CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

HAQAA3 TRAINING COURSE:
STUDENTS IN QUALITY ASSURANCE

IN COOPERATION WITH THE
ALL-AFRICA STUDENTS' UNION

INTRODUCTION

As part of the "Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in African Higher Education (HAQAA)" Initiative, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), in collaboration with its strategic partner, the All-Africa Students Union (AASU), is pleased to launch a **unique online training course: "Students in Quality Assurance". This course is aimed at enrolled students from across the African continent who are interested in and want to learn about quality assurance in higher education and the role of students.**

Active student engagement in QA processes is critical for ensuring transparency, relevance, and inclusiveness in African higher education systems. Through this training, students will gain insights and competencies that enable them to play an informed role in quality assurance at their institutions and beyond.

"Harmonisation, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in African Higher Education (HAQAA)" is an initiative that has been established to support the development of a harmonised quality assurance (QA) and accreditation system at institutional, national, regional, and Pan-African continental level. The third phase of the Initiative (2023 – 2028) is a robust response of the European and African Union's aim "to provide African countries with the skilled workers, managers and administrators they need to foster sustainable development and encourage trade and investment as well as to enhance citizenship and democratic values". It builds on the work done during the two previous phases, HAQAA1 from 2015 to 2018, and HAQAA2 from 2019 to 2022.

MODULES AND METHODOLOGY

The training will be delivered online and will include a combination of self-preparatory work, live interactive sessions, presentations by experts, group work and discussions among the participants (peer learning), case studies and assessments. The content will be grounded in both theoretical and practical aspects of Quality Assurance in higher education in Africa.

Training Modules:
1. Introduction to Quality Assurance in Higher Education
2. Continental frameworks: Pan-African Quality Assurance Framework (PAQAF) and the African Standards and Guidelines for Quality Assurance (ASG-QA)
3. Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) and the role of students
4. External Quality Assurance (EQA) and the role of students

Methodology:
- Self-preparatory work and reading materials
- Online training and exchange with experts and students
- Case studies and practical examples from African universities and QA agencies
- Group discussions and sharing experiences from Europe
- Quizzes and a final assessment
- Certificate of Completion upon fulfilling all training requirements

Thanks to the funding of the European Union Commission, participation in the training is **free of charge**, and selected participants will receive a certificate upon successful completion of the training. To obtain the certificate, active participation in 80% of the training sessions and completion of the final test are mandatory.

The online training via zoom will mainly be conducted in English. Simultaneous translation from English to Portuguese will be available.

OBJECTIVES / LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the training, participants:

- Understand the key principles and frameworks of Quality Assurance in higher education, particularly within the African context.
- Understand the concept of quality in HE. They can differentiate between institutional QA culture and EQA processes and understand the important interplay between these two dimensions.
- Understand the role and responsibility of students in QA processes and recognize the existing variety in different African Regions/countries.
- Are aware of their own function and role as students and can reflect on the various roles and responsibilities of different higher education stakeholders including university leadership, ministries and QA agencies, professors, students as well as the labour market.
- Are equipped to participate constructively in internal and external QA at their institution and act as an interlocutor with the wider student body that they represent.

CALENDAR / DATES

The training will take place over a **three-week period in November 2025**. A detailed schedule will be shared with selected participants in advance.

Timeline:

- **6 November 2025:** orientation meeting (2h) followed by self-preparatory work
- **10-13 November 2025:** training sessions (Monday – Thursday morning, 3h each day)
- **14-19 November 2025:** self-study + final assessment (online questionnaire)
- 26-28 November 2025: Certificate of Completion

TARGET GROUP

The training is aimed at:

- **Students interested in Quality Assurance: Postgraduate and senior undergraduate students** with a proven interest in higher education and quality assurance

Participation will aim for **gender balance and regional diversity** and will prioritise applicants who demonstrate a clear motivation to apply QA knowledge within their institutions.

Eligible countries for this training in November 2025 are:

Botswana, Egypt, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe

APPLICATION PROCESS

Interested **enrolled students** from the above-mentioned countries are invited to apply for the training through an **online application form**. The following information and documents are required and need to be uploaded:

- Personal and academic information
- Upload in PDF
    1. CV (no more than 2 pages)
    2. Motivation letter in PDF (max. 500 words)
    3. Introductory letter signed by enrolled Higher Education Institution

Participation is free of charge, but participants are expected to dedicate the necessary time to participation, supported by the leadership of the Higher Education Institution. The training will take place online using Zoom. Working Language will be English and Portuguese. Simultaneous interpretation (English/Portuguese) will be provided.

Use this LINK to access the online application form.

> **Application deadline:** Wednesday 15 October 2025 (22 pm GMT)
> **Notification of selection:** until 31 October 2025

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A selection committee will be set up which will review all applications. The selection committee is made up of representatives from DAAD, AASU and HAQAA3 consortium and strategic partners. Only complete applications will be reviewed (incomplete applications will not be accepted).

The final selection process will consider **country and gender balance** and will be based on the following criteria for individual participants:

- currently enrolled as a student at an African Higher Education Institution (Postgraduate and senior undergraduate students)
- Introductory letter from Institution of Higher Learning
- demonstrated motivation and interest in quality assurance in Higher Education by a convincing motivation letter
- demonstrated interest in further disseminating knowledge which was gained in the training

All applicants will be informed about the result of the selection process end of October 2025.

Questions regarding the training and the application process can be addressed via email to DAAD: haqaa@daad.de