

**African  
School of  
Economics**

The path  
to innovative  
leadership

# WHAT MAKES ASE UNIQUE...

## Applied Mathematics

ASE places a strong emphasis on core training in mathematics for all programs to bolster analytical skills. For example, first-year students in the MMES program enroll in 150 hours of math during the first year, and MBA students enroll in approximately 55 hours. Furthermore, all incoming students attend a 4-week intensive math boot camp in August in order to prepare for these courses.

## African History

All students at ASE, regardless of their program, enroll in African Economic History, as we believe it is of utmost importance to provide historical context to complement students' economics training. In addition to coursework, students are encouraged to participate in the African History Project, a compilation of research examining the long-run effects of various historical trends on development. Lastly, annual conferences hosted by ASE include visits to historical sites throughout Benin.

## Work Ethic & Integrity

Our dynamic work-study program offers students tuition discounts in exchange for their work. Students can join the following departments: Finance, Research, Logistics and IT, Communications, Administration, and Planning and Placement. The work-study program not only enables students to gain relevant professional skills such as experience with data collection and management or financial accounting, but it also allows the students to contribute to the improvement of ASE for future generations.

## Statistics and Computing

Rigorous math training is complemented with a strong emphasis on a core curriculum focusing on statistics and statistical software to strengthen quantitative skills. First-year students in the MMES program enroll in 150 hours of statistics training, and MBA students enroll in 70 hours. Moreover, first-year students in both programs enroll in courses through which they learn the fundamentals of commonly used statistical packages such as R, Stata, and SPSS, among others.

## Research Activities

ASE has three active and bilingual research institutes: the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE), the Institute for African Studies (IAS), and the Institute for Finance and Management (IFM). IERPE is actively working on a variety of research projects on education, governance, entrepreneurship, and other topics related to development and poverty-reduction. ASE students have the opportunity to assist researchers with fieldwork and data management tasks, providing first-hand research experience to the students as they prepare for further graduate studies or a professional career.

## Social Capital

ASE strives to not only train young leaders in economics, but it also places a strong emphasis on creating strong social bonds among faculty members and students. A range of activities such as the Summer Institute for Economic Research (SIER) presents numerous opportunities for students, professors, and other researchers to collaborate on academic projects and present to international audiences.

# LETTER FROM OUR DEAN

Dear friends,  
Greetings!

Africa is changing and it has become the home of fast growing economies. ASE aims to positively impact this transformation by training the next generation of African leaders with excellent professional and ethical leadership skills.

As the incoming Dean, I see four main strengths of ASE: an innovative curriculum, location and international environment, research centers, and partnerships with universities across the world. First, its innovative curriculum is designed to integrate academic excellence, ethical leadership skills, an experiential learning approach and personal attention to each student. Second, its location is in a country renowned for its political stability, cultural richness and intellectual vitality. Furthermore, while the university is in a francophone country, all of the courses are in English and the research institutes are bilingual English-French. This places students in a context of multicultural learning and interaction, preparing them to successfully integrate into local and global companies. Third, ASE's research centers (IERPE, IAS, IFM) make it unique as an educational institution. Researches work closely with local companies, governmental and non-governmental agencies and industries, and students have an opportunity to participate in funded research throughout their time at ASE. These experiences will give them the necessary professional skills to succeed at the end of their formation. In other words, they will hit the ground running. Fourth, ASE is building strong international partnerships with some of the best universities in the world, which allow for an exchange of faculty, students, and ideas. Overall, ASE's strengths will help contribute to training the next generation of world-class social scientists in Africa.

*“ASE places students in a context of multicultural learning and interaction, preparing them to successfully integrate into local and global companies”*

Whether you are a business leader who wants to contribute effectively to the development of our continent or a prospective student who wants to study in a safe, respectful, and multicultural environment, where you will mingle with students from many countries across Africa, interact with world-class professors, be guided by young and dynamic local faculty and staff, come join us at ASE for a great journey together!



