



## APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

### SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP FOR YOUNG ACADEMIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

#### International Science Council (ISC)

The completed **application form**, together with a **copy of the Statutes of the applying organization** (or equivalent), and a **signed statement** that the applicant will comply with ISC's [Statutes and Rules of Procedure](#) must be received at least two months in advance of the Governing Board meeting at which it is to be considered.

The document *ISC Membership Criteria and Procedure* describes the membership application criteria and procedure for admission to the ISC with details about the application process and relevant extracts from the ISC Statutes and Rules of Procedure.

#### Contact details

<b>Name of organization</b>	Ghana Young Academy
<b>Name of person submitting application</b>	Thomas Amatey Tagoe
<b>Position held in the organization</b>	Co-Chair
<b>Email address</b>	<a href="mailto:tatagoe@ug.edu.gh">tatagoe@ug.edu.gh</a> ; <a href="mailto:info@ghanayoungacademy.org">info@ghanayoungacademy.org</a> ;

#### Type of membership

The Ghana Young Academy hereby applies to become a Member of ISC as a

- Full Member (Category 1):** Scientific unions, associations and similar bodies, being international scientific organizations devoted to the practice and promotion of specific scientific disciplines or areas
- Full Member (Category 2):** Academies of sciences, research councils or analogous not-for-profit scientific bodies representing a broad spectrum of scientific fields or disciplines in a country, region, territory or globally.
- Affiliated Member (Category 3):** Other international bodies, being governmental and non-governmental organizations, whose activities are in a field cognate to those of the Council.

#### Details concerning the organization applying for membership

<b>Date of creation of the organization</b>	19/02/2013
<b>Types of members</b>	Individual (34 members)



<b>The organization is</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-governmental <input type="checkbox"/> Quasi-governmental <input type="checkbox"/> Governmental
<b>Source of funds</b>	Membership Dues and Grants
<b>Relationship to government</b>	We do not have an official relationship with the government. All governmental engagements are through activities with the senior academy
<b>Affiliation to senior academy or association</b>	Yes. The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences
<b>Does the senior academy or association support your application?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <i>[Please advise]</i>
<b>Name of contact at senior academy or association supporting your application</b>	<i>Mr. Francis Ankrah (Executive Secretary – Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences)</i>
<b>Affiliation to national and international scientific groupings</b>	<i>The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences</i> <i>The Global Young Academy</i>
<b>International activities</b>	<p>We support internationally recognised celebratory days and activities by running programs that line up to set objectives. An example is the current International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development where members have been engaged in leading conversations within their institutions.</p> <p>The Ghana Young Academy also collaborates with the Ghana Neuroscience Society in running a national Brain Bee competition to select brilliant students capable of representing the country at the international level</p>
<b>Contacts with the ISC or ISC bodies</b>	There has not been any previous contact with the ISC



**Statement of motivation**

As an academy, we believe in the value of collaboration and combined efforts to meet shared goals. Our projects are geared towards capacity building among young scientists and science communication for public good. Our actions therefore show how we buy into the ISC's vision of science as an avenue for global public good. This creates a great opportunity to coordinate our activities with that of the ISC.

By joining the ISC, we also hope to create opportunities for our members who are interested in science policy. There is a heightened need for scientists in Ghana and many parts of Africa to step into spaces where they can influence policy which will promote greater investments in science. This will also enable scientific outputs to be used in an effective manner to influence major issues and decisions on both a national and global scale. By joining the ISC, we hope our members will gain learning opportunities and experiences that will make this vision a reality.

Lastly, we wish to join the ISC and serve as a focal point to recruit more scientific organizations and academies within the sub region. It is our understanding that as more organisations plug into the ISC, it creates more opportunities for collaboration and shared efforts to tackle challenges that may be unique to the sub region.

