

Allan Gray Centre for Africa Entrepreneurship (AGCAE) PhD and Masters Scholarships 2025

Our Mission, Vision & Objectives



Our Mission

The AGCAE creates, integrates and diffuses knowledge to improve data- and dialogue-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem development in Africa in order to increase the well-being of communities with entrepreneurship.



Our Vision

The AGCAE aims to enable entrepreneurship-led development in Africa with a data- and dialogue-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem approach.



Our Strategic Priorities

1. **Create and integrate** entrepreneurial ecosystem data of African countries and regions.
2. **Analyse and interpret** entrepreneurial ecosystem data of African countries and regions.
3. **Develop and communicate** scientifically rigorous and societally relevant entrepreneurial ecosystem research.
4. **Create** a platform for stakeholders that provides and uses entrepreneurial ecosystem data and knowledge in Africa. Relevant stakeholders include academics, governments, entrepreneurship service providers, entrepreneurship associations, philanthropies, NGOs, and venture capitalists.
5. **Contribute** to the development of entrepreneurship and economic development scholarship in Africa.

Research Themes

Our research seeks to create new knowledge and build on existing knowledge to generate new concepts, methodologies, and understandings that support African entrepreneurial ecosystem development. Research at AGCAE is focused on five research themes:



Talent

Knowledge at the intersection of African talent and entrepreneurial ecosystem dynamics is scarce and needs more attention. We study the art and science of identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial talent and co-founder teams.



Support

To achieve high impact from new ventures, it is important to ensure that multi-lateral actors' interventions are strategic, not episodic. We diagnose, strengthen and take a long-term approach to developing enterprise support organisations' (ESO) capacities and experiences to ensure their sustainability.



Funding

We contribute to original research and related ecosystem- building efforts to help promote and mainstream classical, blended or innovative finance instruments that enable local entrepreneurs to participate and win in their respective economies as well as in international markets.



Policy

We use data-driven dialogues to inspire and help reimagine policy process design and instruments to progress local ventures headquartered or co-founded in Africa.



Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Analytics

We conduct original research on relevant entrepreneurial ecosystem conditions, data science, data engineering, diagnostics and measurements.

About the AGCAE scholarships

The AGCAE is currently accepting applications for its full-time, funded doctoral and masters research programmes. Applications will be considered for the following two scholarship opportunities:

- ◆ AGCAE Doctoral Scholarships: Full-time doctoral scholarships valued at R250 000 per year for three years.
- ◆ AGCAE Masters Scholarships: Full-time masters scholarships valued at R150 000 per year for two years.

We have a rolling application process starting from 14 June 2024 until the deadline on 30 September 2024. The new PhD and Masters intake will commence their studies in Stellenbosch from 10 February 2025.

Eligibility criteria

Candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for a scholarship:

- A candidate must meet the minimum criteria for admission to a PhD programme at Stellenbosch University. This requires a master's degree in a relevant discipline.
- A candidate must meet the minimum criteria for admission to a masters programme at Stellenbosch University. This requires an honours degree in a relevant discipline.
- The scholarships are open to South African citizens and African foreign nationals. Preference will be given to previously disadvantaged South African and African foreign national citizens.
- Candidates must have achieved a minimum mark of:
 - 70% aggregate in their master's programmes to be eligible for the AGCAE Doctoral Scholarships.
 - 70% aggregate in their honours' programmes to be eligible for the AGCAE Master's Scholarships.
- Only applications in one of the AGCAE's research themes will be considered.
- Only Candidates who would have applied for the relevant PhD and masters programme will be shortlisted.

There are limited scholarships available. Submission of an application, even if you meet all of the criteria, does not guarantee funding.

The final allocation of scholarships is made at the discretion of the AGCAE and is subject to funding availability; and whether the faculty is able to place you in an academic program and appoint a suitable supervisor.

AGCAE reserves the right to not award any scholarships.

