

MASTER RESEARCH PROGRAMME ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND MARINE SCIENCES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Master's Research Programme on Climate Change and Marine Sciences (MRP-CCMS)

Sixth Batch | 2026-2027 Academic Year

The Atlantic Technical University (UTA), in collaboration with the West African Science Service Centre on Climate Change and Adapted Land Use (WASCAL), invites applications for the sixth cohort of its Master's Research Programme on Climate Change and Marine Sciences (MRP-CCMS).

WASCAL Overview

WASCAL is a West African international organization dedicated to advancing academic and transdisciplinary research, building graduate-level scientific expertise, and providing science-based policy advice on climate change adaptation and land use management. Funded by the German Federal Ministry of Research Technology and Space (BMFTR) and 12 member countries (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, and Togo), collaborates with regional agencies and universities to establish a knowledge platform of excellence.

Partnership

The programme, hosted by the Atlantic Technical University, is supported by a consortium of partners, including:

- German Institutions: GEOMAR Helmholtz Centre for Ocean Research Kiel, Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel, and the Thünen Institute.
- Cabo Verdean Partner: Institute of the Sea (IMar).

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Key Components:

- **Language Proficiency Training (4 Months):**
 - Francophones & Lusophones: English language training at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.
 - Anglophones: French language training at the University of Lomé, Togo.
- **Coursework (3 Semesters):**
 - Joint master's courses on climate change, marine sciences, and coastal management.
 - Instructions delivered by national and international lecturers.
- **Practical Training:**
 - Shipboard training on local or international research vessels (subject to availability and sponsorship).
 - Field training and research projects supported by the Ocean Science Centre Mindelo (OSCM).
- **International Exposure:**
 - A three-week scientific trip to German partner institutions (when applicable).

This interdisciplinary program equips students with the expertise to pursue careers in academia, industry, consultancy, or governmental agencies.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- **Citizenship:** Must be a citizen of a WASCAL member country (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, The Gambia, or Togo).
- **Education:** Bachelor's degree in Biological Sciences, Oceanography, Fishing or Livestock Engineering, Geography, or Sciences of the Atmosphere.
- **Language Proficiency:** At least an intermediate level in English.

Citizens of other ECOWAS countries may apply as self-funded students, subject to availability.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FEES

Scholarships:

Scholarships are awarded to the top 12 students (one per WASCAL member country).

WASCAL will grant scholarships to selected students in the Master Research Programme on Climate Change and Marine Sciences. The scholarship is extended every year after successful completion of the study programme.

The scholarship includes:

- monthly stipend to cover accommodation, and living expenses for the period of studies;
- payment of university fees;
- research budget;
- a personal laptop computer on loan for the duration of the programme.

Self-Funded Students:

- Up to 12 self-funded students are accepted.
- Estimated cost:
 - First Year: €7,500.00 (travel, insurance, language course, shipboard training and others)
 - Second Year: €3,960.00 (travel, insurance and others)
 - Tuition: €1,500 (per year).

Living expenses are not included.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- **Deadline:** **March 22, 2026, 11:59 pm** Cabo Verde Time.
- **Submission:** **Exclusively online in the application form ([HERE](#))**, with all documents submitted in English (except university degree and transcript).
- Students should also print, scan, and send the application form to capacityby@wascal.org.
- Further information can be obtained on-line at www.wascal.org