

# African Student News!

*(Let's gather, let's talk, let's work together to find a way on our own)*

## The thought for the month!

**“Evil prevails when good men fail to act.”**

The next generations of African world leaders are those currently doing whatever it takes to overcome our day to day burdens (poverty, injustice...) in order to succeed.

Where do you stand?



## Best funding opportunities of the week!

**(1) For students**



**I know it is easier said than done but do your best to avoid feeling down.** It is very counterproductive....why? Because the minute that just passed is never coming back. Remember, many others from beginnings as humble as yours have made it. You might not feel like you can become anything tomorrow. I believe, I truly believe that you can beat the giants on your way! There is a way! And if you are from beginnings as humble as mine – no one, and I repeat no one will give it to you. You have to seek and sweat for it on your own in prayer. Look around you for opportunities. Do not waste time feeling down. Many aren't. Opportunities will not come to find you and once you see one you will have to fight for it.



*A \$30,000 award for Master's, doctoral, or post-doctoral African students - [The Bentley Cropping Systems Fellowship](#)*



*Those that succeed are those that neither "sleep" nor stop persevering. Many you see abroad today, for instance, have tried for years before getting a scholarship.*

*[VAILOV-FRANKEL FELLOWSHIPS - Bioversity International - two Fellowships](#)*



*[University of the Witwatersrand Scholarship for Honours in Development Theory and Policy](#)*



[GreenMatter Fellowship](#)

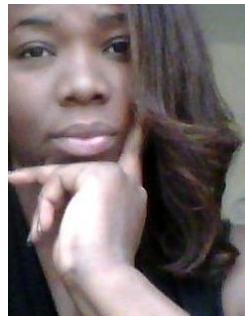
[University of the Western Cape Law Scholarships](#)



[Graça Machel Scholarships for Women](#)

Our countries are among the poorest of this world, our brothers and sisters are dying by the millions every year from diseases and war. Our towns are plagued by all sorts of injustice. Will the next generation of African politician/business/social/intellectual (...) leader, people that will shape this world include you?

**Did it ever occur to you that something you (yes you, not your neighbor) do, can end-up changing the face of Africa forever? Can lead to thousands of lives being saved? Where there is a will, a real one, there is always a way.**



[Edinburgh Business School MBA by Distance Learning](#)



[Commonwealth Scholarships for Postgraduate Study in the UK](#)

Where can you start? Simple: with a purpose-driven education

[-READ MORE](#)



[Canon Collins Scholarship for Masters Study in the UK](#)

Damaris-Program coordinator H.A.S.




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## **Jobless after Graduation - Tips to reduce chances of this happening to you.**

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[Canon Collins Scholarships for Postgraduate Study in South Africa](#)

Truth being said, there are thousands of African students heading towards joblessness after graduation as we speak. Does this include you and if yes can you do something about it?



OK, does this include you? You are the judge:

[South-North PhD Sandwich Scholarship for Visiting PhD Students from Developing Countries](#)

***You see, success requires a lot (a lot) of planning: Here are 5 series of questions to help you assess how well you are prepared/equipped to face what lies ahead.***



1. Can you list at least 10 different professions in which someone with your current or

[Graça Machel SASOL Scholarships for Mozambican Women](#)

future background qualifies?

2. Which one of those are in demand in today's job market ?
3. Why are you going to school? Is there a specific job out there that you are after? If yes, **why did you choose that particular job?** Was it out of the blue as we often do or after long considerations? Is it in demand in your country or abroad? Does it have a great salary?
4. Why are you pursuing your current degree? What particular skills (I am not talking about diploma) are you after? Apart from the particular degree you are after as we speak, what other qualifications will give you an edge once you are on the job market - as far as your target profession is concerned?
5. Are you familiar with the phrase "career/professional plan"? If yes, have you ever drafted one (even a rough draft)?

