



ASSOCIATION OF AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES  
ASSOCIATION DES UNIVERSITES AFRICAINES  
اتحاد الجامعات الأفريقية

# The AAU Pan-African Interdisciplinary Academic Writing/Research & Publication Mentorship & Support Pilot Programme



Women's University  
in Africa



Addressing Gender Disparity and Fostering  
Equity in University Education



The University of  
Nottingham



AAU EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS  
CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



A 12-month online interdisciplinary writing-for-publication and mentorship programme designed to strengthen the capacity of early-career researchers across Africa to develop and publish impactful research and position their work within African and global scholarly debates.

### Delivered by

The AAU Early Career Researchers Centre of Excellence (AAU ECRs CoE), in association with the AAU Southern Africa Regional Office (SARO) and the AAU European Regional Office (ERO), which is hosted by the University of Nottingham.

### Programme Team

Led by experienced African and international researchers, journal editors, publication experts, and writing mentors from diverse disciplines, with support from programme alumni who facilitate Writing Café sessions and peer learning.

### Programme Structure

Fully online blended delivery through Zoom and Moodle, combining live sessions, flexible resources, mentorship, writing support, and peer learning.

Includes:

- Two-day opening online workshop
- Ten group mentorship meetings
- Asynchronous learning activities
- Monthly writing clinics with targeted feedback
- Interdisciplinary Writing Café sessions
- One-day closing workshop

### Programme Phases

Phase 1: Opening Online Workshop

Dates: 18–19 July 2026

This opening workshop will provide core training in research writing and academic publishing, covering:

- Publication Landscapes and Contexts
- Navigating Journals and Articles
- Authors', Peer-reviewers' and Editors' Perspectives
- Developing Research Writing Skills
- Mentoring

### Phase 2: Ongoing Support and Mentorship

Dates: August 2026 – May 2027

Participants will engage in a structured programme of support designed to sustain progress towards publication.

Activities will include:

- Group Mentorship Meetings
- One-to-One Mentorship
- Asynchronous Learning
- Writing Clinics
- Interdisciplinary Writing Café Sessions

### Phase 3: Closing Workshop

Date: June 2027

The final workshop will include participant presentations, reflection on learning and progress, networking opportunities, and the formal close of the programme.





### What Participants Will Gain

- Stronger academic writing and publication skills
- Greater understanding of scholarly publishing processes
- Practical mentorship and peer support
- Increased publication readiness
- Opportunities for interdisciplinary collaboration and networking
- Enhanced visibility within African and global scholarly debates

### Who Should Apply?

The programme is intended for:

- Doctoral candidates
- Postdoctoral researchers
- Early-career academics
- Lecturers and junior faculty members
- Research-active professionals with publication goals

Interested participants should have a clear publication goal and an existing dataset or draft manuscript

### Programme Fee

The programme will be offered on a fee-paying basis.

#### Fee Structure

- First instalment: **USD 500**
- Second instalment: **USD 250**

Total Programme Fee: **USD 750**

### Recruitment Timeline

- Call for Applications Opens: May 2026
- Application Deadline: June 2026
- Programme Commencement: 18th July 2026

The pilot cohort will target approximately 35–40 participants to ensure meaningful engagement and high-quality mentorship.



## Join the Programme

Be part of a growing network of African scholars committed to producing impactful research and strengthening Africa's contribution to global Knowledge production

Application link :

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/cjrZS0h67w>

Payment Link:

<https://pay.aau.org/early-career-researchers>

Concept Note: <https://tinyurl.com/mr2vphfr>

For further enquiries, please contact us via  
[Commservice@aaunigeria.org](mailto:Commservice@aaunigeria.org) / [Alicia.Bowman@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:Alicia.Bowman@nottingham.ac.uk)