

# Practical guide through the recognition of the Summer School 2019

This practical guide is leading through the processes of recognition of an international Summer School that took place in Lagos, Nigeria, from 5<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> August 2019. The Summer School was organized as one out of four mobility phases in the project “InterAAECT: – International dialogue on Academic Adult Education: Curricular Structures and Teaching Modes”, within the DAAD-programme “Higher Education Dialogue with the Muslim World”, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.

The guide is based on reflections by the coordinators of the project InterAAECT who were involved in the Summer School, namely Prof. Tofa from Bayero University Kano, Prof. Simeon-Fayomi and Dr. Adebakin from Obafemi Awolowo University, Prof. Obashoro-John from the University of Lagos and Clara Kuhlen from Julius-Maximilian University. It is providing insights to the experience from each partner about their curricula and grading system, as a basis for the later recommendations for recognition of the achievements made during the Summer School 2019.

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## 1. The International Summer School 2019 in a nutshell

The Summer School which was held from 5<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 through 16<sup>th</sup> August, 2019 at the University of Lagos (UNILAG) was a two-week long intensive programme for Masters and Ph.D students in Adult Education and interrelated fields. It involved academic contents, seminars, practice and field trips to relevant professional organisations as well as cultural experiences. The school attracted a total of 30 students and around 10 lecturers from Bayero University, Kano

(BUK), Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU), and University of Lagos (UNILAG) from Nigeria and Julius-Maximilian University (JMU) from Germany.

The Summer School created avenue for interactions where papers were presented and were followed with discussions. There was dialogue on topics relating to curricular structures of adult education, teaching and learning methods in adult education and lifelong learning. These were with a view to achieving team work, demonstration, case study and participatory activities. Professional and cultural visits were made to public and private skills acquisition centres and the Atlantic Ocean beach.

The design of videos about the topics mentioned above, was the result of the joint learning processes. They were followed by subsequent presentations and offered learning opportunities about media based teaching and learning techniques.

More information about the Summer School can be found under this link <https://www.paedagogik.uni-wuerzburg.de/erwachsenenbildung/internationales/interaaect/summer-school-2019/>

## **2. The PhD curriculum and the grading system of all partners**

In order to understand the recognitions processes for the achievements of the summer school 2019, the four different PhD curricula as well as the grading systems of the university are introduced briefly. This juxtaposition and the subsequent reflection of the recognition process reveals similarities and differences between all partners involved in the project. The given descriptions of the PhD curriculum as well as the grading system show the structure that is in place in regard to adult education and at the respective departments in particular.

### **2.1 The structure at BUK**

The Ph.D. covers Doctorate Degree in adult and Non-Formal Education with specialization in Adult and Non-Formal Education, Community Development, Extension Education Services, Gerontology and Social Welfare. The admission Procedure into the Programme stipulates that an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- The CGPA of the Master's Degree should be at least 3.50 on a scale of 0.00 to 5.00. A Ph.D. candidate who satisfies all admission requirements except the CGPA can be considered for admission into M.Phil./Ph.D. provides the CGPA is at least 3.00.

- M.Phil. from Bayero University, Kano or any other recognized University with a minimum CGPA of 3.00.

The programme is run on full time basis. The duration for the full time is Four (4) years/ academic sessions.

The guidelines for Postgraduate studies allows extension for writing thesis for full time and part time students. But the candidate is expected to collect a progress report from the supervisor, write application to the Dean, School of Postgraduate Studies through the Dean of the Faculty and PG Coordinator. The application must be approved from the departmental P.G Board, School of Postgraduate studies board Senate Business Committee (SBC) and lastly the University Senate. This procedure is also applicable for examinations, only that for examination admission extension is not given rather the applicants can only apply for in complete grading on medical ground (which must be accomplished with medical certificate produce by recognized medical officer and verified by University Health Clinic) or on compassionate grounds which must be approved on different levels as shown for extensions of study period.

We are proud of the performance of our Ph.D. students at the summer school 2019. But we have not yet incorporated this performance into our assessment system. What ought to be done is to add aspects of the Summer School, like the Webinar aspect and involve Academic Staff and Students from other Universities. The financial aspects and other logistics may be a hindrances for proper implementation of the programme. Based on my observation on their respective performance, the department has decided to give each participant a letter of recommendation and a written report indicating the performance of each participant to the Vice Chancellor. In fact, it is based on their performances that we engaged them in the Webinar production process. This, we believe, will help them practicalize what they learned and also add it to our Distance Education Teaching Techniques.

