



Student mobility - Is it a pipe dream for African students?

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EURI
EURASIA HIGHER
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Southern African Development Community (1992)



What is SADC and what is its purpose?

The main objectives of Southern African Development Community (SADC) are to

- achieve economic development, peace and **security**, and **growth**,
- alleviate poverty,
- enhance the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa,
- and support the socially disadvantaged through Regional Integration.



SADC Protocol on Education and Training (1997)

ARTICLE 7 - COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING (A) **Access To Universities: Student And Staff Mobility**

- Member States agree to recommend to universities and other tertiary institutions in their countries to reserve at least **5% of admission**, for students from SADC nations, other than their own.
- Member States agree to work towards harmonisation, equivalence, and eventual **standardisation of University entrance requirements**.
- Member States agree that in order to prevent costly repetition of courses taken at universities within the Region and in order to contribute towards the mutual recognition of qualifications throughout the Region, **universities shall be encouraged to devise mechanisms to facilitate credit transfer** from one University to another within the Region.
- Member States agree that it is desirable to work towards the **harmonisation of the academic years of universities** in order to facilitate staff and student mobility.
- Member States agree that within ten years from the date of entry into force of this Protocol, they shall **treat students from SADC countries as home students for purposes of fees and accommodation**.
- Member States agree to facilitate movement of students and staff from the Region for purposes of study, research, teaching and any other pursuits relating to education and training. To this end, Member States agree to work towards the **gradual relaxation and eventual elimination of immigration formalities** that hinder free student and staff mobility



EARLY AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES' MOBILITY AGENDA

- Driven by the emerging of the world university rankings after the launch of Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Academic Ranking of World Universities in 2002. (Andoh & Salmi, 2019)
- Most East and West African universities focused on the North (America and Europe)
- Some traditional South African universities established regional centres to improve scholarship and regional development



Reasons for study abroad

- For some, studying abroad can result from a wish to be open to the world
- For others it is necessary to find work abroad because there are no opportunities at home.
- Encouragement by professors who have collaborations abroad
- Availability of funding or scholarships

Student mobility

- Student mobility continues to grow and has increased three-fold since 1980 to 3.4 million students in 2009.
- In 2013, UNESCO calculates that 373,303 African students were studying in a country other than their own, representing about 10.5% of global student mobility.
- Students from Sub-Saharan Africa account for 4.8% of this number which is more than double the world average (2.1%).

(Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation)