**Attachments**

- Statutes** (or equivalent) of the applying organization
- Formal attestation** to the effect that the governing body of the organization seeking admission to ISC has resolved that the organization will adhere to ISC's Statutes and Rules of Procedure (template provided).
- Additional information about the applicant
  - 5yr Strategic plan

**Signed on behalf of the applying organization**

Name: Thomas Amatey Tagoe

Position: Co-Chair

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

Signature:



# GHANA YOUNG ACADEMY

The voice of young scientists around the country

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info@ghanayoungacademy.org  
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September 22, 2022

## STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE STATUTES AND RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

I, undersigned, hereby attest that the Ghana Young Academy will adhere to the Statutes and Rules of Procedure of the International Science Council.

*September 22, 2022*

*Thomas Amatey Tagoe, Co-Chair*



Promoting Excellence in Knowledge

# GHANA ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

## PRINCIPAL OFFICERS

<b>President:</b>	Emeritus Prof. Samuel Kofi Sefa-Dedeh
<b>Vice President Arts:</b>	Prof. Kofi Opoku Nti
<b>Vice President Sciences:</b>	Emerita Prof. Isabella Akyinbah Quakyi
<b>Honorary Secretary:</b>	Prof. Helen Atawube Yitah
<b>Honorary Treasurer:</b>	Prof. Ladé Wosornu

01 November 2022

Prof. Peter Gluckman  
President, International Science Council  
Paris, France

Dear Prof. Gluckman,

### **Support for the GhYA's Application for membership of ISC**

The Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences oversaw all the logistical and consultative processes that birthed the Ghana Young Academy (GhYA), the voice of young scientists across the length and breadth of Ghana in 2014.

We are glad that it has developed into a mature institution that has provided leadership even up to the Global Young Academy level.

We write in support of their application to become an independent member of the International Science Council.

Please accord them the necessary courtesies and assistance.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Emerita Prof. Isabella A. Quakyi, FGA  
Vice President, Sciences Section  
Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences

# PROPOSED STATUTES AND SELECTION CRITERIA

(Adapted from Blueprint of the Global Young Academy)



**GHANA YOUNG ACADEMY (GhYA)**

*(The voice of young scientists around the country)*

# **PROPOSED STATUTES AND SELECTION CRITERIA**

(Adapted from Blueprint of the Global Young Academy)



**THE GHANA YOUNG  
ACADEMY (GhYA)**

*(The voice of young scientists around the country)*



<b>CONTENTS</b>		
	<b>Section</b>	<b>Pages</b>
I.	Synopsis	5
II.	Justification	6
III.	Statutes	10
IV.	Proposed Activities	26
V.	Expected outcomes	27
VI.	Measures of success	29
VII.	Principles	29
	Contributors	31



## I. SYNOPSIS

On the 19th February 2013, the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences (GAAS) with funding from the Royal Society Pfizer African Academies Programme held a Young Scientists Forum Consultative Meeting at the Centre for African Wetlands Auditorium, Legon, Accra. The one-day consultative workshop was held to herald the establishment of a National Young Scientists Forum.

The overall objective of this programme was to strengthen the collaboration between scientists (young and senior) and science organizations nationally and around the globe to work on scientific and regional issues; and increase the visibility of young scientists to their global peers through the Young Scientists Forum as well as the general scientific community.

The ensuing business meeting following the presentations led to the following resolutions:

1. Choice of the name: Ghana Young Academy (GhYA)
2. The nomination and empowerment of a ten-member interim steering committee, chaired by Dr. Augustine Ocloo, Head, Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Ghana to draft a local membership selection paper for the study and review of participants at a later date. The interim steering committee members were:
  - Dr. Augustine Ocloo, Head, Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Ghana;
  - Dr. Patrick K. Arthur, Department of Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology, University of Ghana;

- Dr. Christian Agyare, Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, KNUST
- Ms. Naa Adjeley Alakija, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Cape Coast
- Ms. Gloria Adu Boakyewa, SARI-CSIR
- Dr. Amidu Nafiu, Department of Biomedical Laboratory Science, School of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Development Studies Medical School, Tamale
- Mr. David Ampah, Soil Research Institute, Accra Centre
- Mr. Edmund Osei-Owusu, PGRRI-CSIR
- Dr. Paul Doku, Regent University College
- Dr. Lydia Aziato, School of Nursing, University of Ghana

