



# University of Cambridge student admission from, and research ties with, sub-Saharan Africa: a summary

# Major initiatives

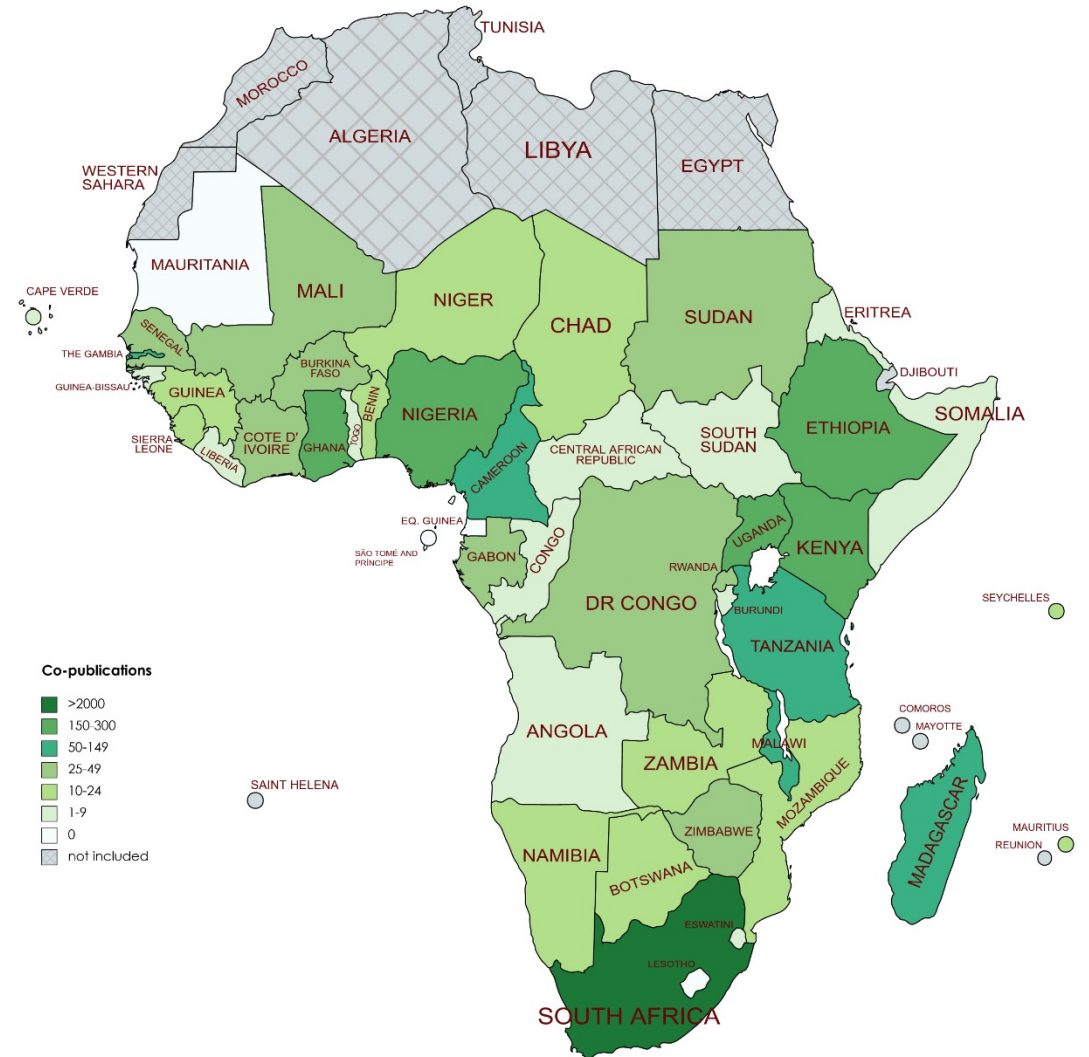
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All the Schools of the University have productive collaboration with partners in African countries. Some of the most notable and long-term connections are:

- [Cambridge-Africa](#), founded in 2008, supports African researchers and promotes mutually beneficial collaborations between Africa and Cambridge. They manage the Cambridge-Africa **Alborada Research Fund**, which provides catalyst funding for collaborations and supports training activities.
- [Cambridge Global Challenges](#) aims to enhance the contribution of the University's research towards addressing the Sustainable Development Goals.
- The [Mastercard Foundation Programme](#) provides fully funded scholarships for postgraduate studies at the University for African students, amongst other initiatives that are being developed.
- Many **University departments** have important collaboration and strong links with partners in sub-Saharan Africa.