## Grading system at BUK

Department of Adult Education and Community Services Bayero University Kano awards Ph.D. by course work and thesis. The course is graded as follows:

Letter grade	Percentage Score	Grade Point
A	70 -100	5.0
B+	65 – 69	4.5
B	60 – 64	4.0
C+	55 – 59	3.5
C	50 - 54	3.0
F	0 – 49	0

But the final Thesis will not be graded, although the University senate has directed School of Postgraduate studies to propose grading system for all defended thesis at proposal and external Examination.

Similarly, the PG. guide did not clearly state procedure for receiving title content for Ph.D. But a Ph.D applicant is expected at point of purchasing form for admission to include his area of research interest, abstract and last CGPA.

## 2.2 The structure at OAU

The Ph.D. programme in education covers the Doctorate Degree in Adult Education and Lifelong learning, Educational Management and Educational Foundations and Counselling. These fields cover various specializations in Education. The admission procedure into the programme stipulates that an applicant must meet the following criteria:

- The master's degree must be reached with a minimum average of 60%. Ph.D. candidate who satisfy all admission requirements, except for the CGPA can still be considered for admission into a M.Phil./Ph.D. program
- M.Phil. from OAU or a master's degree from any other recognized University with a minimum average of 60%.

The program has both full and part time period. The duration for the full time is four academic sessions while part time lasts for maximum of eight academic sessions.

The guidelines for the postgraduate college allow extensions for writing the thesis, for full time and part time students, for a maximum of one additional session. This is with the provision that

the candidate must have completed a progress report duly endorsed by supervisor and Head of Department and write application to the provost of the college. This procedure also entails applying for examinations, however are extensions for examination admission not given. This means the applicants can only apply for in complete grading on medical ground (which must be accomplished with medical certificate produce by recognized medical officer and verified by University Health Clinic) or on compassionate grounds which must be approved at a different level, as was shown above for extension of study period.

### Grading system at OAU

OAU awards Ph.D. by course work and thesis. The course is graded as follows:

Letter Grade	Percentage Score	Remark
A	70 -100	Excellent
B+	60 – 69	Very Good
B	50 – 59	Good
C	45 - 49	Fair
F	0 – 44	Failed

However, the final thesis will not be graded using the percentage score. The thesis is graded using the following options:

- A – Submit with no corrections
- B – Submit after minor corrections (Two weeks)
- C – Submit after major corrections (Six weeks)

### 2.3 The structure at UNILAG

The illustration of the curriculum of Ph.D. studies at the University of Lagos, Nigeria, shows two major access criteria. To be eligible for the Ph.D. award, candidates must possess:

- The M.Ed degree from an approved university in Adult Education or other related fields, with a minimum cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of 4.0. The programme is open to candidates who passed out from the institution’s programmes in Adult Education or other acceptable courses to qualify for the programme.
- The Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) degree in adult education from the University of Lagos or any other accredited university. The department equally accepts candidate who scored highly (4.0 and above) CGPA from the Masters programme to proceed straight to

the Ph.D programme. The access criteria are according to the policy of the governing body at the university level, the School of Postgraduate studies of the University of Lagos and according to the Nigerian Universities Commission (NUC) regulations.

**Duration of programme (and extension)**

The Ph.D. programme should be completed within three sessions. If this is not achievable, it can be extended for another year following the regular guidelines. The course contents to be passed are

Course code	Title	Units
ADE 902	Research Seminar	3
ADE 904	Seminars on issues in Adult Education	3
ADE 905	Seminars in problems in rural development and Extension education	3
ADE 906	Problems in continuing education	3

**Qualifying Examinations:** to qualify for the award of the Ph.D. degree in Adult Education, candidates must offer and pass twelve (12) units of course work at the 900 level which had not been previously studied as part of the M.Phil. programme. In addition, candidates must fulfill all departmental requirements regarding participation in Seminars, as well as all other requirements of the School of Post Graduate Studies, University of Lagos, including the submission of a Thesis. Other requirements for receiving the Ph.D. title are that candidates must go through an Oral Viva in the presence of a constituted panel of examiners. These examiners include:

- one external examiner
- one representative of the school of post graduate studies
- two internal examiners
- two supervisors of the candidate’s thesis (passive member of the oral examination)

The evaluation of the Oral Viva by the examiners is then recommended to the Postgraduate Board of Studies for further recommendation to the university senate for approval. The final Ph.D. thesis must have their post-field and research work completed which will culminate to chapters 1 to 5, including a background to the study, literature review, research methodology, discussion of findings and the conclusions and recommendations.