## II. JUSTIFICATION

Contemporary scientific challenges often benefit from investigators with diverse backgrounds and expertise areas. Thus, bringing together talented young scientists creates new opportunities for better solutions to both national and international challenges. Furthermore, the exchange of best practices amongst young scientists across disciplines could further expand the opportunities for career development of young scientists in any country. To achieve this, there is a need for a strong platform where top young scientists can interact, coordinate, and to organize ourselves to meet these challenges. More specific motivations for the establishment of a group such the Ghana Young Academy (GhYA) can be summarized as follows:

## 1. Global awareness and support

- a. The concept of bringing together top young scientists has earned support from international scientific organizations and bodies including the *IAP: the Global Network of Science Academies*, Leopoldina (German Academy of Sciences), World Economic Forum, The Academy of Sciences of the Developing World (TWAS), UNESCO, Alfred Krupp von Bohlen and Halbach-Stiftung, etc.
- b. In an editorial, Prof. Bruce Alberts, Editor-in-Chief of *Science* magazine pointed to the benefits of NYAs, and called for their support.<sup>1</sup>
- c. Successful examples of NYA's have been established in about 10 countries, including Germany, Netherlands, Nigeria, Sudan, Japan, and Egypt.
- d. The GhYA will link to the growing global network of NYA's, including the GYA, which will provide opportunities for young scientists to interact globally with other young scientists.
- e. It will provide visibility and recognition to outstanding young Ghanaian scientists both nationally and internationally through their affiliation with the National and the GYA.

## 2. Contribution to national science policy

- a. The GhYA will represent the voice of young scientists on national and international issues.

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1 . Alberts, B. (2011). The Young Academy Movement. *Science* 332, 283.

- b. It will encourage debate and discussion on national and regional science policies.
- c. It will promote science education to increase the understanding of science by the general public.

**3. A symbol of scientific excellence**

- a. The GhYA will identify and bring together the very best young scientists to champion innovation and excellence in national scientific research.
- b. It will be a future source of talented senior scientists to increase the national scientific capacity.
- c. It will provide role models and motivation for future scientists in training at high schools and tertiary institutions.
- d. It will reward and promote excellence among young scientists.
- e. Such developments could help reverse “brain-drain” amongst talented researchers by recognizing their importance and excellence.

**4. National development of science, technology and innovation (STI)**

- a. The GhYA will encourage collaborative, multi-disciplinary research activities among national and international young scientists.
- b. It will initiate activities aimed at identifying and promulgating best practices and excellence in scientific research.
- c. Its activities will spark the interests of the younger generation to pursue science as career.

- d. Recognition of top researchers could encourage them to remain committed to developing the STI infrastructure of the home countries, and provide them with a platform to accomplish such goals.

**5. Promote interdisciplinary collaboration and representation**

- a. The GhYA will provide a network for young scientists from a wide range of disciplines to interact and collaborate both nationally and internationally.
- b. It will encourage interdisciplinary research among young scientists nationally, thereby fostering this habit early in their careers.
- c. It will promote ethnic, cultural and gender equality and diversity amongst young scientists.
- d. It will facilitate the sharing of scientific knowledge to reduce the gaps between developed and less developed countries and also amongst different regions within countries.

**6. A bridge between the young and senior scientists**

- a. The GhYA will promote mentorship by senior scientists for sustainability of the scientific community.
- b. It will provide a source of talented young scientists that senior scientists can draw on for research collaborations, policy consultation, and other activities.

