



The Catholic University of Eastern Africa

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## PROPOSED PhD IN PHILOSOPHY PROGRAMME

CUEA

PhD

2010

2010

This Proposal was approved  
by the Commission for  
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*[Signature]*  
AUTHORISED SIGNATURE

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## **2.0 The Curriculum for Doctor of Philosophy in Philosophy**

### **2.1 Preamble and Rationale**

#### **a) Preamble**

Philosophy has a central role to play in the holistic development of Africa. The question of what it means to develop is itself a philosophical question. Philosophy also has an important role to play within universities, because it provides the theoretical foundations of the other academic disciplines. Furthermore, while African philosophers can learn from Asian and European philosophy, there is an urgent need for the development of distinctively African philosophy in a way that is relevant to the contemporary African situation. CUEA is positioned to contribute to the development of African philosophy by offering a high-quality doctoral programme, especially for the eight countries that belong to the Association of Member Episcopal Conference of Eastern Africa (AMECEA) – Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia – but also for all of Anglophone Africa.

#### **b) Rationale**

Many Africans spend large amounts of money to pursue Ph.D. studies in philosophy overseas, within foreign cultural environments. On completion of their studies, the graduates return to Africa, only to disseminate philosophical ideas in foreign categories. This cannot augur well for the promotion and development of ideas that are relevant and useful to the African reality. The Philosophy Department of CUEA establishes the philosophy doctoral programme to cater for the many Ph.D. philosophy seekers in view of harnessing and developing ideas relevant and useful to the African reality. Although the programme will welcome qualified applicants from all traditions, philosophy has a particularly important position within the Catholic intellectual tradition. John Paul II wrote in his encyclical letter *Fides et Ratio*, "With its enduring appeal to the search for truth, philosophy has the great responsibility of forming thought and culture." CUEA is well positioned to accept this responsibility for Eastern and Anglophone Africa by founding a philosophy doctoral programme.

### **2.2 Objectives of the Programme**

At the end of the programme the graduates will be able to:

- a) Critique philosophical discourses
- b) Engage in research that contributes to the advancement of philosophy in Africa
- c) Apply knowledge in his/her area of specialisation
- d) Analyze, critique and synthesize previous thoughts in his/her area of specialization

### **2.3 PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES**

#### **PHD IN PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALIZATION IN METAPHYSICS**

On completion of the programme, the graduates will be able to:

- a) Evaluate and synthesize contemporary views on and in metaphysics.
- b) Engage in the articulation of contemporary metaphysical paradigms.
- c) Analyze, evaluate and reconstruct the relationship between human existence and the absolute.

- e) Design and conduct philosophical research in Metaphysics

### **PHD IN PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALIZATION IN ETHICS**

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

- a) Discuss different contemporary ethical trends
- b) Demonstrate the ethical pluralism and relativism in the post-modernistic world
- c) Apply ethical principles to various moral issues.
- d) Design and conduct philosophical research in Ethics

### **PHD IN PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALIZATION IN AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY**

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

- a) Demonstrate knowledge on core issues in contemporary African Philosophy
- b) Analyse the thought of key contemporary African philosophers.
- c) Critically engage in the articulation of philosophical discourse on African Thought systems.
- d) Analyse and synthesize the history of philosophy in Africa
- e) Demonstrate the characteristics of African Philosophy
- f) Demonstrate the actuality of a lived historico-cultural and political milieu against which the discourse on African philosophy sprung.
- g) Design and conduct philosophical research in Africa Philosophy

### **PHD IN PHILOSOPHY WITH SPECIALIZATION IN EPISTEMOLOGY**

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

- a). Engage in the discourse on knowledge in terms of complexities like desirability, questionability, ignorance, structure and justification.
- b). Critically and analytically relate knowledge in terms of ignorance, error, opinion, secrets, lies, meaning, and truth
- c). Critically and analytically expound on the skeptical problem in philosophy.
- d). Develop a publishable article on a selected topic on recent epistemological issues.
- e). Engage in critical discourse on the construction and constitution of reality in different philosophical trends.
- f). Critically scrutinize views of reality according to different epistemological paradigms.
- g). Design and conduct philosophical research in Epistemology



## **2.4 Academic Regulations**

### **2.4.1 Admission Requirements**

- a) The "Common regulations" for the doctoral degree program in the University shall apply.
- b) Be a holder of a Masters degree in Philosophy with a minimum of an Upper Second Class from CUEA or any recognized University.
- c) In addition an applicant for the doctoral degree shall also be required to submit to the Head of the Department of Philosophy confidential letters from three referees who taught him/her.
- d) A candidate from a non-English speaking country shall pass a special entrance examination set by CUEA (administered by the English Department of The Catholic University of Eastern Africa, which has the necessary facilities) and demonstrate proficiency in written and spoken English or have obtained a TOEFL score of 550 (paper-based test) or 213 (Computer-based test) or a score of at least 7.0 on the International English Language Test System or their equivalent.