ASHESI UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION
Educating ethical, entrepreneurial leaders in Africa
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.
Investing in Africa’s young minds and leaders is vital if we are to 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 1,200+ students and 1,600+ graduates have earned a reputation for integrity, an entrepreneurial mindset, and exceptional professional skills.

Ashesi combines a rigorous liberal arts core with undergraduate 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. A master’s program in mechatronic engineering – established in partnership with ETH Zurich – prepares the future leaders in this emerging sector to promote sustainable patterns of industrial development.

Ashesi is 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 its history, Ashesi 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 as well as a MacArthur Fellowship.
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,” said 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.
DIVERSITY AT ASHESI

- 25 African countries are represented
- 43% of students are on scholarship
- 46% of students are women
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,” said 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?
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 address issues including:

- 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.
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, 90% of Ashesi graduates receive job offers within six months of starting their search and 8% launch their own businesses within 5 years. Over 70% 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.

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.
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.”

Filling Africa’s pipeline of women in leadership: 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,” she says. Currently, Yawa is the Executive Director for Emerging Public Leaders, an organization driving Africa’s development by creating a new generation of public servants committed to social impact.
The partnership between Ashesi and Arizona State University (ASU) allows qualifying students to pursue a 5-year accelerated academic program that grants them a bachelor’s degree from Ashesi and a master’s degree from ASU.

The pioneer group of Ashesi students to participate in this program, pictured above, were selected in 2019. These students have now completed both phase one and two of the program, earning their undergraduate and graduate degrees in Engineering and Computer Science.
Discover more Ashesi partners at [ashesi.org/partners](http://ashesi.org/partners)
SCALING 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 twenty years of operation, over 1,600 students have graduated from Ashesi University. Utilizing Ashesi’s learnings thus far, the Collaborative has the potential to impact over 1 million students across Africa by 2030.
The Ghana Climate Innovation Center
The Ghana Climate Innovation Center (GCIC) is a green project incubation hub 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, Ernst & Young, and Global Affairs Canada.

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.

The Entrepreneurship Center
In preparation to become problem solvers and employment creators, entrepreneurship is integrated throughout the Ashesi curriculum. The Ashesi Entrepreneurship Center is an aggregation of all of Ashesi’s entrepreneurship efforts to help strengthen student training and provide support to students and alumni. Partners include USAID and MasterCard Foundation.

Ashesi’s entrepreneurship ecosystem includes various programs and initiatives including the Ashesi Design Lab (D:Lab), which provides students with training and practice in design thinking, and the Ashesi Venture Incubator (AVI), a one-year alumni venture incubation experience where Fellows build their business through the incubator’s provision of coaching from local and global business leaders, business development sessions, and support services.
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:

Providing emergency scholarships and financial aid
Your contribution will help provide a life-changing education to young African leaders and support students whose economic circumstances have been disrupted by the pandemic or other emergencies.

Promoting student and faculty research
Research is an integral component to an Ashesi education. Student and faculty research addresses Africa’s most challenging issues and is geared towards understanding the Science of Teaching and Learning so Ashesi can share effective pedagogy with institutions across the continent.

Supporting faculty professional development
Our faculty are breaking new ground in their fields. The Faculty Capacity Building Fund supports their professional development to ensure Ashesi remains at the forefront of African research, innovation, and entrepreneurship and continues to attract the very best talent to Ashesi.

Responding to ongoing pandemic challenges
With your help, Ashesi can continue to support online learning and respond nimbly to other challenges brought about by the pandemic as they arise in the coming years.

Driving high-impact education innovations
The Education Collaborative brings together higher education stakeholders committed to catalyzing Africa’s transformation. Your contribution supports the Education Collaborative’s operations and growth, thereby helping us spread our impact exponentially across Africa.

For details on these priorities, and how you can help, visit ashesi.org/priorities.
GIFTS OF ALL SIZES CHANGE LIVES AT ASHESI

$1,500
provides partial or emergency scholarship support

$5,000
sponsors a student’s community service project

$15,000
sponsors a one-year scholarship covering tuition, room, and board

$400,000
funds a named endowment

$385
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)

$4,000
gifts a stipend for faculty research

$6,000
sponsors a named four-year scholarship covering tuition, room, and board

$1.5 million
endows a chair for an Ashesi Department Head
VIRTUAL ASHESI DEEP DIVE

Due to health and safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic, we’ve made the difficult decision to cancel our 2021 Annual Trip to Ghana. In the absence of trips this year, we will offer a virtual Deep Dive in October, enabling participants to connect with the incredible work happening at Ashesi and the people who make it possible.

Immerse yourself in Ashesi University’s campus and community and see firsthand how Ashesi is mobilizing for Africa’s future. For a few hours, over a three-day period, participants will meet virtually with President Awuah and the leadership team, students, faculty, and alumni who bring Ashesi’s values to life. For more info, visit ashesi.org/get-involved/deep-dive/.
**Annual Trip to Ghana**

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/getinvolved/annual-trip.

The Annual Trip has been a highlight of Ashesi’s calendar for over a decade. We hope to host you on campus in fall 2022 for the Annual Trip and Deep Dive.
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.