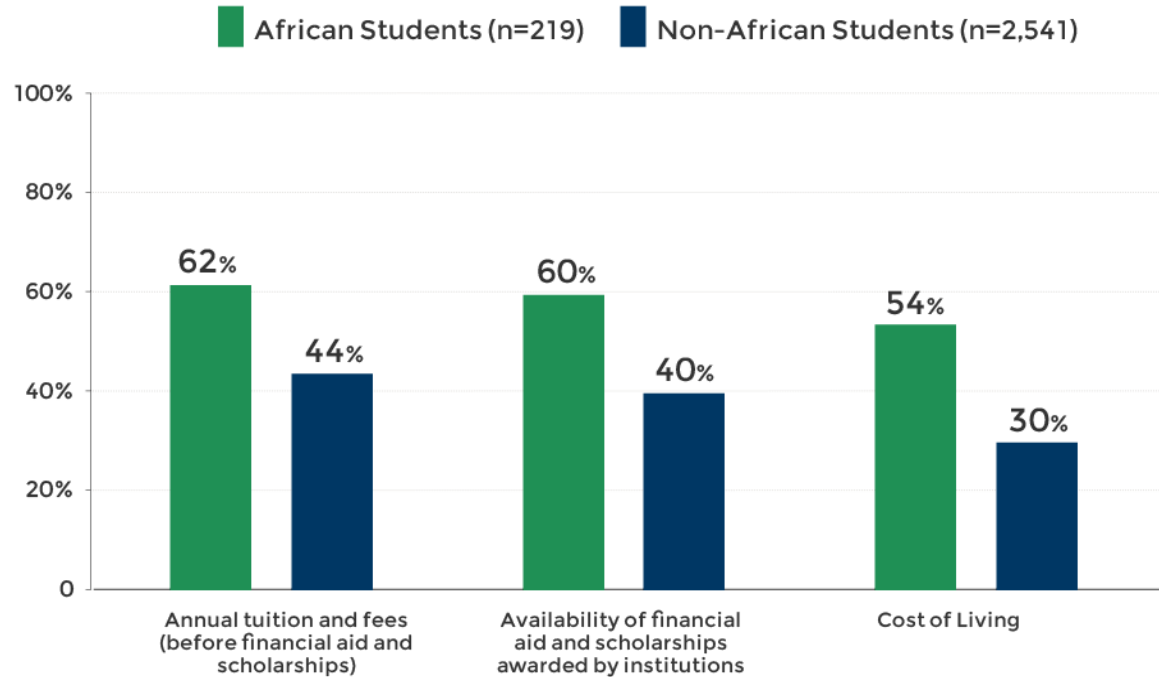


- Patterns of outward student mobility in SADC continue to reflect a mix of linguistic and colonial bias with destinations such as the United Kingdom, France and Portugal outside the region receiving large numbers of students.
- However, it is noteworthy that about 50% of mobile students in the SADC region remain in the region by studying in another country in the region.
- The majority of these students study in South Africa, which ranks as the 11th biggest host country worldwide in 2008.

(Source: UNESCO Institute for Statistics and the OECD Centre for Educational Research and Innovation)



Relative Importance of Costs When Deciding Whether to Apply to a U.S. College/University



Source: WES's Primary Survey Data

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African Student Mobility: Insights and Recommendations for U.S. HEIs, wenr.wes.org



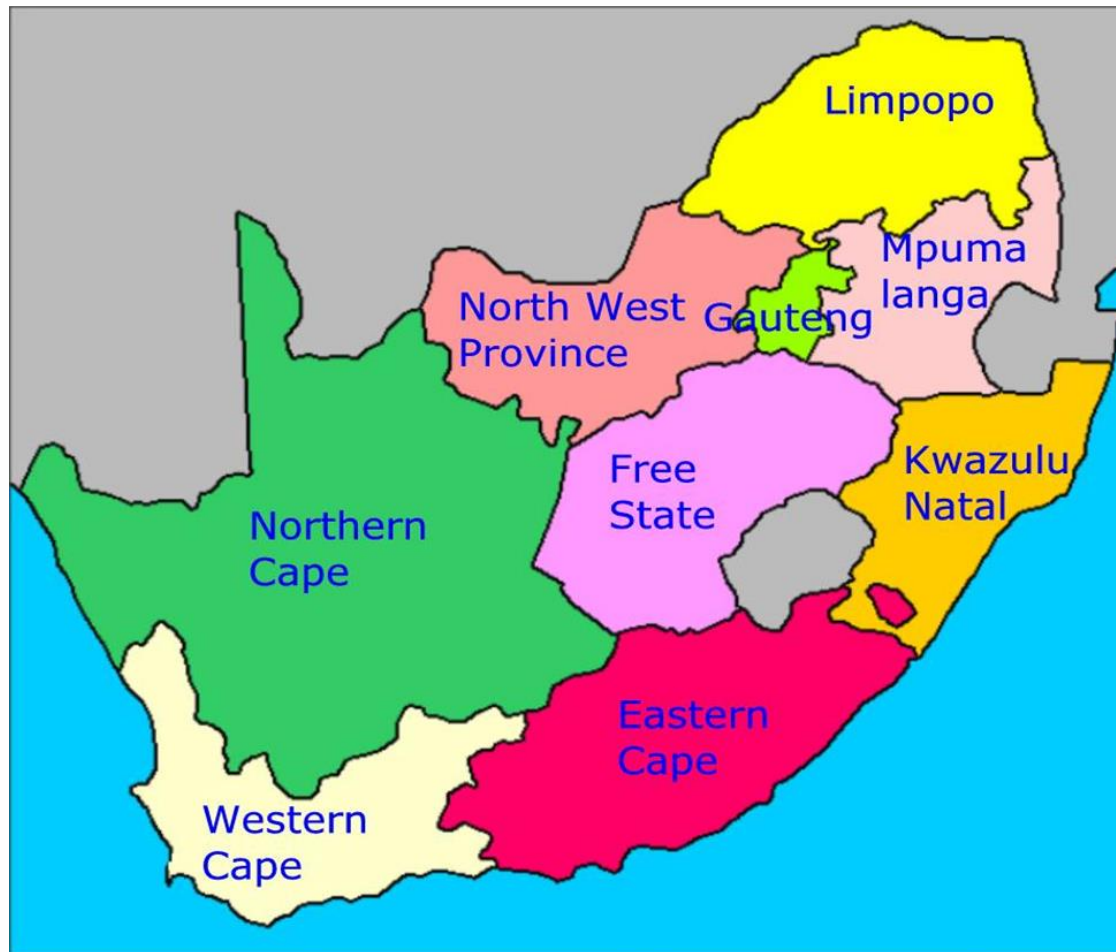
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Source of funding for students