# Africa and Cambridge

- The University of Cambridge has many diverse connections across Sub-Saharan Africa which have developed organically over time.
- In the last 10 years, Cambridge researchers have co-published with researchers from most countries in the region.

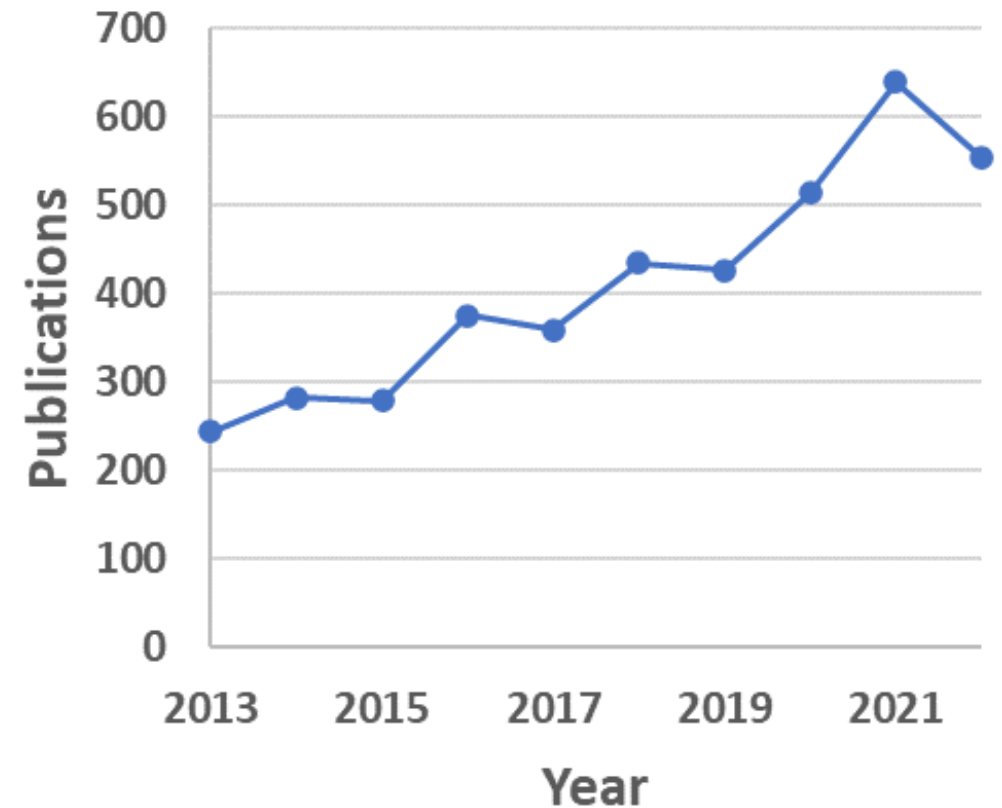


# Publications

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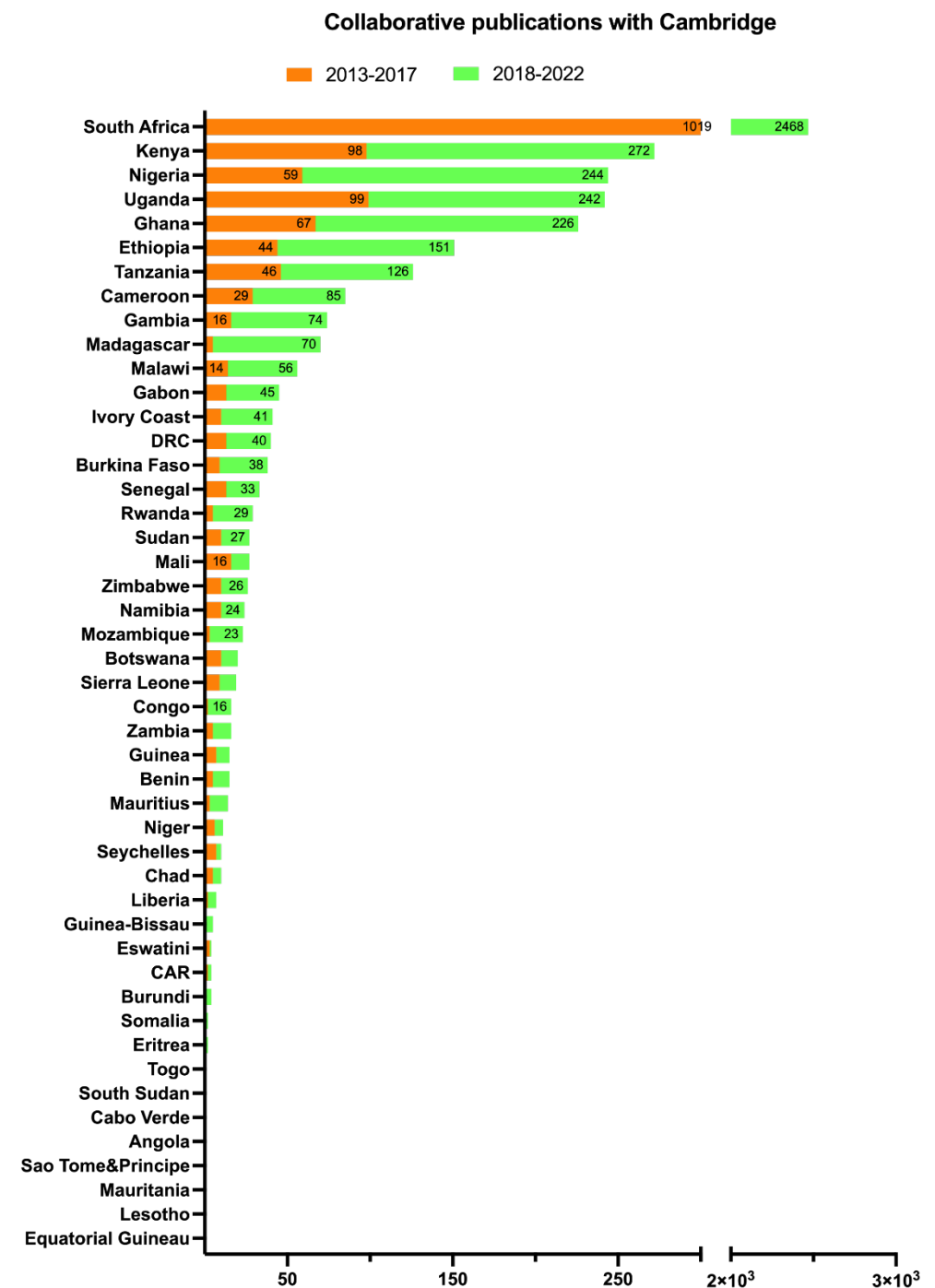
- There were over 3850 collaborative publications identified in the Dimensions database between Cambridge and researchers in Sub-Saharan Africa between 2013-2022.
- There were 36% more collaborative publications in the period 2018-2022 compared to 2013-2017 overall.

University of Cambridge publications with partners institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa



# Publications

- Cambridge researchers have co-published with colleagues from 42 of the sub-Saharan nations; the six countries with the largest share were South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda, Ghana and Ethiopia.
- There 8 countries where our search identified no shared publications.