### III. STATUTES

#### **Preamble**

Contemporary science must address increasingly complex problems. Such challenges often require participation from investigators with different backgrounds and areas of expertise. Furthermore, scientific progress frequently requires coordination of policies and inputs or support from different sectors of society. Yet, early scientific career development tends to favour academic specialization and focus. Bringing together young scientists from different disciplines, as well as with business, media and government representatives, can compensate for this pressure to differentiate from other disciplines and society. In addition, the exchange of ideas across disciplines and cultures is expected to expand opportunities for scientists, increase scientific capacity and contribute to the development and improvement of the country. The GhYA will serve as a platform to promote these goals under young scientists and to represent their voice in dialogues of national and international importance.

#### **§ 1. Foundation**

Hereby is constituted the Ghana Young Academy (GhYA) within the framework of the National Academy of Sciences. The GhYA is autonomous with regard to the content of its academic activities and organizes itself and from time-to-time do so in collaboration with the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences. Any organ of the parent academy does not supervise the activities of GhYA. Its members have the status of a “Member of the Ghana Young Academy” and are not members, nor will they later be automatically elected as members, of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

## § 2. **Goals**

The objectives of the GhYA are:

1. To give voice to young scientists in Ghana by-
  - Providing a channel for its members to actively participate in policy development
  - Encouraging interactions with media organizations, through workshops, internships and job partnering
  - Developing statements on science issues of national and global importance
2. To promote science as a career of choice for young Ghanaians by:
  - Recognizing exceptional young scientists from all regions of Ghana as role models
  - Developing policies to remove obstacles to participation in science for women and other under-represented groups
  - Promoting mentorships with locally and internationally recognized senior scientists
  - Identifying the science leaders of our time for the future growth of science
3. To promote science capacity by:
  - Promoting science as an engine of economic development
  - Building capacity for scientific research
  - Supporting exchange visits for young scientists between institutions within Ghana and internationally to increase the scientific skills base

4. To encourage the development of novel approaches to problems of national and international significance by:
  - Fostering international and interdisciplinary collaborations between young scientists
  - Holding regional and topical workshops
  - Encouraging Government, research foundations and other philanthropic organizations to channel resources into identified projects
5. Any other goals that concern young scientists, which the General Assembly decides to promote.

**§ 3. Membership**

- A. The GhYA is composed of members who all have the right to vote and be voted for among others within the GhYA.
- B. Members of the GhYA shall be selected for one term of 5 years.<sup>2</sup>
- C. The number of members to be selected each year shall be decided annually.
- D. The GhYA shall consist of no more than 300 members.

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<sup>2</sup> We prefer this relatively short membership term to assure that the members remain early career scientists and to reduce the risk that it will be harder to incentivize worn out participants to take part in the NYA's activities after too many years of active membership. We also fear that the intensive activity, in which the NYA members will be expected take part, might come in the way of their research if the membership last too long.

- E. Nominations for membership may be made by Members of the GhYA, self nomination can be made by applicants through calls.
- F. Activities of members shall be evaluated annually by the executive committee, members who are deemed not to have performed any activity to the benefit of the GhYA over a period of two years shall be recommended for expulsion subject to a vote by the general assembly.
- G. Fellows of GAAS, International Science Societies, Funding Agencies, Professional Bodies and other institutions of scientific repute as decided by the selection committee can nominate applicants to the GhYA. The overriding aim should be to ensure that all meritorious candidates have an opportunity to be nominated. Self-nominations shall also be considered.
- H. Criteria for nomination include all of the following:
  - I. A Masters or an equivalent degree in natural sciences, engineering, social sciences, arts or humanities or equivalent experience in a research environment;

- Scientific excellence, ascertained by proven track record and expected future achievements;
- Demonstrated commitment to making a difference in the world or in the society;
- Broadly matching the median age of 40.<sup>3</sup>

I. Selection of candidates<sup>4</sup>

- a) Short-listing of nominated candidates and final selection of candidates shall be conducted by a committee formed by the Executive Committee (the Selection Committee), and may include representation from the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences.

