



Letter of Invitation for the 2022 ACCESS Summer School in Benin Republic, from the 28th March to 1st April 2022

Dear Sir/Madam,

We are pleased to officially invite you to the 2022 ACCESS Summer School with the theme: **"Improving Graduate Employability Through Service-Learning Implementation In Benin HEIs: Academic and Business Collaboration"**, which will be taking place at the IRGIB-Africa University campus in Cotonou, Benin, from 28th March to 1st April 2022.

The Summer School is supported by the "German Academic Exchange Service" (DAAD) through the "University Excellence in Development Cooperation (exceed)" program with funds from the "Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development", and jointly hosted by the University of Leipzig, Germany, and IRGIB-Africa University, Benin.

The primary purpose of this year's Summer School is to provide theoretical and practical input on How to Integrate Service-Learning Programs into lectures. It will also offer methods and tools for the implementation of Service-Learning approaches in HEIs.

Program Overview

For this first edition, we will be welcoming 35 participants composed of lecturers and Ph.D. students from the ACCESS partner universities in Leipzig, Benin, Nigeria, Ghana, Rwanda, Tunisia, and Kenya.

This Summer School is an opportunity for lecturers and Ph.D. students who intend to become lecturers to gain hands-on skills on the topic of Service-Learning. The summer school will cover three main sessions;

1. Status quo of Service-Learning in Benin and ACCESS Partners Universities,
2. Designing a Service-Learning course,
3. Practical cases on the application of Service-Learning.

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There will also be room for networking opportunities between academics and businesses. Below is a breakdown of the activities for the 2022 Summer School program.

Date	Activities
27th March 2022	Arrival
28th March 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening and Networking Day - Service Learning Course - Service Learning Practical Case - Discussion, Reflection, and Outcomes - Excursion to the Songhai Center in Porto-Novo
29th March 2022	
30th March 2022	
31st March 2022	
1st April 2022	
2nd April 2022	Departure

A detailed program will be attached to this letter.

Important Information regarding your trip to Benin.

A. Traveling to Cotonou, Benin

Reliable flight connections to Cotonou, Benin are available from;

- Brussels Airlines (via Brussels),
- Air France (via Paris),
- Ethiopian Airline (via Addis Ababa),
- Turkish Airlines (via Istanbul),
- Royal Air Maroc (via Casablanca).

Please arrange your travel from your respective starting point.

For nearby countries like Nigeria and Ghana, a trip by road to Cotonou can also be considered.

B. Visa Information

According to the diplomatic Agreement between Benin and other African countries, all the ACCESS partner countries, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Rwanda, and Tunisia do not need a visa to enter Benin. You can find more information about this agreement here:

<https://diplomatie.gouv.bj/voyager-sans-visa/>

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For participants from Germany, an E-visa can be obtained via this website <https://evisa.gouv.bj/fr/> and costs 50 Euro. Visa applications are usually processed within 24 hours and then sent to your e-mail.

C. Covid-19 and Entry Measures to Benin

A PCR test less than 48 hours old is required for all travelers upon arrival in Cotonou. The wearing of face masks is mandatory in the country. A certificate of Vaccination against Yellow Fever is required at the airport and national border.

D. Accommodation

Participants will be accommodated in a hotel next to the Campus of IRGIB. Room bookings from 27 March until 2 April will be arranged by the local organizers.

E. Airport Pickup

A bus from the hotel accompanied by a member of the organizing team will be available to pick you up from the airport on your day of arrival in Benin.

F. Covid-19 and departure measures from Benin

The presentation of a PCR test less than five days old is required for all travelers departing from Cotonou, taking into account the requirements of the destination countries.

If the test result is positive on departure from Cotonou, the traveler will be asked to postpone travel and to follow the recommendations of the health teams in Benin. The traveler will be able to re-test again 14 days after the initial positive result. Only after a negative covid result, will travel be allowed.

The cost of the Covid-19 test for travelers is 25.000 Fcfa (~ 39 Euro) for the standard service (result within 48 hours) and 50.000 Fcfa (~ 77 Euro) for the VIP service (result within 24 hours).

Please note that the Covid test for VIP service must be done on the day of departure as explained below;

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Test taken 8h30 to 9h30	Results will be received at 5 pm same day
Test taken 9h30 to 12h30	Results will be received at 8 pm same day

More information on “**Preparing for your trip to Benin**” will be shared with you later.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Cotonou in March.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us accessteambenin@gmail.com.

Prof. Dr. Virgile Ahyi
(President, IRGIB-Africa
University)

Prof. Dr. Zacharie Vissiennon
(Vice President, IRGIB-Africa
University)

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