ASHESI FOUNDATION



Educating ethical, entrepreneurial leaders in Africa.

HOW WILL TODAY'S YOUNG LEADERS SHAPE AFRICA'S FUTURE?

By 2030, Africa’s workforce is expected to expand by more than the rest of the world’s combined, and it will be home to more than a quarter of the world’s total population under the age of 25. The success or failure of the continent will be felt by the entire world.



By investing in Africa's young minds and leaders, we can ensure that the continent is prepared for its pivotal global role and will be able to harness this unique demographic as a force for good and for progress.



ASHESI PREPARES STUDENTS TO CREATE PROGRESS IN AFRICA

Since 2002, Ashesi has offered African students a high quality, 4-year education on their home continent that fosters ethics, innovation, and entrepreneurship in a diverse community. Our 1,800+ students and 3,000+ graduates have earned a reputation for integrity, an entrepreneurial mindset, and exceptional professional skills.

Ashesi combines a rigorous liberal arts core with undergraduate degree programs in Computer Science, Business Administration, Management Information Systems, Law, and Engineering. A student-led honor code, integrated community service, diverse internships, and real-world projects prepare students to develop innovative solutions for local challenges.

With a commitment to excellence and an understanding of the African context, Ashesi's graduate and executive programs help propel leaders looking to make a significant impact in their fields and communities. Master's programs are currently offered in Intelligent Computing Systems, Business Administration, and Mechatronic Engineering – established in partnership with ETH Zurich.

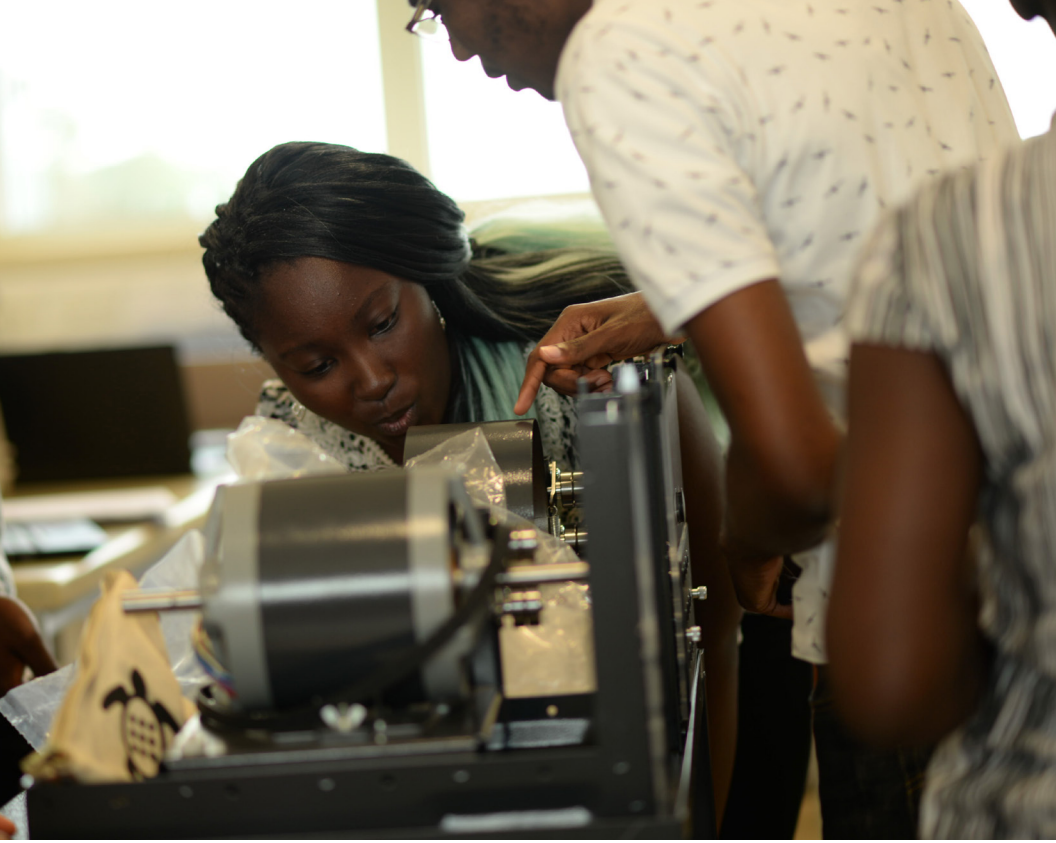
Ashesi is a growing hub for global collaborations, education exchanges, and entrepreneurial ventures, and is a leading influencer in Africa's higher education landscape.

