

**UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT**  
**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**INTERNAL MEMO**

From: The Dean	To: The Vice Chancellor and Chairman of Senate
Ref: UPH/SGS/CVC/002	Date: April 29, 2019

Sir,

**RE: APPROVED CGPAs FOR POSTGRADUATE ADMISSIONS**

When I took over as Dean School of Graduate Studies (SGS) in April, 2017, the handover note contained information on the record of admission and registration of students for the 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 academic sessions. The information showed a declining trend in the number of candidates admitted and more so, in the number that eventually get registered. Information compiled from the records of the SGS showing the trend from 2010/2011 session to the 2017/2018 session is presented in **Table 1** below:

**Table 1: Population of Admitted and Registered Students from the 2010/2011 session to the 2017/2018 session.**

<b>SESSION</b>	<b>TOTAL ADMITTED</b>	<b>TOTAL REGISTERED</b>
2010/2011	3,556	1,975
2011/2012	2,793	1,920
2012/2013	3,331	2,530
2013/2014	4,252	2,903
2014/2015	4,009	3,130
2015/2016	3,601	2,499
2016/2017	2,538	1,845
2017/2018	2,118	1,615

It is observed that the decline was lowest in the 2017/2018 session. In proffering reasons for this state of affairs, my predecessor, Prof. R. E. Ogali had written in her handover note that “this is due to a combination of reasons, ranging from inability to pay fees and candidates not having the requisite admission requirements, which becomes obvious at the point of registration”.

The distribution of candidates/students for both the admitted and registered categories for the various postgraduate programmes from the 2013/2014 session to the 2017/2018 session is as stated in Table 2 below:

**Table 2: ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION OF STUDENTS FROM THE 2013/2014 SESSION TO THE 2017/2018 SESSION ACCORDING TO THE VARIOUS PROGRAMMES**

SESSION	PH.D/DBA		MASTERS		PGD	
	ADMITTED	REGISTERED	ADMITTED	REGISTERED	ADMITTED	REGISTERED
2013/2014	235	209	2,125	1,586	1,663	1,043
2014/2015	415	361	1,892	1,779	1,702	990
2015/2016	367	292	2,006	1,504	1,228	703
2016/2017	304	232	1,489	1,143	745	470
2017/2018	315	273	1,257	1,042	546	300

For the Master’s and Ph.D programmes, the admission requirements comprise the O’level results and the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). For the PGD programmes, it is the O’level results and a third class degree with at least a CGPA of 1.50 on a five-point scale.

When the first level of admission requirements i.e the O’level, as now directed by the National Universities Commission (NUC), is overcome, the next hurdle is the NUC Benchmark on minimum academic standards (B-MAS) for graduate programmes. The B-MAS is based on the CGPA. The NUC B-MAS for the various postgraduate programmes are contained in the NUC handbooks made available to all Postgraduate Schools in the country.

For the PGD and Master’s Programmes, the minimum required CGPAs for admission as directed by the NUC are as follows:

## **PGD Programmes**

Candidates with B.Sc  
Candidates with HND

Third Class  
Upper Credit

## **Masters's Programmes**

**(For all the Faculties)**

Candidates from PGD Programmes	3.50
Candidates with B.A, B.Ed, B.Sc (5-point scale)	3.00
Candidates with B.A, B.Ed, B.Sc (4-point scale)	2.40
Candidates with B.Ed from Colleges of Education (7 points scale)	4.20

The minimum CGPA requirements for Ph.D programmes are as follows:

	<b>Group A</b>	<b>GROUP B</b>
Candidates with Master's Degree (5-point scale)	3.50	4.00
Candidates with Master's Degree (4-point scale)	3.20	3.20
Candidates based on percentage	60%	60%
Interview score for Ph.D candidates	60%	60%

**Group A** includes Departments in the Faculties of Science, Engineering, Pharmaceutical Sciences, College of Health Sciences, Agriculture, Social Sciences and Humanities.

**Group B** comprises Departments in the Faculties of Education and Management Sciences and the Department of Economics in the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Prior to the current admission exercise for the 2018/2019 academic session, the Faculties of Science and Engineering for example, had applied CGPAs of at least 3.00 and 4.00 for admissions into the Master's and Ph.D programmes respectively to enable them keep to their Carrying Capacities.