How to apply to the AGCAE and application details

Follow these steps to apply for the 2025 cohort of the AGCAE

1. Apply for the relevant PhD (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/spl/degree-programmes/phd-programme>) or masters (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/Pages/EMS/Public-Development-Management.aspx>) programme in the Faculty of Economic & Management Sciences (EMS)' School of Public Leadership (SPL) via the Stellenbosch University Central Applicant portal link: <https://student.sun.ac.za/signup/>. **Applications to the University Admissions needs to be completed and sent by the 30th of September 2024.**

2. Ensure that you meet the eligibility criteria before you submit an application.

3. Download and complete the relevant AGCAE Application Form for PhD applications or for Master's applications:

You will be required to write a letter motivating your suitability for the scholarship (maximum length: one A4 page), as well as a research concept note (no maximum length) on a research topic which you intend to study during your studies. These should be completed on the application form in the relevant sections.

Please consult the Research Themes to guide you in choosing a research topic. Research topics outside the listed research themes can be accommodated only if it falls within the current research themes that are active in one of the Faculty's academic departments.

4. Compile the required supporting documents:

In addition to the completed application form, the following supporting documents are required:

- Academic records: Full particulars of ALL previous and current tertiary studies. Please submit copies of certified diploma/degree certificates AND official study records (transcripts). Please note that academic records from student portals will not be acceptable.
- ID or passport: A certified copy of your ID (South African) or passport (international) photo page
- Proof of competency in English: Applicants either need to provide proof that they have obtained their qualifications from tertiary institutions where English is the language of instruction, or proof of English Language proficiency. This evidence must accompany your application and must not be older than 24 months from the date of application.

5. Submission of your application:

Completed and signed application forms + supporting documents should be submitted as **one document** to the AGCAE Office via email (tyracole@sun.ac.za) by Friday, 30th of September 2024 by 23h59. No late applications will be accepted.

Please ensure that your three Referees are informed that their referee letters, stating your capability and capacity to complete the studies should be sent directly to the AGCAE office via email (tyracole@sun.ac.za) on or before Monday, 30th of September 2024 by 23h59.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Due to the large number of applications received, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by AGCAE.

If you have not received a response from the AGCAE by the 30th of October 2024, your application should be considered unsuccessful.

Contact details

Any queries regarding the application process can be sent to tyracole@sun.ac.za.

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AGCAE

Allan Gray Centre for
Africa Entrepreneurship

FULL-TIME MASTER'S SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FORM: 2025

APPLY NOW! ROLLING APPLICATIONS UNTIL MONDAY, 30TH OF SEPTEMBER BY 23H59.

INCOMPLETE, HAND-WRITTEN AND/OR LATE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

SECTION A: PERSONAL DETAILS OF APPLICANT		
Stellenbosch University student number or APP number (if available)		
Title (Mr, Mrs, Miss)		
Surname (Family name)		
First names in full		
Surname at birth (maiden name)		
Nationality		
ID / Passport number		
Date of birth		
Gender		
Disability (if any, please specify)		
Marital status		
Number of dependents		
Current employment	Position held	
	Full-time; part-time; other	
	Notice period	
Particulars about Honour's degree	Name of institution	
	Degree and programme	
	Year of first registration	
	Date completed/expected date of completion*	
<p>*Please note: Applicants that are registered for, but have not yet been awarded their Honours degree, can apply if a letter provided from their academic department to indicate that their final mark will be available by January 2025 at the latest. A candidate whose final mark is not available by this date cannot be awarded a scholarship.</p>		
Available for full-time study from January 2025?		
Have you applied for this scholarship before?		
Have you had contact with academic staff at Stellenbosch regarding your application (if yes, provide the name of the academic)?		
Other Masters scholarships, stipends or grants (Applied for or awarded for 2025/26). Please provide full details, including amounts, conditions and dates awarded.	Grant type	
	Amount	
	Awarded	

SECTION B: CONTACT DETAILS	
Telephone (code and numbers)	
Mobile phone (code and numbers)	
E-mail address	

Residential address	
Postal address	

SECTION C: SHORTENED CURRICULUM VITAE AND REFEREES

PREVIOUS QUALIFICATIONS: Please list all qualifications in chronological order (earliest to latest)

Qualification (Degree & programme)	Name of Institution	Date of graduation (month/year)	Language of instruction/dissertation

Employment history	Name of employer	Position held	Start and end date

Awards and achievements	
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Please provide full references for your last 5 publications (where applicable)	
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REFERENCES: Provide 3 academic references, one of which must be supervisor of Honours degree

	Full name and title	Institution	Position	Relationship to applicant	Contact details (Phone & email)

Please request your Referees to submit reference letters that testify on your potential to complete a masters study programme, directly to the AGCAE Office by e-mail to tyracole@sun.ac.za Reference letters need to be submitted latest Monday, 30th of September 2024 by 23h59.