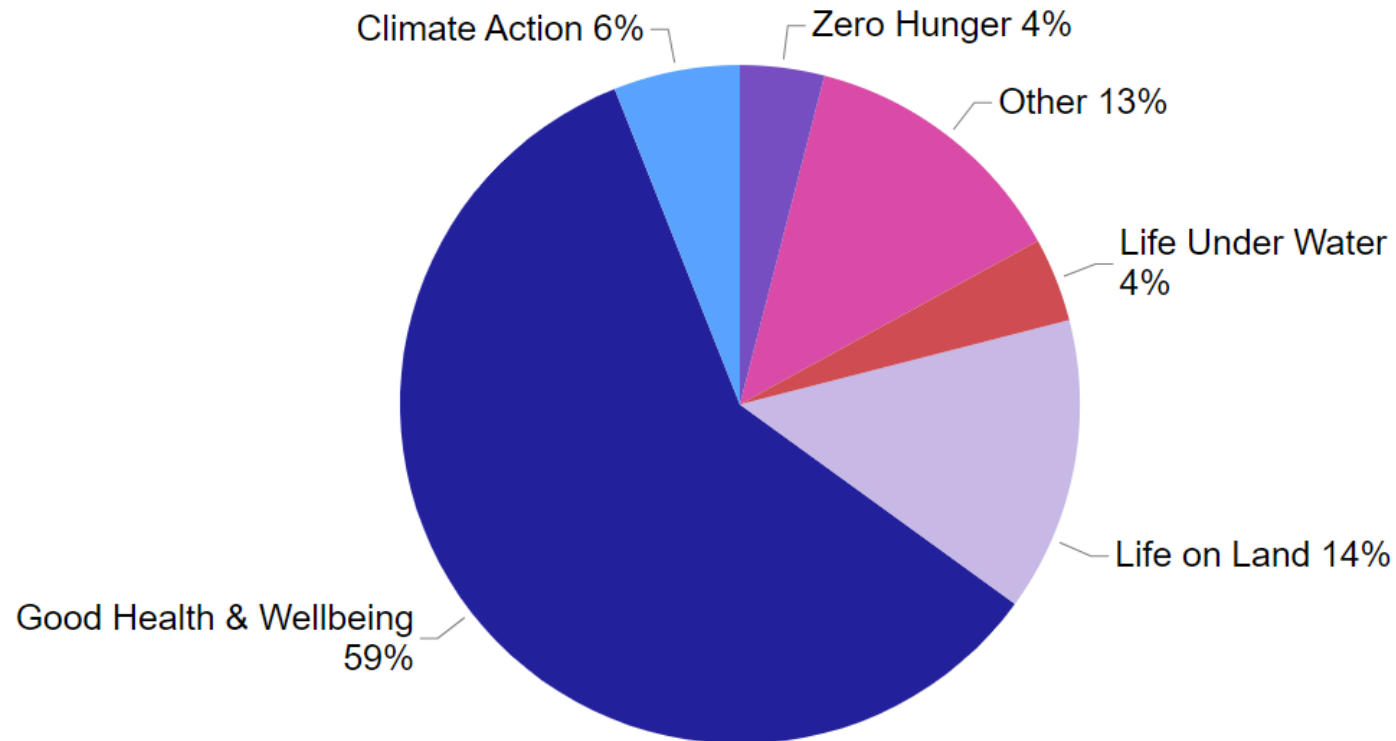




# Areas of collaboration

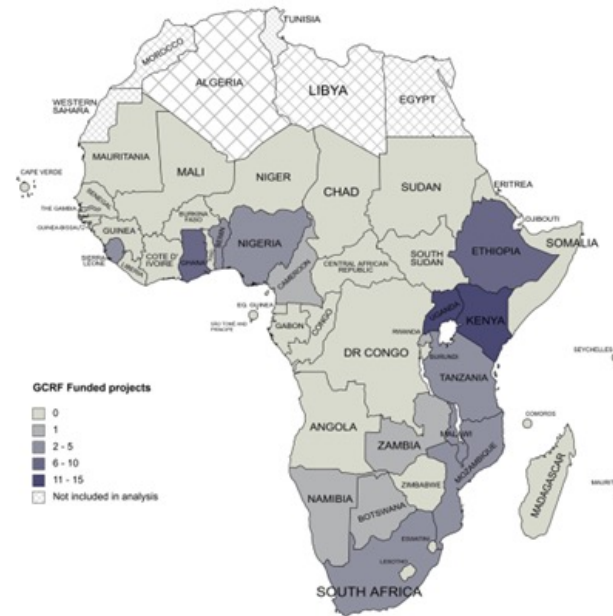
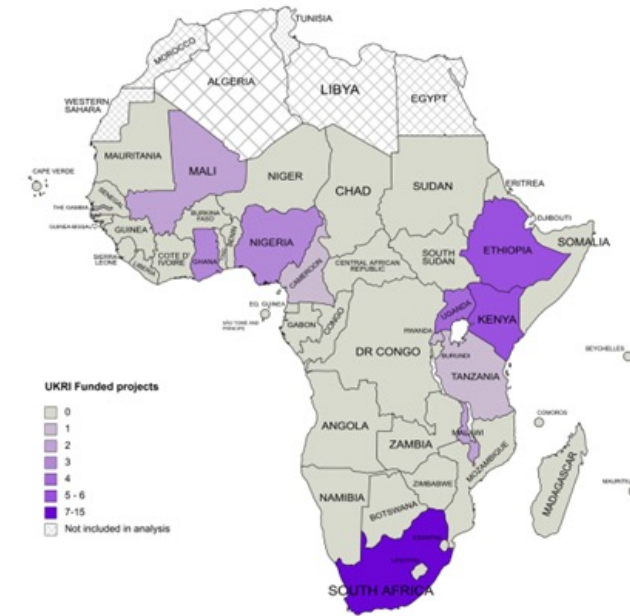
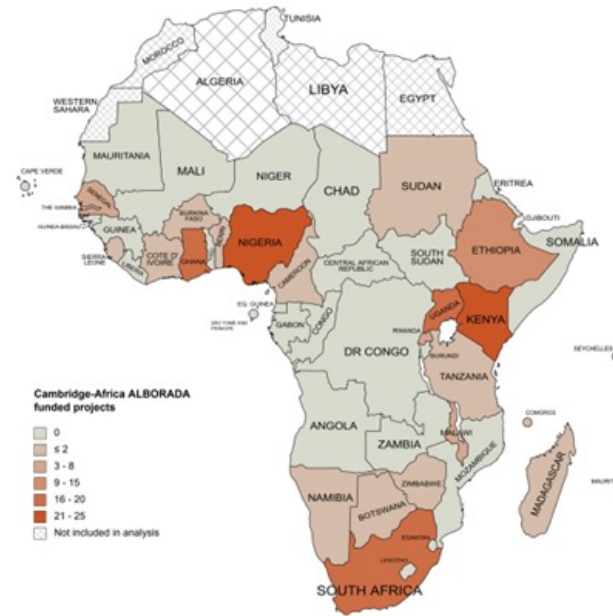
- The most highly represented topics in co-publication, defined according to the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) developed by the United Nations, are: Zero Hunger, Good Health & Wellbeing, Climate Action, Life on Land and Life Under Water.

