ASHESI UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
Educating ethical, entrepreneurial leaders in Africa
HOW WILL TODAY’S YOUNG LEADERS SHAPE AFRICA’S FUTURE?

By 2030, Africa’s workforce is expected to expand by more than the rest of the world’s combined, and it will be home to more than a quarter of the world’s total population under the age of 25. The success or failure of the continent will be felt by the entire world.

By investing in Africa’s young minds and leaders, we can ensure that the continent is prepared for its pivotal global role and will be able to harness this unique demographic as a force for good and for progress.
ASHESI PREPARES STUDENTS TO CREATE PROGRESS IN AFRICA

Since 2002, Ashesi has offered African students a high quality, 4-year education on their home continent that fosters ethics, innovation, and entrepreneurship in a diverse community. Our 1,174 students and 1,369 graduates have earned a reputation for integrity, an entrepreneurial mindset, and exceptional professional skills.

Ashesi combines a rigorous liberal arts core with degree programs in Computer Science, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, and Engineering. A student-led honor code, integrated community service, diverse internships, and real-world projects prepare students to develop innovative solutions for local challenges.

Ashesi is also a growing hub for global collaborations, education exchanges, and entrepreneurial ventures, and is a leading influencer in Africa’s higher education landscape.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Ashesi has been featured in...

Forbes  Stanford Social Innovation Review  BBC
TED  CNN  re:Work

Over Ashesi’s history, the university has been recognized in Africa and around the world for raising the bar for higher education on the continent. Ashesi is the youngest university in Ghana’s history to have been granted a Presidential Charter, and its founder Patrick Awuah has received the WISE Prize for Education and is a MacArthur Fellow.

Tackling real-world challenges

Hands-on learning is woven through our curriculum to help students master concepts and develop critical thinking skills. In Foundations of Design and Entrepreneurship, freshmen hit the ground running by working in teams to conceptualize and launch startups. The year-long course imparts students with integral skills they’ll employ throughout their years at Ashesi.

Learning by doing is further emphasized in each academic department. First-year engineering students design and build solar-powered smart irrigation systems for rural farmers (pictured above). These systems detect when fresh water or soil is needed and when to power on or off.

In building the irrigation systems, students gain experience in computer modeling and programming, along with familiarity with Ashesi’s engineering workshop. “[I grew] as an engineering student,” says Radiatu Mohammed ’20. “From computer-aided modeling with applications like SolidWorks and MATLAB, to learning how to cut, drill and build pumps, the experience taught me a lot about how to approach and solve problems.”
Africa’s future leaders must fully represent the continent’s diverse communities. Therefore, Ashesi recruits top students from varied socio-economic, national, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Ashesi graduates design solutions with a deep understanding of community needs.
Community service
Through Ashesi’s core curriculum, students learn how to address local challenges. In the Leadership as Service Seminar, seniors work with their local communities to identify ways to foster positive social change. Many students begin their own social initiatives, which have addressed such issues as:

- Environmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture
- Education in technology, science, music, literacy, and health
- Girls’ and women’s empowerment
- Early childhood development
- Youth and entrepreneur mentorship

Honor code
In keeping with our values of ethics and leadership, after committing to the honor code Ashesi students take all examinations without proctors. The Code is a step towards sustaining our high-trust community and puts students in charge of their own ethical posture.

Leadership seminar series
Interdisciplinary seminars promote ethics and foster a commitment to leadership as service. In Giving Voice to Values, freshmen simulate real-world value conflicts. “By listening to how alumni and staff have dealt with compromising situations, it is easier to relate,” says Dzifa Hodey ’20. “When confronted with similar situations, I can also look at different perspectives and hopefully make a good judgement.” In subsequent series, students explore such questions as:

- What is a good society?
- What are the most fundamental rights of humanity?
- How do we best achieve a balance of liberty, efficiency, and equality?
- What impact do national governments have on the trajectory of nations?
ALUMNI GROW BUSINESSES AND STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY

Ashesi alumni graduate with technical excellence in their fields, a deep sense of civic responsibility, and the vision they need to navigate and lead in a changing world. On average, 94% of Ashesi graduates receive job offers, enter graduate school, or launch a business within six months of starting their search. Over 90% of alumni have chosen to stay and work for progress in Africa.

The demand for Ashesi alumni from employers is high. The head of General Electric Ghana once told us, “I only wish I could hire more of your graduates.”

Alumni are working in all sectors of the economy: growing local and international businesses, building and sustaining NGOs, and designing solutions to community problems. 1 in 25 graduates starts an entrepreneurial venture when they enter the workforce.

Filling Africa’s women’s leadership pipeline: Yawa Hansen-Quao ’07
At Ashesi, Yawa (pictured sitting) was elected the first female student government president in Ghana’s history. Next, she founded Leading Ladies’ Network, whose for-profit women’s career coaching arm funds mentorship programs for thousands of women and girls. “I want to provide [the women of Africa] the stepping stones to success, to prepare them to participate at every leadership table,” says Yawa.

From Ashesi to Google: Thierry Gnanih ’13
In 2011, a campus visit from Google sparked an adventure for Thierry that has included two internships and a current role with the tech giant’s sub-Saharan Africa Customer Experience team. There, he provides support to small and medium-sized businesses using Google’s advertising products in Africa. Thierry considers his Ashesi education indispensable in preparing him for Google. “To thrive [professionally], we must be able to adapt, learn, and apply new skills depending on what problems we have to solve; the liberal education experience at Ashesi, I have come to learn, teaches just that.”

