



CApIC-ACE Scholarship Policy (Revised July 2024)

Introduction:

The Covenant Applied Informatics and Communication Africa Centre of Excellence (CApIC-ACE) domiciled at Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State Nigeria is one of the centres selected to be funded by the World Bank for 2018-2022 (modified to 2019-2025) ACE-IMPACT which was announced on November 13, 2018. CApIC-ACE was established based on the urgent need to build a critical mass of indigenous African scientists with necessary bioinformatics, molecular biology and information & communications engineering knowledge and skills to drive and sustain impactful researches in the areas of malaria, prostate and breast cancer as well as cloud & high performance computing as related to personalized medicine, in collaboration with academic, clinical and industrial institutions in Nigeria, West Africa, Africa, Germany, France, US and UK.

General information about CApIC-ACE scholarships:

CApIC-ACE scholarship applications will be reviewed by a Scholarship Committee consisting of **at least 3** Faculty from the Centre's Core team with backgrounds in Bioinformatics, Computer Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology, and Information and Communication Engineering (ICE). The committee's recommendations will be reviewed and approved by the Centre's Directorate.

The CApIC-ACE scholarships are only available to students with at least a **Second-Class Upper Division or its equivalent** in their relevant 1st degree programme and a **PhD grade** in their relevant MSc/M.Eng degree for those applying for PhD positions.

The Centre's scholarship is open to qualified local and regional postgraduate students who will be employed as Research Assistants (RAs).

The scholarship is **strictly** based on **merit** and there is no bias against applicants based on gender, marital status, religion and physical challenges.

The scholarship is renewed every semester based on performance and other approved indicators.

Regional students from French-speaking countries will get a three-month intensive English Class when they resume.

Scholarships will be provided twice in a year; May/June and November/December in line with the academic calendar of the Covenant University's School of Postgraduate Studies (SPS).

The CApIC-ACE Scholarships are for those interested in the postgraduate degrees of the following programmes; Bioinformatics, Computer Science, Biochemistry, Microbiology, Cheminformatics and Information and Communication Engineering.

Categories of Scholarships:

Currently, there are three scholarships that are available through the Centre. Additional scholarships that may become available through the Centre will be provided. A student cannot hold more than one scholarship at the Centre in an academic year. The Scholarship Committee will recommend an upgrade from one type of scholarship to another. The Centre Directorate will review and approve their recommendations.

High-Impact Scholarship: This scholarship was established in 2019 by the Centre and it is open to both National and Regional students. The purpose of the scholarship is to award deserving students with **excellent** grades in their B.Sc and MSc/M.Eng degrees.

The student will be a full-time research assistant at the Centre and must maintain a CGPA of **4.0** or above for M.Sc/M.Eng and **4.0** or above on a 5.0 scale for Ph.D.

Successful applicants will enjoy **FULL/ 100%** cover for their tuition fees at Covenant University for their M.Sc/M.Eng and PhD programmes, research works and attendance at conferences/workshops.

In addition, they will be paid a monthly personal living allowance (stipend) of N100,000 (One Hundred Thousand Naira) for Ph.D students and N70,000 (Seventy Thousand Naira) for M.Sc/M.Eng students.

Male applicants for M.Sc/M.Eng positions must not be more than 25 years and female applicants not more than 27 years.

Male applicants for Ph.D positions must not be more than 26 years and female applicants not more than 28 years.

Successful Regional students (M.Sc/M.Eng and Ph.D) in this category will get a return ticket. Also, all visa costs incurred will be refunded when they arrive at the Centre.

Middle-Impact Scholarship: This scholarship was established in 2019 by the Centre and it is open to both National and Regional students. The purpose of the scholarship is to award deserving students with appropriate grades in their B.Sc and M.Sc/M.Eng degrees.

The student will be a full-time research assistant at the Centre and must maintain a CGPA of **4.0** or above for M.Sc/M.Eng and **4.0** or above on a 5.0 scale for Ph.D.

Successful applicants will enjoy **FULL/ 100%** cover for their tuition fees at Covenant University for their M.Sc/M.Eng and Ph.D programmes, research works and attendance at conferences/workshops. The student will be paid stipends when attending approved conferences, workshops and internships.

Male applicants for M.Sc/M.Eng positions must not be more than 27 years and female applicants not more than 29 years.

Male applicants for Ph.D positions must not be more than 28 years and female applicants not more than 30 years.

Successful Regional students (M.Sc/M.Eng and Ph.D) in this category will get a return ticket. Also, all visa costs incurred will be refunded when they arrive at the Centre.

Low-Impact Scholarship: This scholarship was established in 2019 by the Centre and it is open to National students **only**. The purpose of the scholarship is to provide research support to qualified students in their pursuit of MSc/M.Eng or Ph.D degrees.