## (2) For African Research Professionals



**Now, let's talk about a mistake that has been passed down generations which can explain why the toll of unemployment after graduation is so high.**

**You see, your education, those years of studies, serves one purpose: to prepare you for ONE fateful day!**

Indeed, **what we tend to forget is that** those years of study, prepares you for the day when, along with several other candidates, you will send a document called a 'resume/CV' to a prospective employer. One thing you ought to know is employers look for specific details/qualifications in CV's - not just your highest diploma. These qualifications vary widely from one career to the next. With that in mind, understand why it is important to have a clear idea about what your targeted or preferred job is very early in life, preferably before you enroll in any academic/professional program.



Awards fellowships to women from developing - The Schlumberger Foundation Faculty

An education and everything that goes with it is meant to prepare you for a job, a specific job, something you hand pick after a longgggggggggg consideration. **You can thus see why it is illogical to even start a program without a well-defined career target.** All these things sound so simple and logical and yet only a few people follow this principle. How can we complain about the rising toll of unemployment after graduation, when half of those going to school were not taught that there should be a purpose to having an education in the first place? A degree does not prepare you for a job - a job is about skills + qualifications. The latter includes a degree **AND specific extracurricular activities.**



International fellowships - post doc for African Students



ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT STIFTUNG / FOUNDATION -Africans professionals-career development grant

**Whether you are currently involved in a graduate/undergrad/professional program or not, take action today.**



As we mentioned in our previous edition and above, one of the main reason students find themselves struggling down the road is failure to embark in a purpose driven education. As we say on the street, going to school for the sake of going to school.

ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT STIFTUNG / FOUNDATION -International Climate Protection Fellowships

**Are you well equipped for what lies ahead? Truth being said, if you do not have even a rough draft of a career plan you might be heading towards troubled waters.**



*Through our website we will soon be offering an easy to follow, step by step guide to help students across Africa build one.*

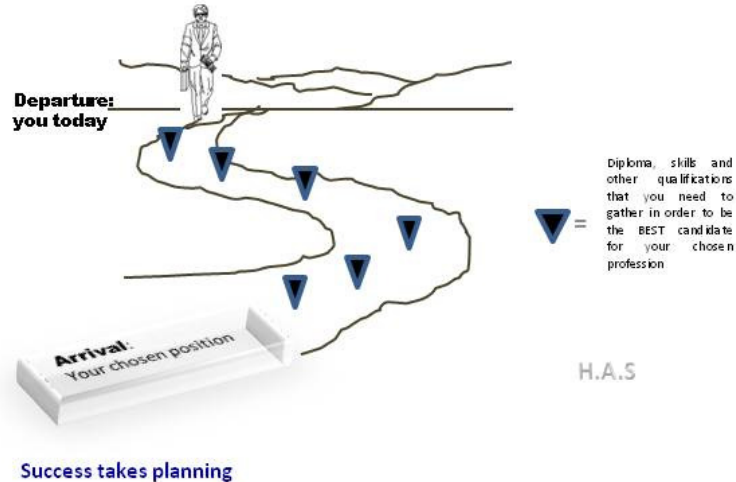
There is nothing to it.

[VIB international postdoc program in integrative biology](http://www.helpforafricanstudents.org/scholarships-for-african-students/)



Wondering what on earth a career/professional plan is? - see below - A picture is worth thousand words.

### WHAT IS A CAREER PLAN?



[TDR Clinical Research & Development Fellowships](#)



[Population health vulnerabilities to vector-borne diseases: Increasing resilience under climate change conditions in Africa](#)



[The Food Security Center \(FSC\) of University of Hohenheim offers South-South Research](#)

The foremost element of all career plans is having a target position. After this is done, all you need to do is try to figure out what are the qualifications for this type of job. These qualifications include a degree, yes but there are other things that can give a particular candidate an edge over others (having volunteered, having customer care experience, management skills, mastering certain languages etc.....). The latter are job specific. That's why I said above that the foremost element of all career plans is having a target position - you decide on one and then work backwards to determine which diploma and extracurricular activities you will need to land that dream job easily.



[Scholarship for visiting postdoctoral researchers from developing countries Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Bursary Award](#)

So, start by figuring out what is your 'dream job'.



