

## Newsletter

This letter recounts a training experience in Burkina Faso on road pathology and repair, carried out by our colleague Laurent Theureau. Then are presented various meetings held in Senegal and Burkina Faso, including a USF seminar on the role of organizations in the United Nations system.

In addition, the Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso, is looking for a specialist in resource and project management.

Finally, as in France, many master's and doctoral dissertations are written in the English language, and this up to 50% in some institutions, we present a guide dedicated for the concerned students.

Good reading. ■

Prof. Robert Laurini, president of USF-AWB.

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### **Civil engineering training in Burkina-Faso on road pathology and repair**

This intervention took place from 1 to 12 April 2019 as part of the Nazi Boni University in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso, by Laurent Theureau, a part-time professor and former director of campus Africa Pro training center, dedicated for African executives of the company VINCI-Construction Group in Rabat, Morocco. Here is an excerpt from the report of his mission.

#### **Details of the trainings**

Courses were given in the morning from 7 a.m. to 12 p.m. The duration of the training was 8 days, or 40 hours, and a 4-hour evaluation afternoon at the end of the training, for a total of 44 hours.

#### **Students:**

The promotion included 20 students of a fairly varied profile: some continued their studies in the continuity of the trainings undertaken (Bachelor's degree...), others resumed their studies after an interruption during which they

had acquired an experience in a professional setting. There was an excellent atmosphere during the course, with a great deal of student participation.

The level is average: a good ability to understand theoretical concepts and models, but great difficulties in using them in a practical setting outside the context in which they were presented. Attendance of around 80%, without rigorous presence control.



#### **The animation of the courses:**

The animation of the theoretical courses was made with educational materials that I had personally prepared: Power-point projections, illustrated and commented on throughout

sessions, interspersed with video films that illustrated each module.

Each morning began with an evaluation of students on the topics covered the day before. This question, noted, allowed to evaluate to the advancement, the understanding of the subjects.

A 3-hour guided work session, in the form of a case study in groups of two was organized in the second part of the mission.

Finally, the last day was devoted to an individual assessment test, in the form of a noted four-hour case study.

### **Relations with Nazi Boni University**

I had been given a great deal of autonomy, both for the implementation of the training program and for the provisions relating to the organization of training.

I only had the title of the training and the objectives. To build my program, I asked for materials of all the other courses taken by the students in order to be able to ensure their complementarity. I submitted my program for comment without receiving any specific comment. The weekly schedule of the courses was communicated to me as soon as I arrived.

There was no evaluation by the students of the end-of-mission training: this characteristic that I proposed is not yet done at Nazi Boni University.

At the end of the session, around a meal, a debriefing was done with the dean.

### **Intervention outlook**

The university seems to have some difficulties in involving teachers in technical fields. In the bachelor's and master's programs, training courses on price studies and site budget monitoring are lacking.

I proposed to pass on the programs of the modules I was leading to ESP (Polytechnic Higher School) in Dakar, Senegal, Batisup de Dakar or ACFPE (Central African Agency for Vocational Training and Employment) in Bangui, Republic Central African, dealing with themes:

- Organization and preparation of a construction site,
- Contract management of construction projects.

For more information, please contact Laurent Theureau <laurenttheureau@yahoo.fr>. ■

### **Senegal: Cooperation between ITECOM and USF-AWB**

The University Institute of Technology and Commerce (ITECOM) groups more than 3,000 students in the economics and management, humanities and sciences and techniques streams. Based at five sites in Dakar, ITECOM has relocated its programs to the Senegalese cities of Thies, Mbour and Kaolack to support the training request expressed by students from within Senegal. In these university education cycles, the business relationship dimension plays an important role, facilitating the professional integration of students.



Ms. Ndiaté NDAW DIOUF - Director of Administrative and School Affairs, USF-AWB representative and Mamadou Gningue, Director General of ITECOM.

ITECOM now faces new challenges, and wants to do so with the cooperation of Academics Without Borders: the number of students is increasing (it is expected to be 5,000 students within two to three years), research needs to be strengthened, especially in the field of management, new sectors need to be created to meet the needs of the professional sectors in the agri-food sector, extractive industries, big data - an important component for companies wishing to put the digital technology at the heart of their marketing strategy.

Finally, ITECOM is involved in the Franco-Senegalese Campus project and wants USF-AWB to support it in this process as well.

A cooperation agreement will formalize the ties between ITECOM and USF. For more information, contact Xavier Alphaize. <xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

## Training technicians and graduate engineers in Senegal

A ranking recently compiled by the magazine "Jeune Afrique" shows that Sup de Co Dakar is the 4th best business school in Africa, and the first in Sub-Saharan Africa. The training courses are to develop in the near future with the collaboration of USF in the complementary scientific fields, i.e. the training of technicians and graduate engineers.

During a mission to Dakar in May 2018 by two USF experts, meetings were organized with various Senegalese economic operators as well as with various Senegalese and sub-regional academic institutions. It appears that certain sectors are potentially indispensable in Senegal and underrepresented in the various training institutions of senior technicians and graduate engineers. These are the engineering trainings in electricity, renewable energy, urban engineering, biomedical engineering, petroleum engineering, gas and mining, agri-food, aeronautics and space, aeronautical maintenance.