**Form of final Ph.D. thesis:** The curriculum of the Ph.D. studies Adult Education in the University of Lagos is a streamlined research programme leading to the award - Ph.D. (Doctor of Philosophy in Adult Education) degree.

The following flowchart of the curriculum of Ph.D. studies show the candidate’s trajectory over 3 sessions.

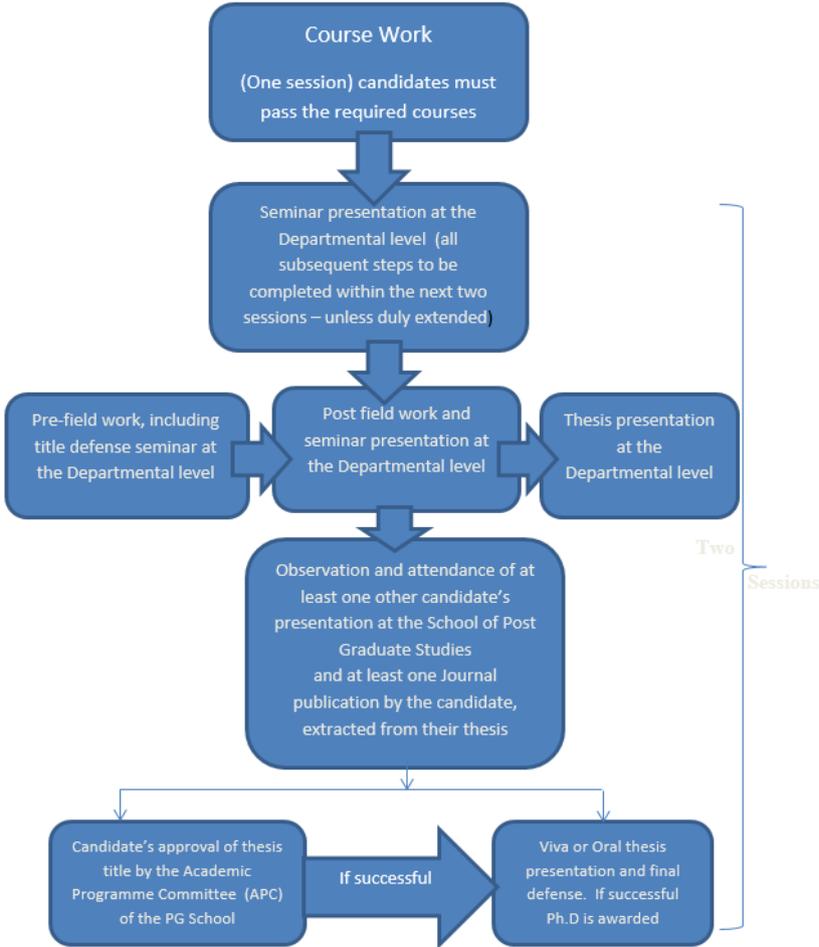


Figure 1: Model of candidate’s trajectory for the award of Ph.D. degree in the Department of Adult Education, UNILAG

### Grading system at UNILAG:

Letter Grade	Score	Grade Average
A	70 and above	5.0
B	60-69	4.0
C	50-59	3.0
D	45-49	2.0
E	40-44	1.0
F	Below 40	0.0

Ph.D. candidates are expected to undertake one year/session of coursework on seminars related to the study of adult education and its specializations, such as Manpower Training and Development, Community Development and Social Welfare and Adult Education Management courses. Candidates are evaluated based on their performance in the presentations and examinations written. Candidates with a CGPA of 4.0 and above (out of a grade of 1 - 5) are recognized and may proceed straight to the Ph.D. programme, while those with less scores (between 3.0 to 3.99) have to go through the M.Phil. programme before converting to the level of Ph.D.

