



**ZIMCHE**

*Quality Assurance in Higher Education*



**The Association of African Universities (AAU) in Collaboration with The Zimbabwe Council for Higher Education (ZIMCHE) and The Zimbabwe Open University, is pleased to announce a 4-day Research Methods workshop entitled: INNOVATIVE AND QUALITY RESEARCH METHODS KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS**

*Monday 28<sup>th</sup> -Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May, 2018*

*Zimbabwe Open University (ZOU)*

*11th Floor, Century Towers, HARARE, ZIMBABWE*



## Preamble and Rationale

Virtually all development players now concur that for any meaningful and sustainable economic growth to be realized and sustained tertiary education must be centrally placed in the development agenda of nations. Countries around the world are striving to build the sector as part of their priority strategic development plan. Indeed, building a tertiary education system is no more a luxury but a national and continental imperative critical for Africa's development and global competitiveness. Quality and relevance of university education have emerged as serious concerns of the sector for some time now. Such workshops are very important because African universities need to engage in high quality research to produce evidence-based solutions to the African community problems in every sector if indeed there has to be an improvement in the productivity and performance of African economies and other developments that will have significant impact in improving African lives. The workshop enables participants to focus on the international perspective in the context of the African continent (Think globally but act Locally) so that African research outputs end up being more relevant and useful in responding to the African communities' challenges with feasible solutions.

The AAU recognizes the role played by research in socio-economic development and to this end has designed this course to provide current, relevant and expert support to researchers as one of its major activities. This is in accordance with International University Standards in fulfillment of its role to facilitate quality teaching & learning, research and community service activities in the African Higher Education community. Through this course, they are therefore, able to compete at the highest level in accordance with the current international standards and best practices in Higher Education. Part of The AAU's mission is to contribute to the development of African Higher Education through the advancement of knowledge and skills in research in order to inculcate innovativeness and creativity in both students and lecturers through such research workshops for their own benefit and that of their institutions, nations, the African continent and the international community at large.

The training workshop seeks to fulfil one of CESA's 12 strategic objectives which is:

Revitalizing and expanding tertiary education, **research and innovation** to address continental challenges and promote global competitiveness (**GOAL 9**). It is also guided by some of the priority areas agreed upon in the *Declaration and Action Plan of the 1<sup>st</sup> Higher Education Summit on Revitalizing Higher Education for Africa's Future* held in Dakar, Senegal (10-12 March, 2015): **GOAL 3**. Increase investment in higher education to facilitate development, promote stability, enhance access and equity; develop, recruit and retain excellent academic staff and **pursue cutting-edge research** and provision of high quality teaching.

**GOAL 4**. Pursue excellence in teaching and learning, **research and scholarship**, public service and provision of solutions to the development challenges and opportunities facing African peoples across the continent.

It is against this background that the AAU is providing the short **intensive** training course on generic research skills to equip lecturers and students with the foundations for carrying out quality and meaningful research, guide and supervise students' research projects and effectively mark

students' research objectively, accurately and thoroughly, based on the knowledge and skills to be obtained from this short but intensive course for tertiary level. This can be achieved through the through content on Formulation of a research problem, Research paradigms, Writing a grant winning proposal, Aspects of a good research proposal, Effective and relevant literature review, Data collection tools/methods/instruments, Data analysis, Writing a succinct discussion.

### **1. COURSE AIM**

Share knowledge and skills related to quality relevant and contemporary research in higher education to participants who have an interest in updating or upgrading themselves to both the old and new modes of research in higher education.

### **2. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The main objective of the workshop is to build research capacity in terms of knowledge and skills so that participants are able to improve their research skills. The specific objectives are to achieve the following:

- Share knowledge on the important endowments and characteristics of a good research
- Equip participants with the background knowledge and skills that inform better quality research practices
- Share knowledge and skills of the diverse ways of research using various Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs)
- equip participants with generic writing techniques,
- help to improve proposal writing skills,
- impart knowledge on general and specific expectations of reviewers (in case of publications),
- upgrade knowledge and skills needed to assist & supervise students' research projects well,
- upgrade knowledge and skills needed to properly mark students' research projects/dissertations and theses.

