



UNIVERSITÄT
LEIPZIG



ONG ACCESS Benin, Benin
KNUST, Kumasi, Ghana
Mount Kenya University, Kenya
University of Ibadan, Nigeria
INES-Ruhengeri, Rwanda
University of Tunis, Tunisia
Leipzig University, Germany

Call for applications

Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 - African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS)

The African Centre for Career Enhancement & Skills Support (ACCESS) invites applications for **three postdoctoral fellowships**. The ACCESS Postdoc scheme aims to develop successful candidates in research methodologies related to research and teaching in the field of employability research. Participants may approach employability research from a wide range of disciplines, including history, politics, economics, business studies, education, anthropology, human geography, information systems, engineering and cognate disciplines. Our research interests include establishing the impact of global crises and shifts on African markets and labour markets, including how African and global markets and labour markets interact; new ways of digital work; “brain circulation”; and African graduates working abroad.

Successful candidates will have an opportunity to gain teaching experience in the German context with applicability in their home institutions. Participants will receive collegiate support, office space, mentoring, and integration into the activities and networks of ACCESS, SEPT and the Institute of African Studies during their stay. Participants are expected to develop ideas relevant to ACCESS that will result in at least one peer-reviewed publication using available resources at Leipzig University and supported by collaborators in the project. They will also be expected to contribute to the ACCESS methodology summer school as resource persons and contribute to our blog. On completion of the programme, participants will submit a 1500-word report detailing achievements during their stay.

Successful candidates will be paid a stipend of 1300 EUR monthly, according to DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) stipulations.

About ACCESS

ACCESS is a project managed by a consortium of partners from seven African countries and Leipzig University in Germany and financed by the DAAD since 2020. The interdisciplinary programme analyses the employability of university graduates within the African context. Now in its second phase, ACCESS is based on four pillars: (1) capacity building, (2) university business linkages, (3) employability research and (4) an entrepreneurship academy. The third pillar focuses on research into how graduates in Africa search and find work and build up their careers. It also seeks to develop and test innovative concepts for employability promotion at Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) in Africa. Within this pillar, ACCESS has introduced a postdoctoral scheme that aims to bring a total of 15 postdoctoral researchers to Leipzig University for six months starting from April 2025. They are to work on projects of relevance to ACCESS Research agenda.

For more information on ACCESS, please visit <https://access-centre.org/>

General information

- Successful applicants must be resident in Leipzig for the full duration of the fellowship. Remote participation is not possible.
- Applicants must design a short-term project for which they may use the available resources at the Leipzig University to execute.
- The **deadline for submission is 23:59 German time, February 17, 2025**. Late or incomplete applications will not be considered.

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must be nationals of the participating countries (Benin Republic, Ethiopia, Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, Rwanda, Tunisia) and employed at a recognized institute of higher education.
- Applicants must have completed their PhD at the time of application. They cannot be in the process of completing a PhD or awaiting the outcome of their viva/submission of corrections at the time of applying.
- There is no age limit. However, the doctorate should generally not have been awarded for more than two years prior to the time of application.
- The applicant must also not have been ordinarily resident in Germany for more than 15 months before the time of application. However, this stipulation does not apply to applicants who came to Germany for a doctorate or other academic work and have been staying in Germany for a longer period for this reason. Those granted refugee status are also exempt from this rule.
- Applicants must have an excellent PhD and sufficient English-language skills to participate fully in the scheme.

Application documents

- A copy of the doctorate degree, or evidence of completion.
- Three recommendation letters from (a) the PhD supervisor, (b) the head of department or unit, and (c) a professional reference from a researcher outside of the university in which the applicant works.
- If the language of instruction at your university is not English, proof of sufficient English language skills (TOEFL 78% or B2 of the European Reference Framework).
- A statement of motivation (2 pages).
Please explain why you are applying, how your stay will develop you professionally, and the added value of your participation to your home university.
- A detailed description of the research plan (2000-word limit).
Please specify the timeline, methodology, potential collaborators within the ACCESS network, and (university) resources that you will consult.
- A CV in block-style, including a list of publications.

Please submit the application documents and the reference letters in one PDF file to the ACCESS Coordinator (research) at edeagu@wifa.uni-leipzig.de with the subject title "ACCESS 2025 Postdoctoral fellowships". Successful applicants will be informed by **March 5, 2025**, and expected to travel to Germany at short notice.

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