The **decline** in the number of postgraduate admissions is now a well known fact in the University and Departments are complaining seriously. There have been suggestions that the required CGPA be reduced to 3.50 for Ph.D admissions as is currently the case in some Universities. Furthermore, in the 2017/2018 session, students who graduated from the PGD and Master's programmes were applying in droves for their transcripts to be sent to other Universities, especially our sister Universities in Port Harcourt, to enable them apply for the next level of graduate studies. These Universities are using the NUC B-MAS and some even lower CGPAs. The implication is that such people will

graduate from these Universities and be employed by the University of Port Harcourt that refused them admission in the first place.

All the above do not augur well for the continued blossoming or survival of our School of Graduate Studies.

The Management of the SGS therefore, tabled the issues at the Board meeting held on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> August , 2018. After a long and thorough discussion of the state of affairs, the Board decided “to implement the NUC B-MAS”. For the avoidance of doubt, the Faculties of Science and Engineering are to admit students with CGPA of 3.00 and 3.50 for the Master’s and Ph.D Programmes respectively. Following that decision, the Board directed the Dean, SGS to communicate same to all Departments that offer postgraduate programmes at the Master’s and Doctorate levels. The new directive should take effect from the current (2018/2019) admission exercise. May I report that this decision has improved tremendously the number of applications and admissions for the next session.

From the SGS calendar which had to be adjusted as a result of the three months ASUU strike of November, 2018, to February, 2019, the 2018/2019 session begins on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2019. This notwithstanding, the Department of Chemical Engineering has refused to obey the directive of the Board of the SGS (Attachment 1) and has not submitted any Ph.D admission list till date.

Information reaching the SGS from other Departments in the Faculty of Engineering indicates a willingness to implement the Board decision and not a flagrant refusal with impunity to comply.

The matter is therefore being presented to Senate for final decision.

Thank you.

**Prof. A. O. Okerengwo**

Treated 18/2/19 Attachment I  
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UNIVERSITY OF PORT HARCOURT  
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

MEMO

From: Graduate Studies Officer  
Ref: UPH/SGS/AM/011A  
Date: February 11, 2019  
To: FOD, Chemical Engineering

FIRST BATCH OF PGD, M.ENG AND Ph.D. APPLICATION FORMS FOR 2018/2019 ADMISSION EXERCISE

We hereby forward to you sixteen (16) processed forms for selection of qualified candidates into your above programmes as follows:

- I. PGD - 9
- II. M.Eng - 11
- III. Ph.D - 2

Please be reminded of the minimum required CGPAs for admission as follows:

PGD Programmes

- Candidates with B.Sc. - Third Class
- Candidates with IIND - Upper Credit\*

Master's Programmes

- Candidates from PGD Programmes - 3.50X 4.0
- Candidates with BA, B.Ed., B.Sc. (5pt scale) - 3.00
- Candidates with B.Sc. etc. (4pt scale) - 2.70
- Candidates with B.Ed. from Colleges of Education with 7pt scale - 4.20

Ph.D. Programmes

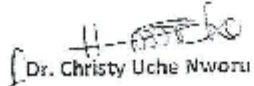
- Candidates with Master's Degree on 5pt scale - 3.50x 4.0
- Candidates with Master's Degree on 4pt scale - 3.20
- Candidates based on Percentage - 80%
- Interview score for Ph.D. candidates - 60%

Please note that an Interview Report must accompany the recommendation list for all Ph.D. Programmes. Endeavour to conduct the interview as soon as possible. The approved Carrying Capacity for your Department is as follows:

- PGD - 30
- M.Eng - 30
- Ph.D - 5

Your recommendation should reach the Admissions Officer School of Graduate Studies, on or before Friday, February 15, 2019, and should be by ticking the names only.

Thank you.

  
Dr. Christy Uche Nworo

cc: Dean, School of Graduate Studies  
Dean, Faculty of Engineering

PG Coordinator  
K. Nworo  
13/2/19