Working for justice: Enid Marful-Sau ’07
“Ashesi helped me come out of my shell. As a student, I was forced to learn how to engage an audience and share my opinions and ideas. When I got to law school this was an advantage, because these skills were at the core of law training,” says Enid. Now a practicing maritime attorney, Enid considers herself a custodian of Ghana’s constitution, and is committed to strengthening its justice system and making it work for society’s most vulnerable.
In the Ashesi Dartmouth Engineering project, pictured above, faculty and students from the two universities collaborated to develop solutions to global-scale engineering challenges.

This partnership is one of many, all of which play an important role at Ashesi by strengthening our curriculum and programs and expanding opportunities for students and faculty.

Discover more Ashesi partners at ashesi.org/partners

PARTNERS INCLUDE

- **The College of Wooster**
  - Student and faculty exchanges

- **Ford Foundation**
  - Community service grants

- **Fulbright**
  - Visiting faculty

- **Goldman Sachs**
  - Internships

- **Mastercard Foundation**
  - Scholarships

- **Melton Foundation**
  - Student initiative grants
EXTENDING OUR IMPACT

The Education Collaborative
The Education Collaborative at Ashesi brings together a consortium of institutions committed to driving high-impact education innovations as the catalyst for Africa’s transformation. Participants include public and private colleges and universities across Africa as well as a select group of secondary level institutions in Ghana. Launched in 2017, the Collaborative is grounded in the tenets of an Ashesi education: Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Ethics, and Entrepreneurship. Alongside an annual gathering in Ghana, the Collaborative includes:

- Conferences and workshops for university stakeholders
- Targeted mentorship and consulting programs
- A high school engagement program, “Ashesi Before Ashesi”
- Year-round support via online engagement and in-person resources

Each participant has the potential to impact multitudes of colleagues and students. In seventeen years of operation, just over 1,300 students have graduated from Ashesi University. Utilizing Ashesi’s learnings thus far, the Collaborative has the potential to impact over 2 million students across Africa.

The Ghana Climate Innovation Center
The Ghana Climate Innovation Center (GCIC) is a green project incubation hub on campus where entrepreneurs can access support to transform their innovative ideas into strong and viable businesses. Partners include infoDev, the World Bank Group, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, the Embassy of Denmark, and Ernst & Young.

One such entrepreneur is the Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative, a social enterprise that addresses climate change, poverty, rural-urban migration, and youth unemployment by creating jobs for young people, especially women, through the building of bamboo bicycles.
GIFTS OF ALL SIZES CHANGE LIVES AT ASHESI

CURRENT PRIORITIES TO EXPAND OUR IMPACT

Ashesi can do even more for Africa — with your help.

Your gift helps Ashesi to enroll more students, launch new programs, and provide more scholarships to students in need. Please give at ashesi.org/donate. Your gift will support our current priorities:

Campus Growth - Student Housing
Ashesi seeks to improve the availability of on-campus housing. We are now raising funds to build housing for another 120 students. The funding required to build Dormitory D is $3,100,000.

Empowering faculty to research and innovate
Your gift will help Ashesi invest in faculty research, support, and training to ensure Ashesi remains at the forefront of African research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Growing the Education Collaborative
Your support ensures the Education Collaborative’s ongoing operations and ability to grow attendance as we incorporate the insights of each convening to help us spread our impact exponentially across Africa.

Funding more student scholarships
Your support will help us bring an Ashesi education to more students across Africa. Our goal is to maintain our commitment to providing scholarships to 50% of students. Gifts of all sizes to the scholarship fund are pooled together and 100% of the funds go directly to the university.

For details on these priorities, and how you can help, visit ashesi.org/priorities

$375
funds one high school girl’s participation at the Ashesi Innovation Experience (AIX) to learn about the power of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

$6,000
gifts a stipend for faculty research

$12,500
sponsors a full tuition, room, and board scholarship

$1,500
funds a partner university’s participation in The Education Collaborative

$325,000
funds a named scholarship endowment

$3.1 million
funds a 120-bed student dormitory
LET ASHESI WELCOME YOU

The best way to understand Ashesi’s impact is to visit and see for yourself how our students, staff, and alumni are creating a better future for Africa. Each autumn, all are welcome to join the foundation’s Annual Trip to Ghana.

The 12th Annual Trip to Ghana, October 3-11, 2020: Experience Ashesi on campus and beyond as we join students and faculty in the classroom, interact with Ashesi’s leadership team and journey throughout Accra to see alumni at work — all while experiencing the rich culture and history of Ghana. For more information, visit ashesi.org/get-involved/annual-trip.

The 3rd Annual Deep Dive, October 4-6, 2020, is designed specifically for government, philanthropic, nonprofit, business, and academic institutions who wish to gain a deeper understanding of the work happening at Ashesi. Deep Dive participants spend two days on campus meeting with the students, faculty, alumni, and university leadership who bring our values to life. For more information, visit ashesi.org/get-involved/deep-dive.

Visiting Ghana another time? We would love to connect you with Ashesi staff to coordinate a campus tour. To learn more, please contact: foundation@ashesi.org.
Ashesi University is a private, non-profit liberal arts university in Ghana, West Africa. Ashesi University Foundation is a US 501 (c)3 non-profit organization in Seattle, WA that supports Ashesi University.

The mission of Ashesi is to educate a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders in Africa; to cultivate within our students the critical thinking skills, the concern for others, and the courage it will take to transform their continent.