

Harmonisation, Quality Assurance
and Accreditation in Africa



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

HAQAA3 TRAINING: QUALITY ASSURANCE STUDENTS

IN COOPERATION WITH
THE PAN-AFRICAN STUDENT UNION



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES
اتحاد الجامعات الأفريقية



Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst
German Academic Exchange Service



European Association for
Quality Assurance in Higher Education

INTRODUCTION

As part of the "Harmonization, Quality Assurance, and Accreditation in African Higher Education (HAQAA)" initiative, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), together with the Pan-African Students' Union (AASU), is pleased to launch a **unique training course: "Students in Quality Assurance."** This training is aimed at students enrolled across the African continent who are interested in quality assurance in higher education and the role of students in this field, and who wish to learn more about this topic.

The active participation of students in quality assurance processes is essential to ensure the transparency, relevance, and inclusiveness of African higher education systems. Through this training, students will acquire knowledge and skills that will enable them to play an informed role in quality assurance within their institutions and beyond.

"Harmonization, Quality Assurance, and Accreditation in African Higher Education (HAQAA)" is an initiative that has been put in place to support the development of a harmonized quality assurance (QA) and accreditation system at the institutional, national, regional, and pan-African levels. The third phase of the initiative (2023-2028) is a robust response to the European Union and African Union's goal "to provide African countries with the skilled workers, managers, and administrators they need to promote sustainable development and encourage trade and investment, as well as to strengthen citizenship and democratic values." It builds on the work carried out 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 individual preparatory work, live interactive sessions, presentations by experts, group work and discussions among participants (peer learning), case studies, and assessments. The content will be based on both the 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 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:

- Individual preparatory work and reading materials
- Online training and discussions with experts and students
- Case studies and practical examples from African universities and quality assurance agencies
- Group discussions and sharing of experiences in Europe
- Quizzes and final assessment
- Certificate of completion after meeting all training requirements

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

The online training via Zoom will be conducted in French.

OBJECTIVES/LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the training, participants will:

- Understand the key principles and frameworks of quality assurance in higher education, particularly in the African context.
- Understand the concept of quality in higher education. Be able to distinguish between the institutional culture of quality assurance and the processes of quality assessment in higher education, and understand the important interaction between these two dimensions.
- Understand the role and responsibility of students in quality assurance processes and recognize the diversity that exists in different African regions/countries.
- Be aware of their own function and role as students and be able to reflect on the different roles and responsibilities of the various actors in higher education, including university leaders, ministries and quality assurance agencies, professors, students, and the labor market.
- Are equipped to participate constructively in the internal and external quality assurance of their institution and act as spokespersons for all the students they represent.

CALENDAR / DATES

The training will take place over a **three-week period in January 2026**. A detailed schedule will be provided to selected participants in advance.

Schedule

- **January 8, 2026:** orientation session (3 hours) followed by individual preparation work
- **January 12-15, 2026:** training sessions (Monday to Thursday mornings from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. GMT, 3 hours per day)
- **January 16-22, 2026:** self-study + final assessment (online questionnaire)
- **January 28-30, 2026:** training certificate

TARGET GROUP

The training is aimed at:

- **Students interested in quality assurance: master's students and final-year bachelor's students** who have demonstrated an interest in higher education and quality assurance

Participation will aim to ensure **gender balance and regional diversity**, and will give priority to candidates who demonstrate a clear motivation to apply quality assurance knowledge within their institution.

The following **countries** are **eligible** for this training in January 2026:

Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Comoros, Congo, DR Congo, Gabon, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Mauritania, Mali, Morocco, Madagascar, Niger, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Chad

APPLICATION PROCESS

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

- Personal and academic information
- Upload in PDF format
 1. CV (maximum 2 pages)
 2. Cover letter in PDF format (maximum 500 words)
 3. Letter of recommendation certifying that the student is currently enrolled at university, signed by the higher education institution

Participation is free of charge, but participants must devote the necessary time to this training, with the support of the management of their higher education institution. The training will take place online via Zoom. The working language is French.

Use this [LINK](#) to access the online application form.

Application deadline: Wednesday, November 12, 2025 (10 p.m. GMT)

Notification of selection results: by December 17, 2025

SELECTION PROCESS AND CRITERIA

A selection committee will be established to review all applications. This committee will be composed of representatives from the DAAD, AASU, HAQAA3 consortium, and strategic partners. Only complete applications will be considered (incomplete applications will not be accepted).

The final selection process will take into account **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 (bachelor's or master's students)

- letter of recommendation from the higher education institution
- demonstrated motivation and interest in quality assurance in higher education through a compelling cover letter
- demonstrated interest in disseminating the knowledge acquired during the training

All applicants will be informed of the outcome of the selection process at the end of December 2025.

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



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