

Title: UEA Africa PhD Scholarship Programme – revised award rules
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Issue

The UEA Africa PhD Scholarship Programme was approved by Chair's Action by Professor Tom Ward as Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Academic) as a Chair's Action before the 16 May 2012 Learning and Teaching Committee. It was advertised in 2013-14 and two applicants were interviewed, but it was not awarded, and the money has rolled forward to 2014-15. Selection panel members also noted that the criteria for making the award were not clear.

The proposed terms and conditions were prepared following a meeting to discuss the situation between the Head of the Postgraduate Research Service (Vivien Easson), representatives of the Development Office in the Vice-Chancellor's Office (Felicity Bridges and Joyce Griffin) and representatives of the International Office (Mark Bentley and Tracey Hearn). They can be found in Appendix A.

The current terms and conditions can be found on the Learning and Teaching Committee intranet site at <https://intranet.uea.ac.uk/committeeoffice/ueacombds/lc/lc1112/160512> and are reproduced in Appendix B.

Recommendations

1. That the proposed terms and conditions in Appendix A are approved.
2. That the Postgraduate Research Service administers the process in collaboration with VCO and the International Office and provides the selection panel with a robust set of selection criteria and information enabling them to make their decision based on the sole criterion of academic excellence, including input from the proposed School of study as to the academic merit of the research proposal or the proposed area of study in relation to the applicant's experience and career development.

Resource Implications

The proposed terms and conditions make it clear that only one award will be made rather than four, but that this award will cover a full tuition fee waiver at International Classroom fee level (£12,900 for 2014-15) rather than a fee reduction of £10,000 per annum. This is in line with the amount that the University has raised so far in the first two years of fund-raising. The Development Office believes that it will be difficult to raise enough to cover four scholarship awards.

Risk Implications

It was not clear how it would be possible to judge between applicants where some had applied for research-led projects written by an academic researcher and some had written their own proposals. The new terms and conditions restrict the award to those who have written their own proposals, thus reducing the risk of complaints about the award selection mechanism.

Equality and Diversity

The terms and conditions have been revised so that eligibility is dependent on nationality rather than country of birth, which brings the scholarship in line with most other eligibility requirements for postgraduate research funding awards. They also include provisions for part-time students (where visa restrictions allow this).

Timing of decisions

Approval is required at the March 2014 Learning and Teaching Committee to allow recruitment to this programme with the new terms and conditions to take place in the current recruitment cycle (entry 2014-15).

Further Information

Contact Vivien Easson, x1835 v.easson@uea.ac.uk for enquiries about the content of the paper.

APPENDIX A

University of East Anglia Africa PhD Scholarship Programme

Proposed new terms and conditions

1. There shall be a Scholarship to be known as the University of East Anglia Africa PhD Scholarship, to be awarded in the academic year 2014/15.
2. The purpose of the Scholarship is to provide African National graduate students with the opportunity to pursue doctoral studies at the University.
3. African National applicants who are submitting research proposals that they have written themselves and who are offered a place to study at the University of East Anglia for a PhD (including where this involves initial registration on the MPhil programme) will be eligible to apply for the Scholarship.
4. Applications to a PhD programme at the University of East Anglia must be submitted by 1 June 2014 in order to become eligible to apply for the Scholarship.
5. The Scholarship will be awarded on a competitive basis and will take effect on the registration of the successful applicant with the University.
6. The Scholarship will continue for a maximum of three years for full-time students (six years for part-time students), subject to confirmation of the satisfactory progress of the recipient on an annual basis by the student's main supervisor.
7. The Scholarship will cover the recipient's tuition fees at International Classroom fee level for a maximum of three years (six years for part-time students), plus a small bursary for research expenses.
8. Details of the Scholarship will be publicised to all eligible applicants with appropriate information on selection criteria, application timescales and value of award. Awards will be made on the basis of academic excellence as the sole criterion.
9. The Scholarship will be awarded by the Vice-Chancellor (or their nominee) on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Academic Director of Research Degree Programmes, a Faculty Associate Dean of Postgraduate Research and a Senior International Officer.
10. If two candidates are judged to be of sufficient and equal merit, the Scholarship may be divided. There shall be a maximum of two winners.
11. If no candidate is judged to be of sufficient merit, the Scholarship shall not be awarded and the payment will roll forward to the following year.
12. Recipients will be known as University of East Anglia Africa Scholar(s) and the winning candidate(s) shall be required to attend at least one event for publicity purposes.

APPENDIX B

University of East Anglia Africa PhD Scholarship Programme

Previous terms and conditions as approved by Chair's Action for the Learning and Teaching Committee of 16 May 2012

- 1. There shall be a Scholarship awarded every three years, commencing in the academic session 2013-14, the University's 50th anniversary year, to be known as the University of East Anglia Africa PhD Scholarship. The final Scholarship will be awarded in the academic session 2022-23.*
- 2. The purpose of the Scholarship is to provide African-born graduate students from disadvantaged backgrounds with the opportunity to pursue doctoral studies at the University so that they may return home and take up leadership roles to help solve some of their country's pressing needs.*
- 3. African-born students who have already been offered a place to study at the University of East Anglia will be eligible to apply for the Scholarship.*
- 4. The deadline for applicants will be 1 June each year in respect of those proposing to commence the first year of a PhD degree starting in the next academic year at the University of East Anglia.*
- 5. The Scholarship will be awarded on a competitive basis and will take effect on the registration of the successful applicant with the University.*
- 6. One new Scholarship will be awarded every three years and will continue for a maximum of three years, subject to confirmation of the satisfactory progress of the recipient on an annual basis by the student's main supervisor.*
- 7. The value of the first Scholarship shall be £30,000, which shall be payable in instalments of £10,000 per year as a tuition fee reduction. The funds available for the Scholarships shall be reviewed every three years.*
- 8. Details of the Scholarship will be publicised to all eligible students with appropriate information on selection criteria, application timescales and value of award.*
- 9. The Scholarship will be awarded by the Vice-Chancellor on the recommendation of a Selection Committee comprising the Director of Postgraduate Taught Programmes or the Director of Postgraduate Research Degree Programmes, the Director of Internationalisation and one of the Senior International Officers.*
- 10. If, in any year, two candidates are judged to be of sufficient and equal merit, the Scholarship may be divided. There shall be a maximum of two winners in any one year.*
- 11. If, in any year, no candidate is judged to be of sufficient merit, the Scholarship shall not be awarded and the payment will roll forward to the following year.*
- 12. Recipients will be known as University of East Anglia Africa Scholars and the winning candidate(s) shall be required to attend at least one event for publicity purposes. They will also be asked to demonstrate their commitment to working in Africa upon completion of their studies and to act as University ambassadors in the three years following graduation.*