The proposed vocational trainings must now be scheduled in according to the identified priorities. However, they are under constant pressure in Senegal: the qualifications of students applying for these studies. The rate of high secondary school scientific degrees is particularly low in Senegal, accounting for only 18% of applicants. Decisions are under way to raise the scientific level of students to enable them to access the necessary training.

For more information, contact Xavier Alphaize. <xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>. ■

## BURKINA FASO: USF seminar on the role of United Nations system organizations (April 2019 - Ouaga University 2)

As part of the cooperation agreement signed in December 2018 between the President of

Ouaga 2 University, Professor Adjima THIOMBIANO, and Academic Without Borders, a seminar was held at the university from 12 to 19 April 2019. Aimed at master's students in Political Science, its aim was to give them an understanding of the role of UNITED Nations agencies in development efforts. The United Nations is the only universal institution working to ensure that economic growth and globalization are guided by policies aimed at ensuring sustainable development, the elimination of poverty, trade fairer.

## Pedagogical steps of this seminar

Two comprehensive pedagogical methods were discussed at the seminar: a first part included different chapters dealing with major international actions and their new challenges, and a second part provided for the intervention of UN agency officials.



The first part dealt with the comparative advantage of United Nations organizations, innovation, the development issue of the least developed countries, the questionable effectiveness of aid to developing countries and the inclusion of new criteria in international aid to developing countries.

In addition, three sessions allowed the representative of the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, UNDP and the World Bank to present the approach and objectives of their agencies in Burkina Faso, as well as the close relations with to situate their support within the framework of the National Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES 2016 / 2020).

It was an opportunity for exchanges between students and international officials and also allowed to address the possibility of student internships in these agencies. All of these agencies have accepted the principle and have even considered the possibility that some are candidates in the United Nations Volunteers program in support of projects undertaken on the ground by these agencies.

For more information, contact Xavier Alphaize.  
<xavier.alphaize@gmail.com>

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**Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou, Burkina-Faso, is looking for a specialist in resource and project management**

Joseph Ki-Zerbo University of Ouagadougou wants to develop the project writing and resource management skills of the various faculties and Doctoral Schools. In this context, it seeks the support of a specialist for a week-long mission.

The airfare is covered by the French Embassy in Burkina Faso, and the cost of staying on site by the University.

Academics Without Borders — USF/AWB — is actively promoting academic cooperation with higher education institutions in developing countries. This includes research, the establishment of new courses, teaching, distance learning, relations with the professional sectors... These collaborations help to strengthen the expertise and skills of partner universities.

Send your CV in Word format by June 30 to USF, Mail: Alain JOUANDEAU <alain.jouandeau@usf-awb.org>.

**Mission objectives:**

The mission aims to help university officials (Faculty deans, international relations, project managers, etc.) to:

- Take into account the key factors in the development of a proposed funding application,
- Define approaches to the development of these projects and design a financing strategy for these projects (means, management, methodology),
- and develop a plan on how to solicit partners who could provide resources.

**Profile:** Methodological experience in writing and managing projects looking for international funding. ■

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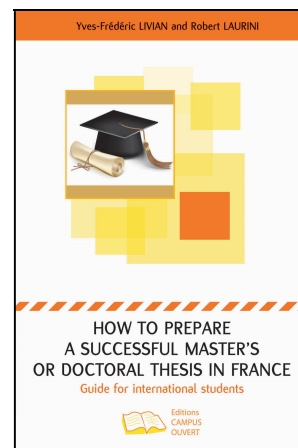
**How to Prepare a Successful Master's or Doctoral Thesis in France: Guide for International Students**

In France, you are now permitted to write a Master or PhD dissertation in English. For

international students, preparing a thesis requires many new skills and adapting to the French academic context. This practical guide, based on long experience of teaching and accompanying foreign students at the CPU-Lyon – a non-for profit association devoted to helping 650 students per year of 70 nationalities – , aims to answer the main questions they ask: what exactly is expected when we talk about "Research"? According to what criteria are they going to be evaluated? How do you find relevant documents, choose a methodology, validate, write and, present a defense? What plan should I adopt? Which timetable should I follow to finish in time?

This guide is supplemented by self-study questions and useful annexes including a summary of the regulatory texts defining French masters and doctorates, specialized vocabulary, current abbreviations, and a bibliography to take you further.

ISBN: 979-10-90293-53-3, 126 p. - 12 €



**SUMMARY (126 pages)**

- Preamble
- The twelve key questions
- Chapter 1: How do you adapt to the French university environment?
- Chapter 2: What is involved in doing research?
- Chapter 3: What criteria will be used to evaluate a student's dissertation?
- Chapter 4: What are the stages of a research project?
- Chapter 5: How do you choose a methodology?
- Chapter 6: Which plan should you choose?
- Chapter 7: Which schedule should you follow?
- Chapter 8: How do you write a satisfactory Master or a PhD dissertation?
- Chapter 9: How do you present citations and references?
- Chapter 10: What is a cotutelle PhD thesis?
- Chapter 11: How does the defense work?

Chapter 12: How to improve your skills?  
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<http://www.editions-harmattan.fr>, or mail to  
[commande@harmattan.com](mailto:commande@harmattan.com).

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