African Economic Research Consortium
Established in July 1988, the African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) is a public, not-for-profit organization devoted to research and graduate training in economics for informed policy. The principle objective is to strengthen local capacity for conducting independent, rigorous inquiry into problems pertinent to the management of sub-Saharan African economies. Since inception, the AERC has brought rigour and evidence to economic policy-making in Africa through economic research, graduate training and policy outreach. Today, AERC is ranked 1st in the category of the most significant impact on public policy in Africa and ranked amongst the top 28 development think tanks globally. It is supported by donor governments, private foundations, and international organizations.

The Training Programme
The AERC’s Training Programme augments the pool of economic researchers, policy analysts and policy makers in sub-Saharan Africa by supporting graduate studies in economics and improving the capacities of departments of economics/agricultural economics in participating universities. This is primarily undertaken by tapping, harnessing, and pooling human and other available resources to produce standardized and high-quality degree programmes.

Key components of the Training Programme include:

1. The Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) Programme, which is spearheaded by departments of agricultural economics in 17 public universities in Sub-Saharan Africa;
2. The Collaborative Masters Programme (CMAP), which spans departments of economics in 25 public universities; and
3. The Collaborative PhD Programme (CPP), which brings together 8 participating universities.

For more information on the programmes, please visit our website: [www.aercafrica.org](http://www.aercafrica.org) or write to us on the email or postal addresses provided at the end.

The CMAAE Programme
The Collaborative Masters in Agricultural and Applied Economics (CMAAE) is one of the postgraduate programmes managed by the AERC. Currently, 17 departments of Agricultural Economics of public universities in 13 countries in Eastern, Central and Southern Africa participate in the programme. The students enroll in accredited university departments of Agricultural Economics for the first two semesters to take core courses before the successful ones converge at a shared facility to take the specialization and elective courses in the third semester. Since its inception, the shared facility has been held at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, with the exception of the 2020 shared facility which was virtual.

The Shared Facility for Specialization and Electives (SFSE)
Each year from August to November, CMAAE accredited universities send their postgraduate students to the Shared Facility for Specialization and Electives (SFSE) where they undertake elective courses in their areas of specialization after successful completion of core courses in the respective universities. The SFSE typically runs for 16 weeks comprising 2 sessions of 8 weeks each, and admits approximately 100 CMAAE students annually. Beginning from 2020, the AERC is implementing an innovative virtual/online teaching of SFSE courses to students across its network of collaborating universities. The curriculum for each of the CMAAE SFSE courses has been updated and bench-marked against leading Agricultural Economics graduate programmes globally, while teaching materials have been jointly developed by teams of reputable international resource persons. With the virtual SFSE not being overly constrained by logistical, space and budgetary considerations, the SFSE is expected to have higher enrolments, thereby broadening the reach and inclusiveness of AERC’s capacity-building efforts. Apart from encouraging a more efficient use of resources, the SFSE offers an ideal environment for the structured exchange of people, ideas, cultures, materials, and methods that stimulate a continued collective improvement and growth in quality. On conclusion of the SFSE coursework and examinations, students return to their home universities for final thesis preparation.

CMAAE Participating Universities

**Category B (Accredited Universities)**

1. Egerton University, Kenya
2. Haramaya University, Ethiopia
3. Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi
4. Makerere University, Uganda
5. Sokoine University of Agriculture, Tanzania
6. University of Nairobi, Kenya
7. University of Pretoria, South Africa
8. University of Zimbabwe

**Category A (Non-Accredited Universities)**

1. Botswana University of Agriculture and Natural Resources
2. Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique
3. Moi University, Kenya
4. Stellenbosch University, South Africa
5. University of Juba, South Sudan
6. University of Rwanda
7. University of Swaziland
8. University of Zambia
9. Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, Kenya
APPLICATIONS FOR THE CMAAE SFSE 2020-2023 EXTERNAL EXAMINERS

CMAAE external examiners are typically appointed for a renewable period of three years, with annual reviews based on performance in each year, as well as their availability and willingness to continue in that role. This advertisement is for a three-year period, effective 2021. Each external examiner is assigned up to three courses based on their specific expertise and indicated preferences or areas of interest.

On behalf of the accredited Departments of Agricultural Economics of the CMAAE network universities, the AERC invites applications from qualified and experienced agricultural and applied economists, who have proven expertise in the specific areas and are willing to serve as external examiners for the following Foundation (Lot 1) as well as Common and Elective Courses (Lot 2) offered at the SFSE for the period 2021-2023:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOT 1: CMAAE FOUNDATION COURSES</th>
<th>LOT 2: CMAAE COMMON AND ELECTIVE COURSES</th>
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<tr>
<td>2. Agricultural and Rural</td>
<td>Livelihood Analysis</td>
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<td>4. Environmental Valuation and</td>
<td>11. Gender and Economic Development</td>
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<td>Policy</td>
<td>12. International Agricultural Trade</td>
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<td>13. Microfinance, Financial Inclusion</td>
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<td>and Enterprise Development</td>
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<td>14. Natural Resource Economics and</td>
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<td>Management</td>
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<td>15. Operations Research in Agribusiness</td>
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<td>16. Quantitative Methods for Policy</td>
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<td>Analysis</td>
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Responsibilities and Terms of Reference

