

PUBLIC UNIVERSITY BILL, 2020

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Public Universities

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A
BILL

ENTITLED
PUBLIC UNIVERSITY ACT, 2020

AN ACT to provide for the establishment, governance arrangements and management of a public university and for related matters.

PASSED by Parliament and assented to by the President:

Public University

Establishment of a public university

1. (1) The universities specified in the First Schedule are established as public universities under this Act.

(2) The Minister may by a resolution of Parliament, constitute a new public university under this Act and assign a name to the public university.

(3) A public university established under this Act is a body corporate with perpetual succession.

(4) Where there is a hindrance to the acquisition of land, the land may be acquired for the public university under the State Lands Act,

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1962 (Act 125) and the cost shall be borne by the public university or by a special budgetary allocation, in the case of a new public university.

Aim of a public university

2. (1) The aims of a public university is to create, disseminate and preserve knowledge and understanding through

- (a) teaching,
- (b) skill development and research,
- (c) scientific publications,
- (d) technology transfer and extension; and
- (e) community service.

(2) In furtherance of subsection (1), a public university shall

- (a) subject to the availability of resources, make higher education equally accessible to all persons suitably qualified and capable to benefit from that education;
- (b) in furtherance of paragraph (a), ensure that the proportion of fee-paying students, at any time, does not exceed fifteen per cent of the overall enrolment and not more than sixty per cent in any programme that is designated as “fee-paying”;
- (c) apply modern tools, including information and communication technology for teaching, research, dissemination of knowledge and administration;
- (d) promote discipline and the spirit of intellectual inquiry and dedicate itself to the sustained pursuit of excellence;
- (e) extend the benefits of knowledge and skills for development of individuals and society by engaging closely with local, regional and national problems of development;
- (f) continuously offer opportunities of upgrading knowledge, training and skills in the context of innovations, research and discovery appropriate for a learning society;
- (g) promote gender balance, social equity and equality of opportunity among students and employees;
- (h) institute curricula and pedagogy, within the context of learner-centred and problem-based learning techniques, that promote critical and independent thinking;
- (i) educate, train and retrain higher level professional, technical and management personnel in academic disciplines which are within or related to the mandate of the public university; and

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- (j) undertake teaching programmes and research in academic disciplines which are within or related to the mandate of the public university.

(3) A public university shall, in the performance of functions and the exercise of powers, be guided by the national values and principles of governance set out under article 38 of the Constitution, and shall in that regard

- (a) promote quality and relevance of the programmes of the public university;
- (b) enhance equity and accessibility of the services of the public university;
- (c) promote inclusive, efficient, effective and transparent governance systems and practices;
- (d) ensure adoption of best practices in management and mainstreaming of systems of checks and balances; and
- (e) institutionalise non-discriminatory policies and practices.

Campuses of a public university

3. (1) The main campus of a public university established under this Act shall be as provided in the instrument establishing the public university.

(2) A public university may, with the prior approval of the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission, establish a branch or a campus in any other part of the country.

(3) The Minister may, in consultation with the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission and the relevant institution, and in accordance with this Act, establish or declare any college or public tertiary institution as a constituent college of a public university.

(4) Where a college or public tertiary institution is established or declared as a constituent college of a public university under subsection (3), the governing Council of the college or public tertiary institution shall be responsible for the constituent college of that public university.

Award of degrees

4. (1) A public university shall, in accordance with this Act, award the degrees of that public university including honorary degrees, diplomas and certificates.