SECTION D: MOTIVATIONAL LETTER

Write a **letter motivating your suitability for this scholarship** and indicate any information that you feel is important below. (Maximum length: one page)

SECTION E: CONCEPT NOTE ON PROPOSED RESEARCH TOPIC

Provide a brief outline of your proposed approach to the research topic for which you would like to apply. Please select a topic that fits within the available research areas per department which are provided on the AGCAE website: www.agcae.africa

RESEARCH TOPIC:

Research theme	[Example: Theme 1: Support] If your proposal falls outside the available research themes, please provide a reason for selecting the topic.
Working title	
Reasons for selecting this topic and previous experience in this field	

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: Please provide a concept note below. There is no maximum word length. **See Appendix A for concept note guidelines.**

SECTION F: ATTACHMENTS AND DECLARATION

The following documents should be included with your application. Applications which are incomplete or where documentation is missing will not be considered.		
1	Academic records	Full particulars of ALL previous and current tertiary studies. Please submit certified copies of diploma/degree certificates AND official study records (transcripts). Please note that academic records from student portals will not be acceptable.
2	ID or Passport	Please include a <u>certified</u> copy of your ID (South African) or passport (international) photo page.
3	Competency in English	Applicants either need to provide proof that they have obtained their qualifications from tertiary institutions where English is the language of instruction, or proof of English Language proficiency . This evidence must accompany your application and must not be older than 24 months from the date of application.
Declaration I declare herewith that this submission is my own work.		
Signature		
Date completed		

APPLICATION INFORMATION

Closing date for applications: Monday, 30th of September 2024 by 23h59.

No hand-written; late or incomplete applications will be considered.

Application forms and supporting documents:

- Please complete sections A – F on this application form.
- Your shortened CV; motivational letter; and research concept note (sections C, D and E) should **not** be sent as separate attachments/documents.
- The only supporting documents that need to accompany your application form are those listed in section F: (1) academic records (certified certificates and transcripts); (2) certified copy of ID or passport; and (3) evidence of competency in English.

Submission of application:

Completed and signed application form + supporting documents listed in section F should be submitted to the AGCAE Office as **one document** via email (tyracole@sun.ac.za) latest Monday, 30th of September 2024 by 23h59.

References:

Please remind your three academic Referees that their reference letters need to be emailed to us via Ms Tyra Cole (tyracole@sun.ac.za) before the closing date (Monday, 30th of September 2024 by 23h59).

APPENDIX A: Guidelines to preparing a concept note

A good concept note does not have to be a lengthy document to address the essential points relevant to a research study. Although there is no page limit, a three-to-five-page concept note (excluding references) should be sufficient in most cases. A guideline to the basic elements that can be included in a concept note is provided below.

1. The preliminary **literature review**:
 - Provides the theoretical and applied background through a review of the academic literature relevant to the proposed study.
 - Cites the key publications relevant to the proposed topic.
2. The **research problem and objectives**:
 - The literature review should lead to a problem statement that outlines an argument to justify the need for the study.
 - This need is addressed by the **research objective or research question**, which formulates the main goal of the study.
 - It is advisable to have one overarching (primary) objective that the study sets out to achieve, which can then be broken down into two or three specific (secondary) research objectives.
3. The **research design and methodology**:
 - **Data**: Quantitative, qualitative, hybrid, other. The data must align with your research objective(s).
 - **Method(s) for collecting data**: Will the study use primary or secondary data sources (or both)? The data needs to be accessible and there needs to be a limit on the data you are going to collect. The data also need to be reliable and valid.
 - **Method(s) for analysing data**: What methodologies can be used to extract meaning out of your data to address your research objective(s)?
4. **Potential contribution**:
 - What is the potential theoretical (academic), methodological (new research instruments, innovative methods, innovative ecosystem engagement techniques) and applied (practice or policy) contributions of your study. The contributions need to be highlighted through a clear line of argumentation that ties back to the preliminary literature review.