

The Solution Room

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The partners



- pan-African network of centres (Ghana, Senegal, Cameroon, Rwanda, South Africa)
- Focus on scientific, educational and economic self-sufficiency for Africa
- Structured MSc and research programs



- A leading German business school founded by industry partners
- Focus on tech, innovation and social impact
- Disappointed by traditional scholarship programs contributing to brain drain

Industry partners
at launch:



The AIMS – ESMT Berlin Industry Immersion Program

Partnership between
the African Institute for
Mathematical Sciences
and ESMT Berlin

Four year pilot with 25
MSc graduates per
year in Mathematical
Sciences

From 15+ nations
across Africa

A six-month
intensive program

To bridge the gap
between theoretical
education received
and what industry in
Africa needs



Two month crash
course in business and
work readiness

With 10 faculty pro
bono volunteers from
ESMT Berlin

Three to six month
internships with 15+
industry partners
across Africa

Wrap up module to
debrief and prepare for
next career steps

Pilot expenses paid by
the German Ministry for
Economic Cooperation
and Development via
the DAAD

Why run this program?

The IIP program contributes to fight youth unemployment and youth unemployability across Africa:

“half of all youth are either unemployed or inactive while 35% are in vulnerable jobs.

Of concern, the youth unemployment rate increases consistently with the level of education, suggesting that Africa’s education systems are not preparing people for the labor market ...”

African Economic Outlook 2017, ed. by **African Development Bank**, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, UNDP, 2017



2nd cohort, started on 2 July 2018 in Muizenberg, SA

Employment outcomes so far: small numbers, but it's working

IIP 2017

Total Applications	238
thereof unsuccessful	178
thereof shortlisted	60
thereof rejected	35
thereof accepted (class17)	25

After completion of program:

ACCEPTED	%	REJECTED	%
Employed	16 64	8 23	
Not employed	9 36	27 77	
	25 100	35 100	

IIP 2018

Total Applications	214
thereof unsuccessful	134
thereof shortlisted	80
thereof rejected	55
thereof accepted (class18)	25

After completion of program:

ACCEPTED	%	REJECTED	%
Employed	20 80	11 20	
Not employed	5 20	44 80	
	25 100	55 100	

Status 07/2019

Scaling: four major challenges

Grow the size and scale of the program, adding one new location per year in Africa

1. **Faculty:** how to get more pro-bono faculty from other top business schools involved in an expanded program?
2. **Internships:** how can we find more host organizations across Africa to benefit from our graduates?
3. **Applicants:** how can we attract Mathematics or Physics graduates from other top African universities to apply?
4. **Funding:** we have funding for two locations in 2020. But we need EUR 2.5m over five years to scale. From where could this come?

Process

Eight teams, 20 minutes, one challenge each

1. **Faculty:** how to get more pro-bono faculty from other top business schools involved in an expanded program? **1A / 1B**
2. **Internships:** how can we find more host organizations across Africa to benefit from our graduates? **2A / 2B**
3. **Applicants:** how can we attract Mathematics or Physics graduates from other top African universities to apply? **3A / 3B**
4. **Funding:** we have funding for two locations in 2020. But we need EUR 2.5m over five years to scale. From where could this come? **4A / 4B**

Thanks very much!

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