### **3. EXPECTED OUTPUTS**

The main output of the workshop is to equip participants with generic research information and skills that enable the:

- ❖ selection of relevant research topics,
- ❖ formulation of sound statements of problems, aims, objectives and research questions,
- ❖ carrying out relevant and appropriate literature review,
- ❖ matching of research approaches and paradigms to appropriate data collection tools and analysis.
- ❖ members of the academic staff equipped with proposal writing skills
- ❖ grant winning proposals ready to be submitted for either funding or postgraduate studies.
- ❖ it is expected that participants will be able to transfer the skills acquired to their peers (in case of students and lecturers) and students (in case of lecturers).

#### 4. WORKSHOP METHODOLOGY

The objectives of this course will be achieved through lead lectures, intensive participant interaction and exchange of ideas over carefully selected cases and other materials in a process facilitated by renowned Resource Persons. The participants will, through participatory activities, learn the research methodology content and skills.

#### 5. WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Broad categories include civil society, industry, academia and government. Some of the specific categories include:

- ❖ University lecturers
- ❖ Polytechnics lecturers
- ❖ College lecturers
- ❖ Quality Assurance personnel in Higher Education Institutions, Colleges and Polytechnics
- ❖ Personnel in Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and International organizations
- ❖ Students in Higher & Tertiary Education
- ❖ Any person who requires capacity building in his/her research skills

**N/B: *In general, participation is open to all except those who think they know it all in research***

#### 6. CONTACTS:

- i) Mr Lovemore C.K. Gwati: [lckgwati@gmail.com](mailto:lckgwati@gmail.com) Mobile: +263 773 235 885
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- iii) Mrs Ndai Nyamakura: [ndairene@gmail.com](mailto:ndairene@gmail.com) Mobile: +263 775 157 799
- iv) Dr Violet Makuku: [vmakuku@gmail.com](mailto:vmakuku@gmail.com) or [vmakuku@aau.org](mailto:vmakuku@aau.org) Mobile: +233 263 129 798

7. ONLINE REGISTRATION LINK: <https://www.research.net /r/ResMthZim18>

#### 8. REGISTRATION FEES

Zimbabwean National: **US\$350. 00**

Other Nationals: AAU Member Universities **US\$400. 00**

Non-AAU member Universities **US\$450. 00**

#### 9. BANK DETAILS

**GHANA CEDIS ACCOUNT: EXCHANGE RATE FLUCTUATES**

Account Name: ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

Name of Bank: STANDARD CHARTERED BANK

HIGH STREET BRANCH

ACCRA-GHANA

Account Number: 0100100581500

Swift Code: SCBLGHAC

**GHANA DOLLAR ACCOUNT**

**ACCOUNT NAME:** Association of African Universities  
**BANK NAME:** Standard Chartered Bank  
High Street Branch, Accra-Ghana  
**ACCOUNT NUMBER:** 8700202448801  
**SWIFT CODE:** SCBLGHAC  
**CORRESPONDENT BANK:** Standard Chartered Bank  
New York  
**SWIFT CODE:** SCBLUS33  
**ABA No.** 026002561

**NAIRA ACCOUNT DETAILS: EXCHANGE RATE FLACTUATES**

**Account Name:** CVC/AAU  
**Bank:** ACCESS BANK PLG  
PPPRA BRANCH, ABUJA  
PLOT 1012, CADASTRAL ZONE  
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, FCT ABUJA  
NIGERIA  
**Account Number:** 0730902405

**NIGERIA USD ACCOUNT DETAILS**

**Account Name:** CVC/AAU  
**Bank:** ACCESS BANK PLG  
PPPRA BRANCH, ABUJA  
PLOT 1012, CADASTRAL ZONE  
CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT, FCT ABUJA  
NIGERIA  
**Account Number:** 0731023358