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<sup>3</sup> The flexible terms of this clause are aimed to allow the selection committee to adapt the membership criteria to different subject areas and programmes where the Ph.D/Masters or equivalent degree is obtained at different age. Specifically, in subject areas, restricting the age too much might result in too few potential applicants.

- b) The over-riding criteria for selection shall be scientific excellence and commitment to service according to points 3F(2) and 3F(3) above.
- c) Within the bounds established by point 3F(2), the selection committee shall seek to maximize breadth of regional, disciplinary and gender representation.

**§ 4. General Assembly**

- A. The General Assembly is the highest decision-making body of the GhYA; the General Assembly shall be empowered, subject to the provisions of this constitution, to make decisions on all matters affecting the GhYA
- B. The General Assembly is composed of all of the GhYA members.
- C. The General Assembly is entitled:
  - 1. To amend the constitution of the GhYA by 2/3 majority of the participants in a vote;
  - 2. To set up rules and regulations for the different bodies and officers of the GhYA;
  - 3. To elect the Executive Committee and Co-Chairs;

4. To terminate membership of individual members if the member has seriously damaged the interests of the GhYA by 2/3 majority of the participants in a vote;
5. To take any other decision required to promote the goals of the GhYA, according to its constitution;
6. To exercise any other right arising from the law or the Constitution;
7. The General Assembly shall convene at least once every calendar year<sup>4</sup> (hereinafter: The General Meeting) at a location and time set by the Executive Committee. The notice shall be sent at least two months before the meeting.
8. General Meetings of the GhYA
  - i. The Executive Committee may call for a Special General Meeting of the General Assembly and it shall do so at the request of one-third of the members. The Executive Committee may decide that the Special General Meeting shall convene virtually, in any way that will assure the integrity of the voting process.

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<sup>4</sup> Since membership lasts only five (5) years at most, an annual meeting is required to assure that a group atmosphere is created and that members will know each other well enough to be able to initiate projects and cooperate in promoting them.

- ii. Any proposal to be discussed in the General Meeting submitted by a member and forwarded in writing to the Co-Chairs at least fifteen days before the meeting must be put on the agenda of the meeting. The Executive Committee may put on the agenda additional proposals at any time.
- iii. The resolutions of the General Assembly shall be recorded in a minute
  - 1. which shall be distributed to the members soon after the meeting.
- iv. The GhYA Co-Chairs preside over the General Meetings.

**a) Co-Chairs**

- i. The General Assembly shall elect two Co-Chairs.

- ii. The Co-Chairs shall preside over the meetings of the General Assembly and the Executive Committee with a partition of tasks to be agreed by them.
- iii. In case of unresolved disagreement between the Co-Chairs, the Co-Chairs shall refer the matter to the Executive Committee.
- iv. The Co-Chairs represent the GhYA on a day-to-day basis, and supervise the function of the administrative staff.
- v. If a Co-Chair resigns before the end of his term or is otherwise unable to continue as Co-Chair, the Executive Committee shall appoint one of its members as acting Co-Chair for the remainder of the term of the original Co-Chair.

**§ 5. Executive Committee**

- i. Subject to the provisions of the constitution and the decisions of the General Assembly, the Executive Committee shall take such initiatives and actions as are necessary for the achievement of the objectives of the GhYA.

- ii. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the two Co-Chairs and six additional members elected by the General Assembly as well as one Ex-Officio member selected from former Co-Chairs.
- iii. The Executive Committee is in charge of developing the strategic direction of the GhYA, and shall hold overall responsibility for the programs and activities of the GhYA
- iv. The Executive Committee may exercise full powers with regard to the management and administration of the GhYA except with regard to the powers specifically vested in the General Assembly.
- v. The Executive Committee shall, in particular, be responsible for:
  - a) Setting the time and venue for the meetings of the General Assembly
  - b) Preparing the agenda of the meetings of the General Assembly
  - c) Implementing the decisions taken by the General Assembly
  - d) Securing funding for the programs and activities of the GhYA
  - e) Approving programs and activities, as well as their budgets

