

COMPUTER SCIENCE/IT volunteer professors to teach graduate courses in Ghana – summer 2012

Academics for Higher Education and Development ([AHED](#)) is looking for two volunteer faculty who will each teach one condensed graduate course in the summer of 2012 and introduce students to research (and potentially supervise doctoral students) – see below. Each course will run for about 8 weeks, between June 15th and August 15th, 2012. The courses are to be taught in the Department of Computer Science and Information Technology ([DCSIT](#)) at the University of Cape Coast ([UCC](#)) in Cape Coast, Ghana. UCC will provide housing and a local salary that is enough to cover the cost of living. All other expenses will also be covered, including the cost of visas, vaccinations, travel and health insurance, travel medications, taxis, and airfare, plus a small honorarium.

The current course topics of greatest interest are:

Database system and database design
Software engineering
Internet system technology
Information security
Networks
E-learning

Other areas/topic suggestions are welcome.

Background: Ghana is one of the most secure and relatively well-off African countries. It is developing rapidly and needs people with advanced degrees in CS/IT, both to work in many key positions and to educate others. As there is currently no doctoral programme in CS/IT in Ghana, those who wish to get an advanced (M.Sc. or Ph.D.) degree must leave the country to study. Most of them, however, cannot leave for personal reasons, or have teaching obligations, and if they do leave, they often do not return.

The Project: The DCSIT would like to upgrade the qualifications of its instructors from M.Sc. (mostly from British universities) to Ph.D. The plan then is to mount a doctoral programme that will allow this. The programme will consist of course work (four courses) spread out over summers, and a supervised thesis. The graduate courses will also be open to recent graduates of DCSIT, who will be able to use the course credit towards an advanced degree once DCSIT has a graduate programme in place. As well, some potential doctoral candidates from other Ghanaian universities might take the courses and then work on Ph.D.'s in the programme being designed for DCSIT.

The hope is that some of the students attending will be able to find thesis topics at the end of the courses; AHED will assist the Ph.D. candidates in finding supervisors. If it can be arranged, the candidates will spend at least one semester at the supervisors' institutions. The doctorate will be granted by UCC, unless an arrangement can be made with a supervisor's institution that would allow the residency requirements to be waved.

In the not so distant future, volunteers will also be needed to teach undergraduate courses to free the current lecturers to do research for their doctorates. The positions available will be temporary and should be suitable for recent graduates with an advanced degree (Ph.D. preferred) who are excited about their research and can contribute to creating a research atmosphere at DCSIT. Enquiries are welcome.

More information. Geňa Hahn (Département d'informatique et de recherche opérationnelle – DIRO - University of Montréal) and Dominique Sotteau (formerly directeur de recherche, Centre national de la recherche

scientifique (CNRS) in France and head of international relations, Institut national de recherche en informatique et automatique, INRIA) were AHED volunteers and spent almost three weeks at UCC in August 2010 working out with DCSIT the project outlined above. Xavier Goaoc and Yannick Toussaint, both researchers at INRIA Nancy, gave the first courses in the summer of 2011. They can answer many questions you might have. Feel free to get in touch with them.

hahn@iro.umontreal.ca, dominique.sotteau@seznam.cz, yannick.toussaint@inria.fr, xavier.goaoc@inria.fr

If you want more information about UCC, you can also contact directly Jojo Moses Eghan, the head of the DCSIT: eghan_jm@yahoo.com

This project is supported by the French Embassy in Accra, the University of Cape Coast and AHED.

Interested faculty or post-docs should contact Steven Davis, Executive Director, at AHED, as soon as possible: sdavis@ahed-upesed.org. Please send your CV and a letter with the names of two referees, the periods when you are available, and a description of the courses, which you are interested in teaching.