## Collaboration topics: Sustainable Development Goals



# Grants

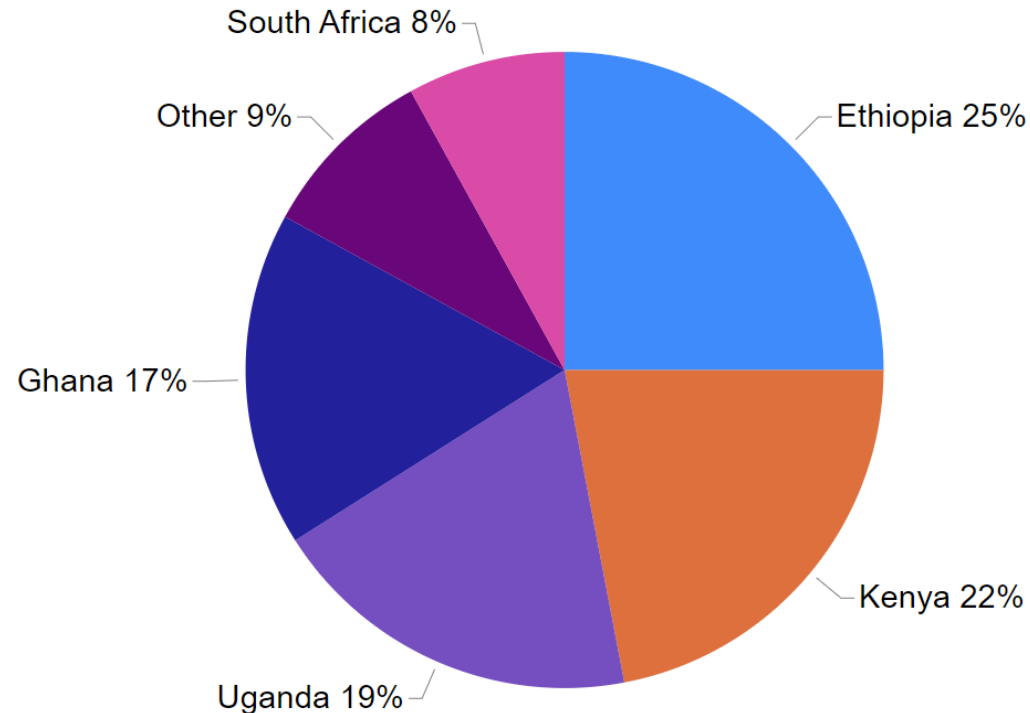
- Grant support for work with Sub-Saharan Africa comes from diverse sources, including the Cambridge-Africa Alborada Research Fund, Global Challenges Research Fund Quality Related Research support from Research England, and from external sources including research councils and charities.
- The figure depicts the number of shared grants from these sources in the period 2017-2022.