Father Claude Domfang, Ph. D.  
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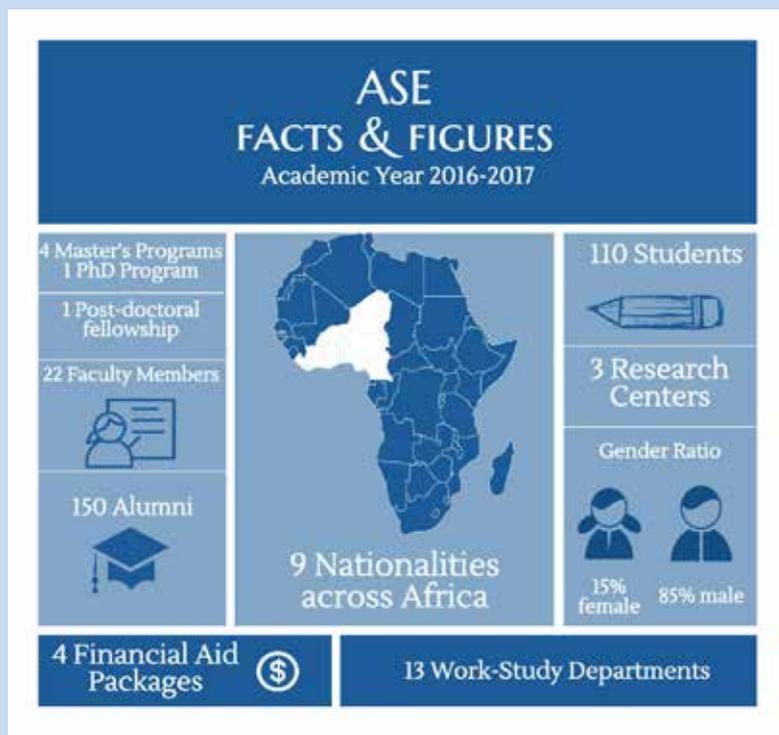


## THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The African School of Economics is a leader in higher education in West Africa because of its ability to attract highly accomplished students and scholars from all over the world. A continuation of the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE) founded by Professor Léonard Wantchekon in 2004 in Cotonou, Benin, the African School of Economics is currently offering five graduate programs and a doctoral degree. A total of 15 nationalities are represented in our student body. Those who join ASE are attracted not only by its solid curriculum, inspired by North American university standards, but also by the opportunity that attending classes in English represents.

Our academic programs are the real source of our pride and whichever program our students choose, we guarantee that they will learn from faculty experts who are dedicated to helping students develop their potential.

Along with regular coursework ASE offers a wide array of extra-curricular activities such as the Academic Research and Professional Seminar Series, internship opportunities, the work study program and much more. These activities are key to our approach to education as they make learning come alive while providing our students with an advantage in the job market after graduation.





## FACULTY & RESEARCH

*“ASE Faculty are young and ambitious social scientists who thrive for academic excellence and policy relevance. They are dedicated teachers and mentors for our students”*

**Leonard Wantchekon**  
**President and Founder**

ASE’s academic excellence is the result of its renowned faculty and researchers, who join the school from prestigious universities and research centres from across the globe. ASE places special emphasis on the ability of faculty and researchers to generate knowledge from the connection of seemingly unrelated disciplines (statistics, political science, law, marketing...) By doing so our graduates are ready to face a fast paced world in which employers and head hunters are seeking professionals with rigor and professionalism.

**Through the work study program students and faculty engage in research activities that lead to papers presented at international journals and conferences**

**ASE’s core curriculum provides a unique intellectual grounding for critical thinking skills**

**In 2016 ASE launched 3 new graduate programs**

**Students, Faculty and Staff benefit from 12 international partnership agreements**

**60 students will graduate from ASE in 2016**

# ABOUT ASE

## QUICK FACTS

ASE is a continuation of the Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE) founded by Professor Léonard Wantchekon in 2004 in Cotonou, Benin. IERPE is a nonprofit training and research initiative specializing in Political Economy and Applied Statistics that has provided expertise in public policy and has trained executives for the public and private sectors in West Africa.