Recognition comes with an opportunity to apply for the Postgraduate Trust Fund at the Postgraduate School to fund their research work. This recognition process for academic performance could be attained by the nomination of the candidate for Ph.D exchange programmes with international institutions in order to improve the quality of the candidate's research output, networking skills, collaboration and employability. The university also engages the Ph.D. students in work/study programmes where they are employed as Graduate Assistants and assistant lecturers by the department and can get promoted along the desired level until they become professors. Furthermore, after the completion of the coursework, candidates are expected to undergo different stages in the seminar presentations and defense, both at the departmental level and the school of postgraduate studies until they get to the final level of viva (see model 1).

Recognition processes for academic performance could be enhanced in future by facilitating post-doctoral scholarship programmes for the candidates to encourage career advancement and employability in the academia. Also, retention of candidates with the best Ph.D. thesis at the departmental level for academic work is encouraged.

**Requirement for the award of a Ph.D. degree:** Candidates are required to pass all the required courses, make their thesis presentation, pre and post field both at the departmental and PG school levels and present the approved thesis for the award. At the coursework level, students are meant to present chosen topics in the presence of their peers and lecturers, after which they proceed to their title defense in the presence of lecturers and supervisors at the departmental level. The next stage is to make a pre-field presentation and go for the field research work and report on the field and post field findings to the supervisors and the lecturers through seminar presentations. It is at this stage that students will be assessed and further decisions made on their progress.

**Content of the study:** Content of the study includes the department's required three courses of ADE 900 series to be passed. Candidates then work closely with their assigned supervisors (2) and other experts from outside the department, if necessary. They do extensive literature review in their area of interest and topic and must perform adequate statistical analysis, using standard statistical tools, on gathered data to treat the emergent problem of study (see figure 1).

## 2.4 The structure at JMU

The PhD programme in adult education at JMU is organized either through the Faculty of Human Sciences<sup>1</sup> or through the Graduate School of Humanities<sup>2</sup>. The role of a primary thesis advisor for dissertations in the field of adult education is mainly conducted by Prof. Regina Egetenmeyer<sup>3</sup>, who is the head of the Professorship for Adult and Continuing Education. In comparison to the programmes at the Nigerian Partner Universities, the Professorship of Adult and Continuing Education is rather small in size when it comes to the PhD studies, currently having five enrolled PhD candidates who primarily research in the field of adult education under the supervision of Prof. Egetenmeyer. Since the recently enrolled students are affiliated to the faculty of Human Sciences and those are the ones that participated in the Summer School 2019, this reflection has only taken the 2018 PhD regulations into account. The information given is subject to changes and shows only an extract of the PhD regulations as they apply to the topic in the present case. The structure of the PhD studies at the Faculty of Human Sciences, at JMU comprises the access

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.hw.uni-wuerzburg.de/fakultaet/dekanat/pruefung/promotionsverfahren/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.graduateschools.uni-wuerzburg.de/humanities/home/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.paedagogik.uni-wuerzburg.de/erwachsenenbildung/team/univ-profin-dr-phil-regina-egetenmeyer/>

to a PhD position and particularly the role of the supervisor, as well as the qualification programme and the grading system.

### **Access and supervision**

The access to a PhD position is highly dependent on the supervision of the thesis. The supervision of the PhD process is conducted by a committee of three people. Two of them have to be members of the Faculty of Human Sciences. Amongst them is the primary supervisor, which is Prof. Egetenmeyer for the Professorship for Adult and Continuing Education. The third member of the committee can also be chosen from another faculty or university. The PhD candidate can make suggestions for the members of the PhD committee.

Only when being accepted by a professor for supervising the thesis and having the two other supervisors of the committee, the candidate can enrol as a PhD student at the Faculty for Human Sciences.

As prerequisite for the enrolment and as a crucial aspect for the supervisor to take the candidate in, one must show an outstanding degree on a master's level or equivalent. In addition, formal regulations have to be met by handing in documents and considering the given timeslots. In case that the applicant does not fulfil the requirements as mentioned above, a qualifying examination can be conducted to proof the eligibility for a PhD position.

