

ASHESI UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

Educating ethical, entrepreneurial
leaders in Africa



ASHESI

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.

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. Ashesi combines a rigorous liberal arts core with undergraduate degree programs in Computer Science, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, and Engineering. The University also has a master's program in Mechatronics Engineering - established in partnership with ETH Zurich - which prepares future leaders in this emerging sector to promote sustainable patterns of industrial development.

Our 1300+ students and 1600+ graduates have earned a reputation for integrity, an entrepreneurial mindset, and exceptional professional skills. With a student-led honor code, integrated community service, diverse internship opportunities, and real-world projects, Ashesi helps prepare students to develop innovative solutions for local challenges.

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

B B C

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."



LEADERS AS DIVERSE AS THEIR CONTINENT

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



46% of students are
on scholarship



47% of students
are women



LEADERS WHO SERVE THE GREATER GOOD



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,” 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
- Female empowerment
- Early childhood development
- Youth and entrepreneur mentorship

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. In 2019, Ashesi received a 90% rating for career placement outcomes by the IFC's Vitae Program. The program evaluates a university's strategy for graduate employability, the quality and relevance of learning, employer engagement, career and placement services, student retention, and alumni engagement.

Per our recent graduate placement survey, 94% of Class of 2021 received placement offers within six months of completing national service. National service is a one-year volunteer work requirement for graduates in Ghana. 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.



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. Most recently, Yawa served as Executive Director for Emerging Public Leaders, an organization driving Africa's development by creating a new generation of public servants committed to social impact.



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."



PARTNERS MOVE US FORWARD

In 2020, Ashesi and ETH Zurich, together with industry and supporting partners, launched a new Master's program in Mechatronics Engineering to be taught in Ghana by faculty of both universities. Students who graduate from the program receive both a Master of Science degree in Engineering from Ashesi and a Master of Advanced Studies degree from ETH Zurich. ETH Zurich has educated over 20 Nobel Prize Laureates, including modern physics pioneer and an inventor of the general theory of relativity, Albert Einstein.

In January 2023, Ashesi welcomed the second-ever cohort for the program. Jointly developed and co-taught with ETH Zurich in Switzerland, the program provides a unique Engineering education for students interested in Mechatronics, focusing on production and automation.

Discover more
Ashesi partners at
ashesi.org/partners

PARTNERS INCLUDE



Area of partnership:
Student and faculty exchanges

ETH zürich

Area of partnership:
Master's degree program



Area of partnership:
Visiting faculty



USAID

Area of partnership:
Funding support



Area of partnership:
Internships



mastercard

Area of partnership:
Scholarships



Area of partnership:
Student initiative grants

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.

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.

Establishing Regional Hubs

Starting from East Africa, the Education Collaborative looks to scale impact across the continent through a regional hub approach. This model will provide a context-specific blueprint for success through shared experiences from exemplary universities. Over the next ten years, the institutions within established regional hubs will build the capacity to drive transformation in ethics and leadership, career readiness, entrepreneurship ecosystems, diversity, equity, and inclusion, while ensuring accountability and sustainability.

The Ghana Climate Innovation Center

The Ghana Climate Innovation Center (GCIC), established in 2016, is a green project incubation hub where entrepreneurs can access support to transform their innovative ideas into strong and viable businesses. The Center's work is currently funded by Global Affairs Canada.

Since the GCIC's inception, 438 new jobs have been created and over 3,310,880 households served with "green" goods and services.

One of its entrepreneurs is the Ghana Bamboo Bikes Initiative (pictured), 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 like 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.

EVERY GIFT BUILDS A BETTER FUTURE FOR AFRICA

Ashesi's growth into a leading African university over the past two decades has impacted higher education across the continent in multiple ways. From a pioneer class of 30, we now have some 3,100 students and alumni. Since the launch of the Education Collaborative in 2018, we have helped transform learning outcomes for an additional 149,000 students thanks to an inspired network of African higher education partners. In our third decade, we are taking even stronger steps to strengthen African higher education.

Philanthropic gifts play a critical role in propelling key aspects of Ashesi's strategy to develop young leaders through a robust educational experience, strengthen Ashesi's contributions in research and innovation, and continue to build partnerships to influence outcomes for students across Africa. Please join us by giving at ashesi.org/donate/.

CURRENT PRIORITIES:

Scholarships and financial aid

Ashesi scholarships provide a life-changing education to high performing students who do not have access to the funds they need to attend college.

Student and faculty research

Research is a critical tool for exploring Africa's most challenging issues. At Ashesi, faculty complement discipline-specific research with a focus on the Science of Teaching and Learning.

Campus Growth - Student Housing

In addition to promoting a strong campus culture, on-campus student housing lowers the barrier to entry for female students by giving their families peace of mind about the safety and security of their children – especially for our growing international student population leaving home for the first time.

Faculty professional development

The Faculty Capacity Building Fund supports our faculty's professional development, allows Ashesi to attract and retain top academic talent and ensures our faculty remain at the forefront of African research, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

Fund for Service Program

This program provides funding and structured guidance to student-led projects that provide hands-on learning opportunities while benefitting children and youth in the community at large.

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

GIFTS OF ALL SIZES CHANGE LIVES AT ASHESI

\$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)

\$1,500

provides partial or emergency scholarship support

\$5,000

sponsors a student's community service project

\$4,000

gifts a stipend for faculty research

\$15,000

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

\$60,000

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

\$100,000

funds a named endowment

\$1.5 million

endows a chair for an Ashesi Department Head

ASHESI DEEP DIVE

Annually in October

The Deep Dive offers a unique chance to step away from status quo sessions and directly into systems change work. Participants will meet with Ashesi University's founder and the leadership team, students, faculty, and alumni who bring the school's values to life. From learning about pioneering startups launched on campus, to delving into conversations in the classroom with Africa's future business and civic leaders, the Deep Dive offers an unparalleled opportunity to see how Ashesi is driving impact through higher education on the continent.

This event is designed for anyone who wishes to gain a deeper understanding of Ashesi University's work, impact, and opportunities for partnership.

Air travel, in-country travel, visa expenses, and most meals will be included in the cost of the Deep Dive and will be coordinated by Ashesi University Foundation. Guests will be responsible for their own air travel and visa expenses. Contact us to stay up-to-date on the logistics for this year's trip.

For more details, visit our website and see the agenda for the previous year: www.ashesi.org/get-involved/deep-dive-2022-3/

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.

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