Here are 6 characteristics of a "dream job"

1. This is something for people with your current background and something you will qualify for at the end of your training(s)
2. It is in demand in today's job market (nationally/internationally)
3. It has a great salary - if this is important for you - It is for me :)
4. You have always had a great admiration for people working in that line of work
5. Growth is foreseen employment-wise in the industry
6. Employment for new graduates is on the rise

[\*\*2012 African Union Kwame Nkrumah Scientific Awards\*\*](#)

When you come to think of it students should be introduced to the concept of "building a professional plan" early in their training: in high school (briefly) but especially before entering university.

**Scholarship application - this month's tips - There are 4 questions you should ask yourself before ever completing a scholarship application**

This month we will go over the first two of these questions:

**Question 1 - Who are those who launched the award?** There are 2 possible answers to this particular question: (1) a University / Research Institute, or (2) philanthropists (a governmental agency or NGO). Knowing who launched the award in question is critical because the criteria used by universities / research institutes in the selection of the ideal candidate are very different from those used by the jury in charge of grants initiated by governmental agencies and NGO's. For example, while grades are one of the most important criteria used by a jury in charge of scholarships launched by universities, NGO's might award scholarships to an average student instead, if the latter has shown greater potential to use his/her skills to further the growth of his/her country. Students with a record that demonstrates interest in community development often have better chance when it comes to scholarships launched by governmental agencies and NGO's.

**Question 2 - Why has the scholarship been launched?** It is obvious that understanding why a scholarship was launched is crucial because, as we mentioned above, applying for a scholarship = convincing a group of 1-10 men / women that you're the ideal person for 'xxx'.

'xxx' is the answer to this question 2: 'xxx' is in fact the reason behind the scholarship that you need to understand. Scholarships are not launched randomly. There is always a reason. Scholarships launched by overseas governments often have the following aim: to help impoverished countries in their fight against poverty by helping a handful of students from the given countries to obtain the best education possible. The latter are often required to sign an agreement stating that once their training is completed they will return to their home countries to put the earned skills to good use. In this particular case, the "xxx" entails bringing supporting ongoing efforts toward your country's development.

**It is important that you understand the reason behind the launch of scholarships. Governments / NGOs or universities that launch thousands of scholarships each year throughout the world share the same goal as your parents: they want to give you a good education.**



**HOWEVER it is critical that you understand that YOU AS A PERSON ARE NOT THE REAL TARGET/CONCERN**

**Let me explain:** while governmental agencies and NGO's have this in common with your parents that they want to help you get a good education, it is important to understand that the reasons motivating both parties differ greatly.

It is important that you understand this: your becoming a successful man or woman capable of feeding a family is not the goal that motivates governments and NGO's to spend billions each year in the creation of scholarships.

**IT IS CRUCIAL that you understand that far from being you, the real target of these NGO's and governmental agencies is improving conditions for the whole population of**

**your country.**

**As stated before**, an NGO/governmental agency might award a scholarship to an average student instead of a straight-A if the former has shown greater potential to use his/her skills to further the growth of his/her country.

**CAUTION.** The concepts are reversed when it comes to awards launched by universities; these are research grants generally. Universities neither care about you as a person, nor your country. They care about their own growth. Understand that foreign universities are usually managed as companies and therefore recruit only the best students, i.e., those who we have showed throughout their application that they have the potential for carrying on a specific research project with great success.

Note that there are exceptions in this case and in fact several European universities for instance dedicate entire budget lines to ASSISTANCE TO developing countries' students, and each year launch several special scholarships for which such students are exclusively eligible. It is very easy to recognize such scholarships, as the words 'poor countries and developing countries' appear over and over in the advertisement. Note that in the preparation of your application, such awards should be treated as philanthropic scholarships even though they are launched by a university.

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## What is H.A.S.?

NGO based in the USA. It was created to partner with African students in their daily struggles toward a better education.

Sending out newsletters such as this one, which are loaded with info regarding scholarship offers around the world, is just one of the many ways through which H.A.S. interacts with students on the continent of Africa.

Best Regards and God Bless



*At H.A.S. we believe that African Students (Universities)  
hold the key to a brighter future for Africa*