- f) Ensuring that actual spending is in accordance with these budget
- g) Issuing statements in the name of the GhYA
- vi. The Executive Committee may set up such standing or *ad hoc* committees and may nominate a secretary, a treasurer and other officers as it deems necessary for the discharge of its tasks and responsibilities
- vii. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for fund-raising, managing accounts and budgets, and shall provide annual fiscal reports to the General Assembly.
- viii. The Executive Committee shall decide by a majority vote, abstentions not considered a vote. In the interval between meetings a vote may be taken by email, conference call or other virtual means. In a vote by email a non-reply shall be considered an abstention.

- ix. The resolutions of the Executive Committee shall be recorded in a minute and made available for the inspection by the members of the GhYA.

**§ 6. Procedures for electing the Co-Chairs and the Executive Committee**

- i. Election to the positions of Co-Chairs and Executive Committee shall take place during each regular General Meeting by a secret ballot.<sup>6</sup>
- ii. Co-Chairs and the other members of the Executive Committee are elected for a term of office that expires at the end of the first regular General Meeting following the meeting in which they were elected. They may be reelected.
- iii. The General Assembly shall elect two members to serve as Co-Chairs.
- iv. After electing the Chairperson, the executive committee will be elected, with each participating member of the General Assembly voting for up

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<sup>6</sup> Though the election takes place annually, it is fair to assume that Co Chairs and Members of EC will be often re-elected to assure consistency (unless the General Assembly is unsatisfied with them). There is no limitation on the number of times a Co-Chair or member of the EC is elected, since the membership anyway lasts only five years.

to six (as in 6B) candidates for the Executive committee.

- v. The first candidate to receive a majority of votes, where abstentions are not considered a vote, shall be elected Co-Chair. In the event that no candidate receives such majority in the first ballot a run-off ballot shall be held between the two candidates receiving the most votes in the first ballot.
- vi. After electing the Co-Chairs, the Executive Committee shall be elected, with each participating member of the General Assembly voting for up to six candidates for the Executive Committee.
- vii. Candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be deemed elected.
- viii. Elected executive committee shall co-opt Ghanaian members of the Global Young Academy who could not be elected to serve as non-voting member of the executive
- ix. The General Assembly may set up more detailed election regulations.

**§ 7. Alumni**

- i. Former members of the GhYA would be alumni.
- ii. The General Assembly shall determine the roles and privileges of the Alumni.

**§ 8. Language**

- A. The operational language of the GhYA shall be English.

**§ 9. Legislative Instrument or an Act of Parliament establishing the Ghana Young Academy:**

A legislative instrument or an act of Parliament of the Republic of Ghana shall back the GhYA as an organization. The executive committee shall make every effort to obtain the backing of the Parliament

of Ghana and seek amendments to the same from time-to-time.

**§ 10. GhYA Advisory Board**

- a. The executive committee shall nominate individual of proven track record in academia, industry, government, civil society, media, etc to serve on the advisory board.
- b. The following office holders shall consist the GhYA Board while they are in office:
  - I. The Chairman of the Council of State or his/her representative
  - II. The Speaker of Parliament
  - III. The President and the two Vice-Presidents of the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences or their representatives
  - IV. The Chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors of Ghana or his/her representative
  - V. The Executive Secretary of the National Council of Tertiary Education or his/her representative
  - VI. The Director-General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research or his/her representative
  - VII. The President of the Ghana Journalist Association or his/her representative

- VIII. The President of the Association of Ghana Industries or his/her representative
- IX. The Chairman of National Development Planning Commission or his/her representative
- X. The President of the National House of Chiefs or his/her representative
- XI. The Minister of Education or his/her representative
- XII. The Minister of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation or his/her representative.
- c. Any member of the executive committee shall nominate an additional three (3) individuals and the final three shall be selected by a majority decision of the executive committee to constitute a maximum of fifteen (15).
- d. There shall be balance of gender and subject area in the advisory board.
- e. Elected advisory board members shall be invited officially but in the event of a new board declining to serve, the position shall be offered to the next person on the in a like-for-like manner.
- f. The board shall provide advice and serve to link the GhYA to all the state institutions from which they are drawn.