- **Government funding (some discontinued and others are not reliable) e.g.** When the economic slump took hold in 2015 and 2016, most government scholarship initiatives were suspended, and delays in transferring payments for affected many students.
- **Parents and guardians (not always on time)**
- **Bursaries (private sector scholarships)**

South Africa



South African Higher Education Sources of funding for education

- Department of Higher Education and Training
 - ✓ National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)
NSFAS provides funding for deserving students who cannot afford further education. From 2018 this became a form of a bursary rather than a loan as was the case previously. South Africa
- [Bursaries South Africa](#) has a comprehensive list of the top bursaries in South Africa.
- Universities and universities of technology –
 - ✓ bursaries and merit awards
- Banks
 - ✓ Loan or bursaries to students of merit
- Part-time work

Students funded by NSFAS (2005 – 2015)

- N = 983 698 (total enrolment)
- n = 611 963 (62%)
- Beneficiaries were predominantly female (57%).
- Recipients are disproportionately African (90%), with smaller proportions of :
- Coloured (4%),
- White (2%),
- Indian (0.7%) and
- recipients classified as Other (3%).



Types of costs to be covered (in the home country)

- Tuition fees (form a small part of the costs, but receives major attention when it comes to student funding (Naidoo, 2015)).
- Living costs (food, housing)
- **Sending money back home**
- Lifestyle costs (cell phone, clothes, entertainment)

Pipe Dream?

- When poor, underfunded students enter the university with only their studies and books funded they, too often, find themselves with insufficient funds to cover their basic needs e.g. food.
- These students are the most unlikely to travel for leisure and meet people from other cultures.
- Their parents are unlikely to have not travelled and therefore there is no source of information for them except for what they see on TV, internet, etc.
- Traveling for studies would present the best opportunity particularly for these students, to experience the world outside their immediate communities and expand their world view.



Where do they find funding?

Memoranda of Understanding

- Between institutions
 - Between Faculties
- Waiver of fees
Own transport
Own Accommodation and meals
Preparation for travel

Source of funding for international mobility

1. European programmes

The European Commission has reinforced its initiatives towards a deepened cooperation with the African continent in the field of higher education.

- African universities and African students have benefited from EU (Erasmus Mundus and Erasmus+) funding and cooperated with European universities or studied in the EU.
- By September 2018, the EU had already supported 16,000 beneficiaries of these programmes, according to the report [*Strengthening the EU's Partnership with Africa*](#).
- By 2020 this number is expected to reach 35,000, and 105,000 by 2027, (European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker, 2018).
- The Erasmus+ calls for proposals in 2019 and 2020 foresee an additional €40 million (US\$44.7 million) for cooperation with African countries.



Source of funding for international mobility

- **Embassy Bursaries**
 - ✓ Fulbright Foreign Student Programme – fully funded
 - ✓ French Embassy
 - ✓ British Council
- Nuffic – with South African Government through National Research Fund
- DAAD



South African Department of Higher Education and Training

- [AZERBAIJAN: Non-Aligned Movement \(NAM\) Scholarship 2020/21](#)
[BRAZIL: Undergraduate \(tuition only\) and Postgraduate Scholarships \(tuition & monthly stipend\)](#)
[MAURITIUS: Mauritius-Africa Scholarship Scheme 2020](#)
- [AUSTRIA: Erasmus+ Master in Research and Innovation in Higher Education \(MARIHE\) Programme: 2020](#)
[Brunei Darussalam: Government of Brunei Darussalam Scholarship](#)
[CHINA: Youth of Excellence Scheme of China \(YES CHINA\)](#)
[France: ISAE-SUPAERO Scholarship Programmes](#)
[SWEDEN: Swedish Institute Master's Scholarship](#)
- [SWITZERLAND: Swiss Government Excellence Scholarship for foreign students 2020/2021](#)
- [Brunei Darussalam: Government of Brunei Darussalam Scholarship](#)
[GERMANY: Development-Related Postgraduate Courses](#)
[INDIA: Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation Programme \(ITEC\)](#)



In conclusion

Senior Internationalization Officers have a responsibility to

- **Find funding opportunities for the students**
- **Advertise mobility opportunities for students once there is funding**
- **Negotiate a better deal for students in the MoUs**
- **Intensify the Internationalization at Home opportunities**



Thank you

Kea leboga



Dankie



Ngiyabonga



Enkosi



Ke lebogile