# Grants

- The total grant support with start dates between 2017 and 2022 from some external funders (research councils and charities) is over £19m, with the largest share going to project grants. The median award sum is circa £50K, and the median duration is 24 months.

**Grants with African partner institutions from external funders, % of total**

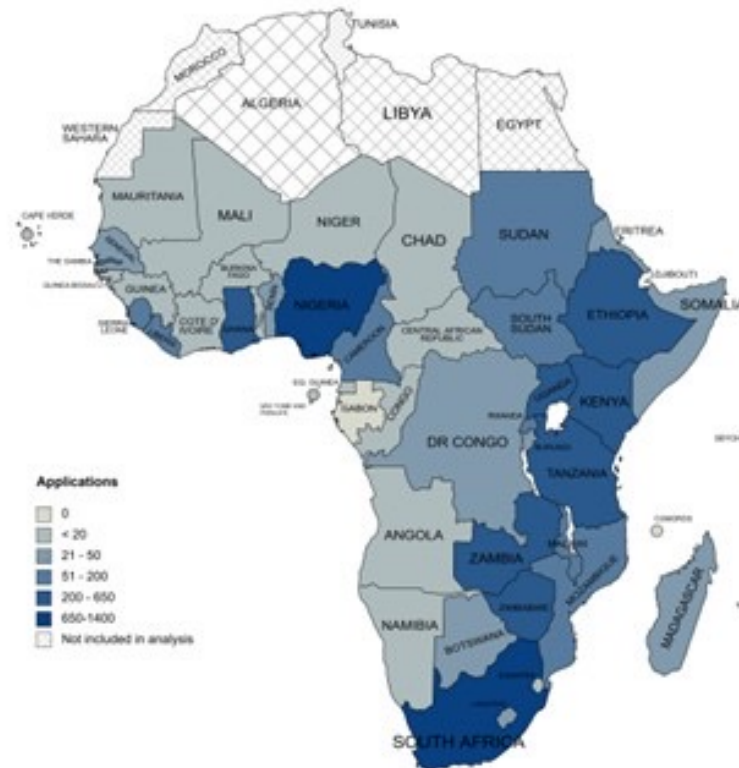




# Students, 2018-2022

- Over the period 2018-2022, we received applications for postgraduate education from most countries in Sub Saharan Africa. The majority came from nine countries - Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia & Zimbabwe. Applicants from these countries are also highly represented among those who proceeded to enrolment.

## Applications



## Confirmed places



# Masters' courses: 2018-2022

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- Of the 6,735 postgraduate applications to the University from SSA between 2018 & 2022, 4,625 were to Masters courses.
- 579 offers were made, and 209 candidates were confirmed to begin their studies.
- Of the 278 separate postgraduate courses which received applications from SSA students, three courses accounted for a quarter of Masters applications:
  - MPhil in Development Studies
  - Master of Law
  - MPhil in Public Health
- Out of the Masters courses that received 50 applications or more, the ones with a conversion rate into enrolment of 10% or higher were:
  - MPhil in African studies
  - MPhil in Engineering for Sustainable Development
  - MPhil in Conservation Leadership
  - MPhil in Education

# PhD training: 2018-2022

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- Of the 6,735 postgraduate applications to the University from SSA between 2018 & 2022, 2,110 were to doctoral course (including integrated).
- 225 offers were made, and 93 candidates were confirmed to begin their studies.
- One third of doctoral applications were to 6 courses:
  - Development Studies
  - Education
  - Engineering
  - Public Health and Primary Care
  - Politics and International Studies
  - Law
- Out of the PhD training programmes that received 20 applications or more, the ones with a conversion rate into enrolment of 10% or higher were:
  - PhD in History
  - MRes + PhD in Sensor Technologies and Application
  - MRes+PhD in Nanoscience and Nanotechnology

# Further information

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- This summary has been prepared in collaboration between [Cambridge-Africa](#), [Cambridge Global Challenges](#) and the [Strategic Partnerships Office](#). If you would like further information, please visit these websites for contact information and updates.
- The data presented here is based on information held in the University of Cambridge and from external sources such as Digital Science's Dimensions database (for co-publications) and the grant databases of external funders (e.g. UKRI, British Academy).
- The high-level nature of the data collection means that some sources may have been overlooked.