- g. The board shall NOT be required to approve decisions made by the GhYA through its executive committee.
- h. The term of a board member shall be limited to four years.
- i. The board shall meet with the executive committee once a year to herald the annual General Assembly.

#### **IV. PROPOSED ACTIVITIES**

The following are proposed activities to be carried out by the GhYA:

1. Organize meetings for its members on a regular basis to manage the GhYA, discuss issues of concern to young scientists in Ghana, and promote interdisciplinary research.
2. Mobilize potential young scientists (first degree graduates, young researchers, pre-PhD, prospective PhD`s) through public seminars, enhancing science education, international exchange, internships and mentorship.
3. Promote the establishment of a national body to provide research grants and funds for young and senior scientists through competitive selection, review and award of grants to outstanding research proposals.
4. Provide advisory services to young researchers to build their research career potential.
5. Become a facilitator of additional opportunities for research career development by using connections with the GYA, the *IAP: the Global Network of*

*Science Academies*, other international and national institutions.

6. Develop and run a national database for the scientific events, funding opportunities and resources.
7. Publication on scientific issues of national importance in journals and magazines owned and run by the national academies, publicizing the activities of the GhYA and the GYA.
8. Leverage the connection of senior National Academy to initiate discussions between young scientists and policy-makers (government), business leaders and media representatives.
9. Engage government, universities, and schools with science education outreach programs.
10. Connect with science education programs in other countries and consider sharing experiences and possible exchange programs.

## **V. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

1. Documents and reports on issues concerning young scientists (e.g. academic, research, employment, funding, environment, economy and career development).
2. Providing an effective platform at the science-business and science-policy interfaces.
3. Collaboration between scientists (young and senior) and science organizations nationally and around the globe to work on scientific and regional issues.
4. Promote and identify potential leaders of science.
5. Free information and knowledge transfer away from political, economic and cultural interference.

6. Collaboration between young and senior scientists within Ghana and also between scientists from developed and developing countries.
7. Exchange and training programs to increase the qualifications of young scientists worldwide.
8. Empowerment of women in science whether by removing the constraints or by addressing the problems facing their promotion and progression in their various institutions.
9. Increasing the investments in science and in scientists as a fruitful renewable sources and the future wealth of countries.
10. Enhance the public understanding and exposure to science, both with regards to key topics, how science works, and its role in society, and attract the next generations to pursue careers in scientific research.
11. Recognition and encouragement of outstanding and promising mid-career young scientists, which otherwise might have been overshadowed by the prominence of senior accomplished scientists.
12. Increased visibility of young scientists to their global peers through the GYA, as well as to the global scientific community.
13. Establishment of interdisciplinary and collaborative research programs entirely runs by young and senior scientists within Ghana, as well as from other countries through the GYA.
14. An established link to facilitate exchange programs, sharing of facilities, current literature, and expertise among young scientists within the country, as well as from other countries through the GYA.

## **VI. MEASURES OF SUCCESS**

The success of the GhYA will be measured by:

1. Number of young scientists who become members of the GhYA
2. Number of interdisciplinary projects nucleated through the activities of the GhYA
3. Number of young scientists who participate in the interdisciplinary projects
4. Number of public activities held (workshops, forums, policy advice papers, etc.) to address issues of immediate importance to society (e.g. climate, poverty, health, etc.).
5. Number of research reports (documents, statements, publications, books, proceedings, etc.) emanating from the activities of the GhYA
6. Impact and outcomes of the research supported
7. Impact and outcomes of the interaction on members of the GhYA.

## **VII. PRINCIPLES**

### **1. Representative**

The GhYA would consist of a group of early career scientists, with the aim to include scientists from across the country and for inclusive representation by gender, race and scientific disciplines.