GLOBAL RECOGNITION

Ashesi has been featured in…

Forbes TED CNN Stanford SOCIAL INNOVATION REVIEW *Informing and inspiring leaders of social change* BBC

Over its history, Ashesi has been recognized in Africa and around the world for raising the bar for higher education on the continent. Ashesi is the youngest university in Ghana's history to have been granted a Presidential Charter, and its founder Patrick Awuah has received the WISE Prize for Education as well as a MacArthur Fellowship.



Tackling real-world challenges

Hands-on learning is woven through our curriculum to help students master concepts and develop critical thinking skills. In Foundations of Design and Entrepreneurship, freshmen hit the ground running by working in teams to conceptualize and launch startups. The year-long course imparts students with integral skills they'll employ throughout their years at Ashesi.

Learning by doing is further emphasized in each academic department. First year engineering students design and build solar-powered smart irrigation systems for rural farmers. These systems detect when fresh water or soil is needed and when to power on or off.

In building the irrigation systems, students gain experience in computer modeling and programming, along with familiarity with Ashesi's engineering workshop. “I grew as an engineering student,” said Radiatu Mohammed '20. “From computer-aided modeling with applications like SolidWorks and MATLAB, to learning how to cut, drill and build pumps, the experience taught me a lot about how to approach and solve problems.”



LEADERS AS DIVERSE AS THEIR CONTINENT

Africa's future leaders must fully represent the continent's diverse communities. Therefore, Ashesi recruits top students from varied socio-economic, national, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Ashesi graduates design solutions with a deep understanding of community needs.



DIVERSITY AT ASHESI



32 African countries are represented



53% of students are on scholarship



47% of students are women



LEADERS WHO SERVE THE GREATER GOOD

Leadership seminar series
Interdisciplinary seminars promote ethics and foster a commitment to leadership as service. In Giving Voice to Values, freshmen simulate real-world value conflicts.

"By listening to how alumni and staff have dealt with compromising situations, it is easier to relate," said Dzifa Hodey '20. "When confronted with similar situations, I can also look at different perspectives and hopefully make a good judgement." In subsequent series, students explore such questions as:

- What is a good society?
- What are the most fundamental rights of humanity?
- How do we best achieve a balance of liberty, efficiency, and equality?
- What impact do national governments have on the trajectory of nations?



Honor code

In keeping with our values of ethics and leadership, after committing to the honor code Ashesi students take all examinations without proctors. The Code is a step towards sustaining our high-trust community and puts students in charge of their own ethical posture.



Community service

Through Ashesi's core curriculum, students learn how to address local challenges. In the Leadership as Service Seminar, seniors work with their local communities to identify ways to foster positive social change. Many students begin their own social initiatives, which have addressed such issues as:

- Environmental stewardship and sustainable agriculture
- Education in technology, science, music, literacy, and health
- Girls' and women's empowerment
- Early childhood development
- Youth and entrepreneur mentorship

ALUMNI GROW BUSINESSES AND STRENGTHEN CIVIL SOCIETY

Ashesi alumni graduate with technical excellence in their fields, a deep sense of civic responsibility, and the vision they need to navigate and lead in a changing world. 95% of Ashesi graduates receive job offers, enter graduate school, or launch a business within six months of starting their search. Over 80% of alumni have chosen to stay and work for progress in Africa.

The demand for Ashesi alumni from employers is high. The head of General Electric Ghana once told us, "I only wish I could hire more of your graduates."

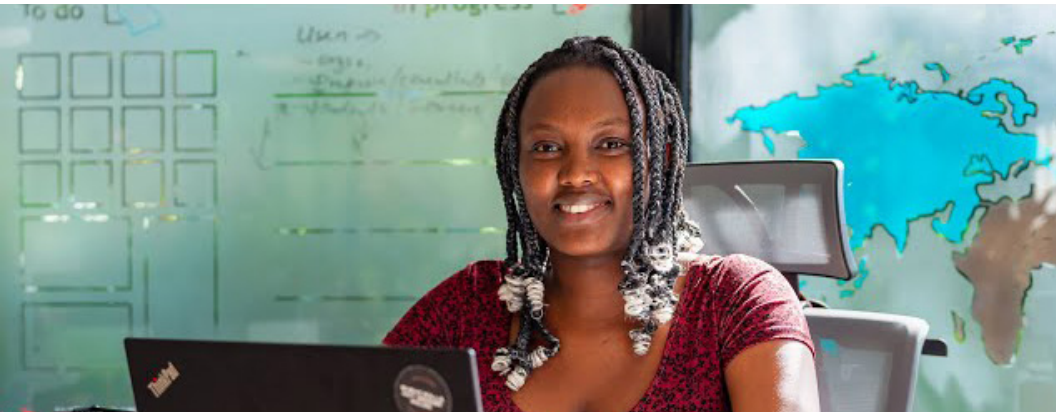
Alumni are working in all sectors of the economy: growing local and international businesses, building and sustaining NGOs, and designing solutions to community problems.