### **Duration of the PhD studies and qualification programme**

The regular duration of a PhD at the Faculty for Human Sciences is six semesters, resp. three academic years. An extension can only be requested by the candidate with the confirmation of the primary supervisor and needs to be approved by the faculty.

During the period of the PhD studies, the candidate has to participate in a so-called qualification programme. This is to be distinguished from the PhD curriculum of the Nigerian partners, since it is not following the European credit or grading system. It is measured by undertaking hours that are divided in subject-specific achievements in the field of adult education as well trans-disciplinary performances, such as the development of soft skills or language courses. The Summer School 2019 is one example for a subject-specific course within the qualification programme.

In the scope of the whole qualification programme, the candidate shall receive an outstanding training through additional studies. Thus, the configuration of the qualification programme is designed individually together with the PhD committee and in regard to the needs of the candidate. The aims and achievements are documented in a written agreement with the candidate and need to be presented in order to being eligible for the doctoral examination.

### **Doctoral thesis and oral examination**

The doctoral thesis can be issued either as a monography or in a so-called cumulative way that comprises at least three coherent papers of which the candidate is the main author. At the Professorship for Adult and Continuing Education, monographies are the major form of the dissertations.

The dissertation is examined by all three supervisors of the PhD committee and, upon approval, followed by an oral exam. Within three months after the submission, the oral exam shall be conducted. At the Faculty for Human Sciences, this oral exam is conducted in form of a colloquium or a disputation of 30 minutes lengths. The board of this oral examination consists of the PhD committee, as well as one or two additional examiners and a person who is keeping the minutes of the examination. All members of that board need to be in possession of a doctoral degree themselves.

### **Grading system <sup>4</sup>**

**The following grading system applies to the dissertation as well as the oral examination:**

<b>Grade in numbers</b>	<b>Remark</b>	<b>Description</b>
0	summa cum laude	An outstanding performance
1	magna cum laude	A very good performance
2	cum laude	A performance above average
3	rite	An, by all accounts, average performance
4	insufficenter	A Performance with significant shortcomings that is no longer sufficient (failed)

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<sup>4</sup> [https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/fileadmin/39030000/download/public/promotionsordnungen/Promotionsordnung\\_Humanwissenschaften-aes1-20181212-netz.pdf](https://www.uni-wuerzburg.de/fileadmin/39030000/download/public/promotionsordnungen/Promotionsordnung_Humanwissenschaften-aes1-20181212-netz.pdf)

The result of the dissertation is counted double and the results from the oral examination once to form the total grade for the PhD examination.

The total is formed in consideration of two decimal places, from the sum of the doubled grade of the dissertation and the single grade of the oral examination, divided by three. The total grade is then distinguished as follows:

<b>Total Grade</b>	<b>Remark</b>	<b>Description</b>
Up to 0,49	summa cum laude	An outstanding performance
From 0,50 to 1,50	magna cum laude	A very good performance
From 1,51 to 2,50	cum laude	A performance above average
From 2,51 to 3,50	rite	An, by all accounts, average performance

### 3. Recommendations for recognition

The recognition of the achievements of the learning experience from the Summer School 2019 varies between the universities and in particular the countries. Whilst in Germany a full recognition can be done in the scope of the qualification programme, the recognition process in Nigeria differs. Therefore, this chapter is hinting a recommendation for a recognition, derived from the reflections of the coordinators from the Nigerian side.

A framework should be developed for adapting existing curriculum that cut across different countries for summer, hence, there is no need at this time to develop new curriculums for the summer. Candidates should be encouraged to take specialized courses in their area of interest and also undertake research activities to enhance their employability within the economy.

The summer program can be connected to intermediaries which could strengthen the system of support for the Programs: The goal for intermediaries is to bring attention to summer programs as a vital strategy for supporting the needs of learners, while connecting and aligning services and the resources invested in summer programs. Some of the strategies related to program quality would include:

- Partnership building, Dissemination of summer learning quality standards and assessment tools, Targeted professional and organizational development, Policy development, replication, as well as dissemination.
- Increase the duration and intensity of the summer school
- Expand participation
- Move summer programming from the periphery to the center of school reform strategies through better planning, infrastructure, data collection, and accountability.

All Ph.D. participants at the summer school program should be given the opportunity to do a collaborative research with the international participants and get the research work published in an international Journal.