Successful applicants will be a part-time research assistant at the Centre and must maintain a CGPA of **4.0** or above for M.Sc/M.Eng and **4.0** or above on a 5.0 scale for Ph.D.

Also, successful applicants will enjoy 50% rebate on their tuition/school fees to be paid by them and **full support** for their M.Sc/M.Eng or PhD research works at Covenant University, attendance at conferences/workshops, as well as internship costs. However, students in this category must provide concrete proofs of funding available to them for the duration of their programmes.

Maximum age for M.Sc/M.Eng positions for male applicants is 30 years and female applicants, 35 years.

Maximum age for Ph.D position male applicants is 35 years and female applicants, 40 years.

Applicants outside the age brackets could be considered on their merits based on the discretion of the Center's Leadership for all the scholarship categories. In addition, priority will be given to the returning students.

Some Terms and Conditions for the CApIC-ACE Scholarship

If you are a recipient of the CApIC-ACE Scholarship Award, the following relevant terms and conditions shall apply. Please note that others as we have in the Covenant University and any associated supporting grants will apply.

1. Neither the CApIC-ACE nor Covenant University will assume responsibility for any injury, accident, illness, loss of personal property or other contingencies which may befall a Scholar during the course of his/her CApIC-ACE Scholarship. We strongly advise that you take out appropriate insurance to cover your travel to, and stay in, Nigeria.
2. You cannot apply for or accept any other form of funding for purposes already covered by CApIC-ACE.
3. You must comply with the conditions of your visa, Covenant University regulations and other conditions of your award.
4. You should remember that your excellent academic performance is of major importance therefore, it should be given due priority.
5. You must ensure that your current contact details (including personal and official emails, mobile number(s) and next of kin are provided to the CApIC-ACE Admin, in addition to the monthly reports of your academic activities.
6. You must remain in Covenant University (except for authorized absences) during your scholarship.
7. As a full-time scholarship owner, you are not permitted to be outside Nigeria for personal reasons for more than 15 days throughout the entire period of your scholarship.
8. Where you exceed the 15-day limit without approval from the Centre Management, your scholarship will be suspended until you return or terminated entirely.
9. Your scholarship is calculated to support your costs only. There is no provision for dependents of CApIC-ACE scholars. Therefore, foreign students are specially advised not to bring dependents to Covenant University.
10. You must complete and return all requests for reports and surveys sent to you throughout your scholarship promptly.
11. If you share your CApIC-ACE/ CU experiences online, you should acknowledge that these views are yours and do not represent the Centre or University.
12. Any behavior or conduct which is deemed to be in breach of the Centre's and University's conditions may result in an official warning regarding behavior from CApIC-ACE or CU and may result in the withdrawal of your award.
13. In accepting CApIC-ACE Scholarship, you accept that your data will be recorded and used by the Centre and its partners in the ways set out in the terms and conditions.
14. A CApIC-ACE Scholarship is tenable for 24 and 48 months for M.Sc and Ph.D, respectively but may terminate sooner in a situation where you breach the terms and conditions of the award or due to unsatisfactory academic performance.
15. Stipends will only be paid for the duration of your programme as a High-Impact Scholar.
16. CApIC-ACE Scholarship cannot be deferred.

17. Monthly stipends for RAs on High-Impact Scholarship shall be paid directly into their personal bank accounts opened at the approved bank on campus (Covenant Microfinance Bank). Stipends (to cover feeding and transportation) for workshops, conferences and internships not more than one week will be paid in cash by the Project Finance Manager after approval by the Centre Directorate.
18. The tuition fees for RAs in categories I & II of scholarships will be paid for directly by the Centre.
19. The Centre will be responsible for providing equipment and consumables needed by the students for their research projects.
20. All students on the different scholarship categories will have appropriate faculty members in the Centre as Supervisors and Mentors who will provide monthly updates regarding the progress of the students to the Centre Core Team/ Centre Directorate. The students are expected to submit a monthly report of their activities to the Head of Admin via the official email thread solely created for this purpose
21. Applicants are expected to follow the instructions provided on the official website of the Centre when submitting their applications. Failure to adhere to these instructions will lead to automatic disqualification.
22. Applications for the May/June window will normally open in January/February and close in April while the one for the November/December window will open in August and close in October. This may be subject to variations depending on the Covenant University academic calendar. Nonetheless, the current timelines will be published on the CAPIC-ACE website accordingly.
23. All applications are expected to be made through online means only (via emails or other links provided on the Centre's website).
24. Applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Committee and the qualified applicants will be invited for oral interviews which can be conducted physically and virtually. The candidates selected will be approved by the Core Centre Team and Centre Directorate. Offers will be made in writing and sent via emails to successful applicants.
25. The successful student must return the *Acceptance Letter* through the official email of the Centre within one week of receipt accepting or rejecting the offer.