtained from this short but intensive course for tertiary level. This can be achieved through the through content on Formulation of a research problem, Research paradigms, writing a grant winning proposal, Aspects of a good research proposal, Effective and relevant literature review, Data collection tools/methods/instruments, Data analysis, writing a succinct discussion.

1. COURSE AIM

Share knowledge and skills related to quality relevant and contemporary research in higher education to participants who have an interest in updating or upgrading themselves to both the old and new modes of research in higher education.

2. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the workshop is to build research capacity in terms of knowledge and skills so that participants are able to improve their research skills. The specific objectives are to achieve the following:

- Share knowledge on the important endowments and characteristics of a good research
- Equip participants with the background knowledge and skills that inform better quality research practices
- selection of relevant research topics,
- formulation of sound statements of problems, aims, objectives and research questions,
- carrying out relevant and appropriate literature review,
- matching of research approaches and paradigms to appropriate data collection tools and analysis.
- Share knowledge and skills of the diverse ways of research using various Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- equip participants with generic writing techniques,
- help to improve proposal writing skills,
- impart knowledge on general and specific expectations of reviewers (in case of publications),
- upgrade knowledge and skills needed to assist & supervise students' research projects well,
- upgrade knowledge and skills needed to properly mark students' research projects/dissertations and theses.
- Equip academic staff with grant winning proposal writing skills

- to transfer the skills acquired to their peers (in case of students and lecturers) and students (in case of lecturers).
- Communicate research results and recommendations to relevant stakeholders
- to be able to produce patents (in case of tangible products of research) & copyrights (in terms of written research work or software).
- Ability to review research papers/articles for publication.

The course will address important topics such as the nature of a doctorate, models of student research supervision, the relationship between the doctoral candidate and the supervisor and more. Participants will receive a Certificate of Competence issued by the Association of African Universities at the end of the workshop.

3. WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

The objectives of this workshop will be achieved through lead lectures, intensive participant interaction and exchange of ideas over carefully selected cases and other materials in a process facilitated by renowned Resource Persons. The participants will, through participatory activities, learn the research methodology content and skills.

5. WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Broad categories include civil society, industry, academia and government. Some of the specific categories include:

- ❖ University lecturers
- ❖ Polytechnics lecturers
- ❖ College lecturers
- ❖ Quality Assurance personnel in Higher Education Institutions, Colleges and Polytechnics
- ❖ Personnel in Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and International organizations
- ❖ Students in Higher & Tertiary Education
- ❖ Any person who requires capacity building in his/her research skills

6. CONTACTS:

i) Dr. Violet Makuku, Ghana: vmakuku@gmail.com or vmakuku@aau.org
WhatsApp Mobile No: +233 263 129 798

ii) Mr. Frank Adjei, Ghana: Mobile: +233 244 042 835 E-mail: fadjei@aau.org

iii) Rev. Fr. A. Sengol Jeyaseelan, Secretary, DMI-St. John the Baptist University, Malawi
Mobile: +265 992 769 808 E-mail: dmsjbu@gmail.com

iv) Dr. M. Narayani, Research & Publication Coordinator,
DMI-St. John the Baptist University, Malawi Mobile: +265 992 891 495
E-mail: sjburesearch@gmail.com

7. Online Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LIL3Malw19>

8. REGISTRATION FEES FOR INDIVIDUALS

Malawi Nationals: **US\$300. 00 or Malawi Kwacha Equivalent (No cheques)**
Other Nationals: AAU Member Universities **US\$350. 00**
Non-AAU member Universities **US\$400. 00**
Kindly contact Dr. Violet Makuku for special group rates.

9. BANK DETAILS

FOR MALAWI RESIDENTS ONLY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Account name : AAU-DMISJBU RESEARCH WORKSHOP IN MALAWI
Account Number : 1005303954
Bank : National Bank of Malawi
Branch : Mangochi
Swift Code : NBMAMWMW

OTHER Nationals can use bank details below or pay on site during the workshop Day 1

Bank Details can also be found on this link: <https://blog.aau.org/our-bank-details/>