

Allan Gray Centre for Africa Entrepreneurship (AGCAE) PhD and Master's Scholarships 2026

Our Mission, Vision & Objectives



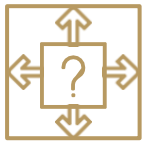
Our Mission

The AGCAE creates, integrates and diffuses knowledge to improve data- and dialogue-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem development in Africa in order to increase the well-being of communities with entrepreneurship.



Our Vision

The AGCAE aims to enable entrepreneurship-led development in Africa with a data- and dialogue-driven entrepreneurial ecosystem approach.



Our Strategic Priorities

1. **Create and integrate** entrepreneurial ecosystem data of African countries and regions.
2. **Analyse and interpret** entrepreneurial ecosystem data of African countries and regions.
3. **Develop and communicate** scientifically rigorous and societally relevant entrepreneurial ecosystem research.
4. **Create** a platform for stakeholders that provides and uses entrepreneurial ecosystem data and knowledge in Africa. Relevant stakeholders include academics, governments, entrepreneurship service providers, entrepreneurship associations, philanthropies, NGOs, and venture capitalists.
5. **Contribute** to the development of entrepreneurship and economic development scholarship in Africa.

Research Themes

Entrepreneurship in Africa has the potential to thrive when support, talent, policy, and funding align. At AGCAE, we explore these drivers through the lens of entrepreneurial ecosystem research.



Talent

Knowledge at the intersection of African talent and entrepreneurial ecosystem dynamics is scarce and needs more attention. We study the art and science of identifying and nurturing entrepreneurial talent and co-founder teams.



Support

To achieve high impact from new ventures, it is important to ensure that multi-lateral actors' interventions are strategic, not episodic. We diagnose, strengthen and take a long-term approach to developing enterprise support organisations' (ESO) capacities and experiences to ensure their sustainability.



Funding

We contribute to original research and related ecosystem- building efforts to help promote and mainstream classical, blended or innovative finance instruments that enable local entrepreneurs to participate and win in their respective economies as well as in international markets.



Policy

We use data-driven dialogues to inspire and help reimagine policy process design and instruments to progress local ventures headquartered or co-founded in Africa.



Entrepreneurial Ecosystem Analytics

We conduct original research on relevant entrepreneurial ecosystem conditions, data science, data engineering, diagnostics and measurements.

About the AGCAE scholarships

The AGCAE is currently accepting applications for its full-time, funded doctoral and master's research programmes. Applications will be considered for the following two scholarship opportunities:

- ◆ AGCAE Doctoral Scholarships: Full-time doctoral scholarships valued at R250 000 per year for three years.
- ◆ AGCAE Master's Scholarships: Full-time master's scholarships valued at R180 000 per year for two years.

The new PhD and Master's intake will commence their studies in Stellenbosch from February 2026.

Eligibility criteria

Candidates must meet the following eligibility criteria to be considered for a scholarship:

- A candidate must meet the minimum criteria for admission to a PhD programme at Stellenbosch University. This requires a master's degree in a relevant discipline.
- A candidate must meet the minimum criteria for admission to a master's programme at Stellenbosch University. This requires an honours degree in a relevant discipline.
- The scholarships are open to South African citizens and African foreign nationals. Preference will be given to previously disadvantaged South African and African foreign national citizens.
- Candidates must have achieved a minimum mark of:
 - 70% aggregate in their master's programmes to be eligible for the AGCAE Doctoral Scholarships.
 - 70% aggregate in their honours' programmes to be eligible for the AGCAE Master's Scholarships.

- Only applications in one of the AGCAE's research themes will be considered.
- Only Candidates who would have applied for the relevant PhD and Master's programme will be shortlisted.

We have a total of SIX Scholarships available: 3 x PhD Scholarships and 3 x Master's Scholarships. Submission of an application, even if you meet all the criteria, does not guarantee funding.

The final allocation of scholarships is made at the discretion of the AGCAE and is subject to funding availability and whether the faculty can place you in an academic program and appoint a suitable supervisor.

AGCAE reserves the right to not award any scholarships.

How to apply to the AGCAE and application details

Follow these steps to apply for the 2026 AGCAE Cohort.

1. Apply for the relevant PhD (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/faculty/economy/spl/degree-programmes/phd-programme>) or Master's (<http://www.sun.ac.za/english/pgstudies/Pages/EMS/Public-Development-Management.aspx>) programme in the Faculty of Economic & Management Sciences (EMS)' School of Public Leadership (SPL) via the Stellenbosch University Central Applicant portal link: <https://student.sun.ac.za/signup/>. **Applications to the University Admissions needs to be completed and sent by the 17th of October 2025.**

2. Ensure that you meet the academic and scholarship eligibility criteria before you submit an application.

3. **APPLY ONLINE AT <https://agcae.africa/careers> BY USING THE APPLY NOW LINK AT THE TOP RIGHT-HAND CORNER OF THE SPECIFIC SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY,**

You will be required to write a letter motivating your suitability for the scholarship (maximum length: one A4 page), as well as a research concept note (5 to 7 pages max) on a research topic which you intend to study during your studies. These should be completed on the application form in the relevant sections.

Please consult the Research Themes to guide you in choosing a research topic. Research topics outside the listed research themes can be accommodated only if it falls within the current research themes that are active in one of the Faculty's academic departments.

4. Compile the required supporting documents:

In addition to the completed application form, the following supporting documents are required:

- Academic records: Full particulars of ALL previous and current tertiary studies. Please submit copies of certified diploma/degree certificates AND official study records (transcripts). Please note that academic records from student portals will not be acceptable.
- ID or passport: A certified copy of your ID (South African) or passport (international) photo page
- Proof of competency in English: Applicants either need to provide proof that they have obtained their qualifications from tertiary institutions where English is the language of instruction, or proof of English Language proficiency. This evidence must accompany your application and must not be older than 24 months from the date of application.

5. Submission of your application:

Completed and signed application forms + supporting documents should be submitted as **one document** via our careers portal link no later than Friday, 17 October 2025 by 23h59. No late applications will be accepted.

Please ensure that your three Referees are informed that their referee letters, stating your capability and capacity to complete the studies should be sent directly to the AGCAE office via email (tyracole@sun.ac.za) on or before Friday, 17 October 2025 by 23h59.

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Due to the large number of applications we receive, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted by AGCAE.

If you have not received a response from the AGCAE by the 15th of November 2025, your application should be considered unsuccessful.

Contact details

Any queries regarding the application process can be sent to tyracole@sun.ac.za.

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