### **2. Independent**

The over-arching aim of the GhYA is to foster early career independence for young scientists. The Academy would act and operates independently from the government, other academies, funding sources, and businesses, although working in collaboration with these institutions to make an impact in society. The Academy should exist not

for profit and the Academy shall not involved itself in any partisan politics or align itself to any political party in Ghana or outside Ghana.

**3. Science-based**

Asscientists, members of the GhYA would seek answers to society's problems in evidence-based solutions. The members would seek to contribute innovation and science-based policy ideas to the debates of concern to young scientists and the wider community.

**4. Excellence**

The members of the GhYA would be elected based upon a proven track record for outstanding contributions to science and potential as scientists, together with their commitment to public service. The GhYA would strive for the highest quality in its activities.

**5. Impact**

To be effective, the GhYA would focus upon activities of concern to young scientists and where young scientists can contribute uniquely to addressing issues of relevance to society, locally and internationally. The GhYA's interests would range broadly from issues at the science-society interface to the career development of young scientists and interdisciplinary research.

## **Authors**

### **Chairman of Steering Committee**

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# Ghana Young Academy (GhYA) STRATEGIC PLAN

2019-2024

## MISSION:

Provide a platform for young science leaders to develop evidence-based scientific solutions for societal challenges through capacity building and engagement.

## VISION:

Be the leading network of young science leaders fostering STEM and innovation.

## VALUES:

Diversity and Inclusion  
Ethics, Integrity and Responsibility  
Excellence and Innovation  
Ingenuity and Resourcefulness

## Strategic Objectives

1. Increase membership base with active member participation

2. Promote networking and collaboration locally and internationally

3. Contribute to development and promotion of national and regional policies

4. Promote excellence and the culture of science in Ghana

5. Identify, prioritize and advocate solutions targeting key areas for community development

## Activities

1. Increase membership to 30 in five years through highly publicized calls for new members and efficient, transparent and fair application review and selection processes.
2. Develop the GhYA brand and marketing strategy.
3. Improve member participation by provide incentives to members.

1. Identify potential collaborators with similar interests and establish relationships such as other NYAs, GAAS, Science Advocacy groups, etc
2. Participate in and contribute to meetings, workshops and conferences of other organizations
3. Work on joint projects, access funding and resources with other groups

1. Identify key policy areas GhYA can contribute to at the national and regional level.
2. Participate and contribute to national issues of current interest
3. Link up with key stakeholders so that GhYA could be involved or invited to policy discussions.

1. Establish values and concepts of scientific excellence for the community and steadfastly promote the advancement of knowledge
2. Employ informal methods (eg. knowledge café) to discuss and disseminate scientific knowledge
3. Support and improve peer-review and recognition of excellence by young scientists

1. Identify and prioritize at least five key issues across different disciplines directly affecting Ghanaian communities and role of GhYA in solving those issues
2. Undertake needs assessment and translate research findings into evidence-based recommendations
3. Disseminate information and obtain community feedback on relevant issues affecting Ghanaian communities

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icap



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# GHANA YOUNG ACADEMY (GHYA)

## ABOUT

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- The Ghana Young Academy is affiliated with the Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and was established in **2013** as a non-governmental organization. Its funding comes from membership dues and grants

## MEMBERS

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- The GhYA currently comprises **34 members** who have been elected into the Academy for a five-year term after which they become alumni. Members are drawn from outstanding early to mid-career scientists from various fields.

## ACTIVITIES

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- Contributes to the development and promotion of national and regional policies in science, **promoting excellence in science in Ghana, scientific networking on a local and international level**. The Ghana Young Academy collaborates with the **Ghana Neuroscience Society** in running a national Brain Bee competition to select brilliant students capable of representing the country at the international level

## AFFILIATIONS

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- The GhYA is associated with the **Ghana Academy of Arts and Sciences and the Global Young Academy**.