

TERMS OF REFERENCE

Women and Clean Energy in West Africa (WOCEWA)

Call for Applications

WOCEWA Scholarship and Green Jobs Program for Women in STEM

2024-2027

With funding from:



IDRC · CRDI

International Development Research Centre
Centre de recherches pour le développement international

Canada



Type of contract: International Consultancy

Duration: 90 working days

Duty station: Home based

Scope: ECOWAS region, comprising 15 West African countries

A. Introduction

The ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE) has received funding of CAD 1.5 million from the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), Canada, to implement a project entitled Women and Clean Energy in West Africa (WOCEWA). WOCEWA was designed to contribute to the objectives of the ECOWAS Policy for Gender Mainstreaming in Energy Access, which aims to address barriers to the equal participation of women and men in the expansion of energy access in West Africa. The project specifically works to meet the objective of the policy relating to mainstreaming gender in the private sector and increasing the participation of women as clean energy consumers and suppliers.

In line with this, the project's initiative on WOCEWA Scholarship and Green Jobs Program was step up to create the pipeline of future women in the energy sector. By providing scholarships, in combination with an automatic internship placement at ECOWAS energy institutions and agencies, ECREEE is aims to address the low participation of women in the energy sector. The initiative will sponsor a total of six (6) young women from West Africa towards completing their master's programs. These young women will also be funded to work in the ECOWAS energy sector as interns for a six (6) months period – increasing their capacity for energy sector employment.

Eligible young women intending to enroll in a master's program during the 2024-2025 academic year are encouraged to submit applications by **October 03rd, 2024**.

B. Background

Ensuring everyone has access to sufficient clean energy is an opportunity to reduce gender-based inequalities. Both clean cooking and electricity access are proven to benefit women by creating employment opportunities and reducing drudgery, the risk of gender-based violence and exposure to indoor air pollution.

Women have always played a vital role in the field of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and continue to make significant contributions to the energy sector. However, they are still underrepresented in these fields with only 22% of women reportedly employed in traditional energy industries like oil and gas and fewer women reaching senior management roles in the energy sector than in the broader economy (IRENA).

There are many reasons why more women are not involved in STEM and energy. These reasons include:



- Stereotypes: Girls are often discouraged from pursuing STEM fields because of stereotypes that these fields are for boys.
- Lack of role models: There are not enough female role models in STEM and energy, which can make it difficult for girls to see themselves in these careers.
- Bias: Women may face unconscious bias in the workplace, which can make it difficult for them to advance in their careers.

Through its WOCEWA scholarship and green jobs program, ECREEE aims to address this imbalance by providing financial aid that removes a barrier to entry for women pursuing energy-related studies. This program aims to equip students with the necessary skills for starting a career in the energy sector. Notably, this program will help them acquire the expertise to be gainfully employed or to establish and manage their own renewable energy facilities, and handle clean energy technologies, including energy conservation and efficiency.

C. WOCEWA Scholarship and Internship Program

The WOCEWA project will provide scholarships to young West African women planning to go for a master's program in an energy related field. Scholarship will be provided to young women having excellent academic record. Furthermore, these young women will have the option of being placed for internships at ECREEE, the West African Power Pool (WAPP), ECOWAS Regional Electricity Regulatory Authority (ERERA), ECOWAS Gender, Development Centre (EGDC), the other specialized agencies of ECOWAS Commission and ECREEE partners

D. Host institution.

Scholars must be able to provide evidence of admission in any West African university that has been accredited to award master's degrees in a STEM course with specialization in sustainable energy.

E. Scholarship and Internship Value

WOCEWA Scholarship will be follow as:

- A) The scholarship has a maximum value of US\$3200 per year for a maximum of two (2) years per person. The funds may cover:
- Tuition fee and health insurance

Tuition fees and health insurance are capped at US\$2500. Fees will be paid directly by ECREEE to the training institution. . If the tuition fees and health insurance exceed this amount, the applicant is responsible for the remaining balance. Conversely, if the tuition is below the maximum, any excess funds will be transferred to the applicant.

- A computer with a maximum value of US\$700
- B) The Internship program at ECREEE or one of ECOWAS institutions in the energy sector. will last for six (6) months covering travel, insurance and subsistence. The intern will receive a monthly stipend of \$800 to cover expenses.



Scholars must maintain a high-grade following their first-year master's degree exams to be provided scholarship in their second year.

F. Eligibility Criteria for WOCEWA's Scholarship Program

Applicants for WOCEWA Scholarship must meet the following general criteria:

- Be a citizen of one of the ECOWAS Member States.
- Applicants must have obtained a registration in the first year of master's degree in one university or institution in West Africa.
- Be female with background in STEM having an energy focus.
- The maximum age to apply for this scholarship is 32 years old at the end of year 2024.
- Applicants must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5/5, i.e., Upper Second-Class (equivalent of an average of 14/20 for the francophone system)
- Does not have an existing scholarship from another organization.

N.B: Any false declaration will result in a permanent suspension of support.

G. Application Deadline

The application is due by **03rd October 2024**.

H. How to apply

Applications can only be made by the candidates themselves. An application is considered complete only if it includes all documents below:

- A detailed Curriculum Vitae
- Copy of passport biodata
- Certified copies of their bachelor's certificate
- Official transcripts from bachelor's degree.
- Proof of registration for the master's degree courses.
- Bank details of your university for tuition fees
- Proof of admission in an eligible West African university and in the relevant course.
- Applicants must submit a letter of motivation to the ECREEE's Director Executive, with a word count between 300 and 500.
- Applicant must commit herself to respect the terms and conditions of the program

Applications will be selected by a committee and the process will be objective and transparent.

I. Application instructions

Application should be submitted by e-mail through: scholarships@ecreee.org, clearly indicating in the subject: **“WOCEWA Scholarships Program”**. **Do not copy any other email addresses but the tender email or your application will be disqualified.**

Deadline for Submission: 03rd October 2024, 23h59 (UTC-1)



For any inquiries on the proposal, you can contact: Prisca Zidago; pzidago@ecreee.org and/or Erica Flan; eflan@ecreee.org.