External examiners are responsible for overall quality assurance of the CMAAE and other AERC-supported collaborative graduate programmes in economics, to ensure that they remain competitive and comparable to other internationally recognized programmes, and that they are run in accordance with global best practices. More specifically, the external examiners assure the AERC on the quality and suitability of the curriculum, the type and content of examinations and continuous assessments for the various courses/fields, as well as the appropriateness of the pitching or level of study and the expected learning outcomes. The external examiners are responsible for ensuring that the examinations and continuous assessments processes and procedures, including marking criteria, are rigorously applied in a fair, reasonable, and consistent manner, and that they protect academic standards in the collaborative, graduate training programmes. In addition to the examination process, external examiners advise on all aspects of the CMAAE programme and make recommendations to the AERC on areas of improvements. The external examiners are also consulted by the AERC about CMAAE curriculum reviews and other changes to the programme that may be introduced from time to time.

The specific terms of reference of the external examiners are:

(a) Review and moderation of draft examinations during each annual session of the Shared Facility for Specialization and Electives (SFSE).
(b) Assessment of the courses in the specific field of agricultural economics and students’ performance in the courses.
(c) Review of the structure of the curriculum, in terms of content, relevance and sequencing of the topics.
(d) Evaluation of the coverage, depth, and organization of the courses in each of the SFSE semesters.
(e) Reviewing the final examination scripts and commenting on the standard of examination questions and consistency in the marking of examinations.
(f) Assessment of the adequacy and relevance of reading and teaching materials (books, journals, references, etc.) in the courses.
(g) Overall assessment of the courses, including strengths and weaknesses of students’ performance in terms of the quality of their answers, and of the structure and relevance of examination questions in relation to the specific course outline or curriculum.

(h) Give recommendations to improve the quality of the courses and the CMAAE programme as a whole.

Criteria for Appointment as External Examiner
To qualify for selection and appointment as external examiner, an individual must:

(i) Hold a PhD degree in Agricultural Economics, Economics or related field;
(ii) Be a senior academic at the rank of Associate or Full Professor (or equivalent);
(iii) Have previous experience with supervision and external examination of masters and/or doctoral programmes for a minimum of 3 years;
(iv) Possess demonstrable expertise and experience of at least 3 years in graduate level teaching and research in the specific fields of economics;
(v) Not be closely and actively associated or affiliated with the AERC Training Programme and its CMAAE network universities to ensure objectivity.
(vi) Note: Those who have been or are currently external examiners in CMAAE or other AERC training programmes are still eligible to apply.
(vii) International exposure in development projects in Africa and familiarity with blended or online course delivery will be an added advantage.
(viii) Qualified female applicants are strongly encouraged to apply.

Remuneration
The AERC will pay a modest fee or honorarium in addition to reimbursing any costs associated with the assignment. Should the external examiner be required to travel as part of the assignment, the AERC will finance the costs of such travel, accommodation, subsistence, and medical insurance.

Application, Recruitment and Selection
Your application must be clearly marked “EXTERNAL EXAMINATION SERVICES FOR COURSES TO BE OFFERED AT THE CMAAE SFSE 2021-2023”. It should also indicate the Lot No. and Course Title. If you are interested in contributing to this innovative activity, please forward your application by April 12, 2021 to the address below.

The Director of Training
African Economic Research Consortium (AERC)
3rd Floor, Middle East Bank Towers, Jakaya Kikwete Road
P.O. Box 62882 - 00200 Nairobi, Kenya
E-mail: procurement@aercafrica.org (copied to cmaae@aercafrica.org)

Electronic applications by e-mail are preferred but hard copy applications will be accepted too. The application should include:

1. A cover letter clearly indicating the specific courses for which you wish to be an external examiner, and your current e-mail, postal and telephone contacts.
2. Up-to-date current curriculum vitae (CV), clearly indicating external examination experience (period undertaken, institution for which the assignment was undertaken, fields/courses for which you were external examiner, and the degree programme for which you were external examiner); teaching experience at graduate/post graduate level; the number of Masters and/or PhD theses successfully supervised and those currently ongoing; and your research and publication record.
3. Two written references, at least one of which MUST be from your immediate Head of Department. (NB: Applicants who have been external examiners in the CMAAE SFSE are exempted from this specific requirement).
4. A copy of one of your recent publications.

Note: The deadline for receipt of applications is April 12, 2021. Efforts will be made to respond to all applications individually. However, in the unlikely event that you do not hear from the AERC by July 31, 2021, please consider your application as unsuccessful. A general notification to that effect will be placed on the AERC website by August 1, 2021.

"The AERC is an Equal Opportunity Employer"