Working for justice: Enid Marful-Sau '07
"Ashesi helped me come out of my shell. As a student, I was forced to learn how to engage an audience and share my opinions and ideas. When I got to law school this was an advantage, because these skills were at the core of law training," says Enid. Now a practicing maritime attorney, Enid considers herself a custodian of Ghana's constitution, and is committed to strengthening its justice system and making it work for society's most vulnerable.



Helping scale farming output in Ghana: Kofi Ocloo '05
When Kofi started his 20-acre corn farm, he encountered a widespread challenge: poor post-harvest grain management was keeping most Ghanaian farmers small. He developed an efficient corn dryer that reduces post-harvest losses, and his company, Ndogbe Sprout, now offers drying services to small farms across Ghana's Volta Region, helping farmers scale with confidence. "Ashesi really connected us to the industry but also opened our minds to create opportunities for ourselves."



Helping Kenyan start-ups make data-informed decisions: Ann Gitau '17
Since finishing graduate school, Ashesi alumna Ann Gitau has been helping start-ups in Kenya make data-informed decisions. Now the Data and Innovation Lead at Tectona Consulting Group, she's leading a team that is harnessing data to foster the adoption of sustainable livelihoods in underserved communities and emerging markets across Africa. "The emphasis that Ashesi has on social responsibility and ethical leadership has always been one of the points I always draw back to if I have any dilemma," shares Ann.



PARTNERS MOVE US FORWARD

In 2020, Ashesi and ETH Zurich, together with industry and supporting partners, launched a new Master's program in Mechatronics Engineering to be taught in Ghana by faculty of both universities. Students who graduate from the program receive both a Master of Science degree in Engineering from Ashesi and a Master of Advanced Studies degree from ETH Zurich. ETH Zurich has educated over 20 Nobel Prize Laureates, including modern physics pioneer and the inventor of the general theory of relativity, Albert Einstein.

In January 2025, Ashesi welcomed the fourth cohort for the program: https://ashe.si/4jEcryp. Jointly developed and cotaught with ETH Zurich in Switzerland, the program provides a unique Engineering education for students interested in Mechatronics, focusing on production and automation.

Discover more Ashesi partners at https://ashesi.edu.gh/partnerships/



PARTNERS INCLUDE

THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER
Student and faculty exchanges

USAID FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE
Funding Support

FULBRIGHT
Visiting faculty

Goldman Sachs
Internships

mastercard foundation
Scholarships

THE Coca-Cola FOUNDATION
Student initiative grants

SCALING OUR IMPACT

The Education Collaborative

The Education Collaborative at Ashesi brings together a consortium of institutions committed to driving high-impact education innovations as the catalyst for Africa's transformation. Participants include public and private colleges and universities across Africa as well as a select group of secondary level institutions in Ghana. Launched in 2017, the Collaborative is grounded in the tenets of an Ashesi education: Scholarship, Leadership, Citizenship, Ethics, and Entrepreneurship. In twenty years of operation, over 1,700 students have graduated from Ashesi University. Utilizing Ashesi's learnings thus far, the Collaborative has the potential to impact over 1 million students across Africa by 2030.

Learn more about the Education Collaborative at https://ashe.si/3uCMpD8

The Center for Executive Education

The Center for Executive Education brings together senior leaders across sectors (private, public, civil society and academia) to ask tough questions, share bold ideas, and have courageous and meaningful conversations. Its programs provide a comprehensive range of leadership development opportunities delivered by expert faculty and focuses on personal growth, leadership effectiveness, and organizational impact.

Learn more about the Center at https://ashe.si/4rqQDt1



The Entrepreneurship Center

In preparation to become problem solvers and employment creators, entrepreneurship is integrated throughout the Ashesi curriculum. The Center is an aggregation of all of Ashesi's entrepreneurship efforts to help strengthen student training and provide support to students and alumni. Partners include USAID and Mastercard Foundation.



Ashesi's entrepreneurship ecosystem includes various programs and initiatives including the Ashesi Design Lab (D:Lab), which provides students with training and practice in design thinking, and the Ashesi Venture Incubator (AVI), a one-year alumni venture incubation experience where Fellows build their business through the incubator's provision of coaching from local and global business leaders, business development sessions, and support services.

Learn more about the Center at https://ashe.si/4mE4Mku.



The Ghana Climate Innovation Center

The GCIC at Ashesi University was established in 2016 with the mission of contributing to a climate-resilient economy in Ghana. Through its initiatives, the Center is enabling African businesses, empowering women, and creating dignified employment opportunities.

The Center's work is currently supported through funding from Global Affairs Canada.Since the GCIC's inception, over 30,000 jobs have been created and 30.2 million customers served by GCIC services.

One such business is Mariseth Farms, led by CEO, Marian Ofori Twumasi (*pictured above*), which secured $560,000 to scale soybean farming and empower smallholder farmers across Ghana, growing agricultural innovation grounded in climate-smart practices and rural economic development.

Learn more about the GCIC here: https://ghanacic.ashesi.edu.gh/



Current Priorities

Scholarships and Financial Aid
Ashesi scholarships provide a life-changing education to high performing students who do not have access to the funds they need to attend college.

STEM Equipment
Ashesi's new STEM building is expected to be completed by August 2026. Equipping our labs and facilities with cutting-edge tools and resources is essential to empowering the next generation of innovators to tackle real-world challenges and drive transformative change.

Research
Our research initiatives encourage student participation and are grounded in interdisciplinary collaboration and societal impact. Through such engagement, students gain the experience and skills necessary for leadership in academia, industry, and beyond.

Professorships and Fellowships Development
Professorships and Fellowships support and honor exceptional faculty at Ashesi. If the donation is an endowment, the university invests it and uses the interest generated to finance research expenses and a portion of the professor's salary.

Experiential Learning Initiatives
Our experiential learning programs provide students with real-world experiences that prepare them for ethical, entrepreneurial leadership.

For details on these priorities, and how you can help, visit https://www.ashesi.org/giving-to-ashesi/.

EVERY GIFT BUILDS A BETTER FUTURE FOR AFRICA

Ashesi's growth into a leading African university over the past two decades has impacted higher education across the continent in multiple ways. From a pioneer class of 30, we now have some 3,500 students and alumni.

Over the past eight years, we have helped transform learning outcomes for 320,000 students thanks to an inspired network of African higher education partners. In our third decade, we are taking even stronger steps to strengthen African higher education.

A gift to Ashesi goes towards growing key aspects of our strategic plan - developing young leaders through a robust educational experience, strengthening research and innovation, and building partnerships to influence outcomes for thousands more students.
Please give at https://www.ashesi.org/make-gift/.

Gifts of all sizes change lives at Ashesi

$385 **Funds one high school girl's participation in the Ashesi Innovation Experience (AIX), a STEM learning program.**	**$1,500** **provides partial or emergency scholarship support**
$5,000 **sponsors a student's community service project**	**$15,000** **sponsors a one-year scholarship covering tuition, room, and board**
$60,000 **sponsors a named four-year scholarship covering tuition, room,and board**	**$100,000** **funds a named endowment**
$1 million **funds a professorial chair endowment**	**$1.5 million** **endows a chair for an Ashesi Department Head**

ASHESI DEEP DIVE

See Ethical, Entrepreneurial Leadership Education in Action: Ashesi's 2027 Deep Dive

The Ashesi University Deep Dive offers a unique chance tounderstand how higher education can unlock African innovation and entrepreneurship.

From conversations with Africa's young, emerging business and civic leaders to learning about significant efforts to achieve transformative scale in higher education, the Deep Dive gives you an unparalleled window into the possibilities for the continent's future through Ashesi.

This program is for anyone who wishes to better understand higher education and entrepreneurship in Africa and how Ashesi's work sets a new example for the continent.

Celebrate 25 Years of Ashesi

Deep Dive 2027 will mark the culmination of our 25th anniversary, a gathering of our global community to celebrate 25 years of impact and define what comes next for Ashesi and a flourishing Africa.





"Ashesi advancances a transformatiormative educational experience in which students are emboldened to see themselvves and act as ethical leaders, equipped to change the world."

Sandra den Otter
Vice Provost, Global Engagement
Queens University, Canada
Deep Dive 2023 Attendee

Learn more here: www.ashesi.org/annual-trip/

Click here to register: www.ashesi.org/annual-trip/#interest





Ashesi University is a private, non-profit liberal arts university in Ghana, West Africa. Ashesi University Foundation is a US 501 (c)3 non-profit organization in Seattle, WA that supports Ashesi University.

The mission of Ashesi is to educate a new generation of ethical, entrepreneurial leaders in Africa; to cultivate within our students the critical thinking skills, the concern for others, and the courage it will take to transform their continent.

ASHESI UNIVERSITY FOUNDATION

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