The African School of Economics aims to promote cutting-edge economic research, innovative public policy and to contribute to the emergence of worldclass social scientists and business in Africa. To that end, ASE has designed an innovative curriculum and has set-up teaching and exchange partnerships with more than a dozen top universities from around the world.

ASE offers a variety of internal scholarship opportunities to students, including partial-tuition awards. All admitted students are automatically considered for merit scholarships and the work-study program.

ASE hosts three major research centers:

- The Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE)
- The Institute for African Studies (IAS)
- The Institute for Finance and Management (IFM)

## OUR MISSION

The African School of Economics aims to promote cutting-edge economic research, innovative public policy and to contribute to the emergence of worldclass social scientists and business in Africa. To that end, ASE has designed an innovative curriculum and has set-up teaching and exchange partnerships with more than a dozen top universities from around the world.

## The Founder



Dr. Léonard Wantchekon is a Professor in the Politics department and associated faculty in the Economics department at Princeton University. Prior to joining Princeton University, he taught at New York University (2001-2011), and Yale University (1995-2001).

He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Northwestern University (1995) and his M.A. in Economics from Laval University and University of British Columbia (1992). Professor Wantchekon is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the Executive Committee of the Council for International Teaching and Research at Princeton.

# OUR PROGRAMS

ASE offers a wide range of graduate degrees in Business Administration, Public and International Affairs, Quantitative Methods and Economics, and Development Studies, as well as executive degree programs. ASE's programs have two main distinctive features: a strong training in quantitative and qualitative research methods; and a significant exposure to the African Economic History.



## SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

ASE offers a number of financial aid awards to help offset the cost of attendance. ASE financial aid is provided based on merit and/or demonstrated financial need.

### Internal Financial Aid

**INTERNAL TUITION GRANT:** this award is based on both academic merit and demonstrated financial need.

**WORK STUDY PROGRAM:** annual stipend towards the cost of tuition in exchange for 12 hours per week of student employment.

**TEACHING FELLOWSHIP:** stipend towards the cost of tuition in exchange for a given amount of hours of student employment as a lecturer. Only offered to second year Ph.D. students.

### External Financial Aid

ASE partners with a number of international organizations, governmental and non-governmental institutions that sponsor some of its graduate students. Consideration for these scholarships is based on outstanding academic achievement and financial need.

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS

- Master in Mathematics, Economics and Statistics (MMES)
- Master in Business Administration (MBA)
- Master in Public Administration (MPA)
- Master in Development Studies (MDS)
- Ph.D. in Economics

## EXECUTIVE PROGRAMS

- Certificate in Quantitative Finance
- Certificate in Impact Evaluation



# 93 Students

in the **WORK STUDY**  
**PROGRAM** in 2015-16



## Wide Array of Extracurricular ACTIVITIES



## 28 internships and **job** placements in 2015-16



## Promoting SOCIAL CAPITAL through sports

# TESTIMONIALS

**“We at CIDE are very glad to participate in this promising new relationship with ASE. We would like to learn more from ASE experience and to strengthen our linkages with African schools, students and colleagues”**

Dr. David Arellano-Gault  
Provost at CIDE (Mexico)

**“Our collaboration with ASE offers Princeton’s global health students the opportunity to learn the basics of social science research while situated in the field, under the guidance of African researchers and mentors. It offers a promising new model of partnership across continents, fostering multidimensional learning and mutual capacity-building”**

Kristina Graff  
Ass. Director, Center for Health & Wellbeing, Princeton University

**“ASE is uniquely poised at this point to help bolster that stock of well-trained economists who will then take the continent to the next level”**

Dr. Shanta Devarajan  
World Bank Chief Economist for Africa

**“ASE is bringing together extraordinarily talented students and faculty, providing them not only high-level training, but also unique opportunities to conduct innovative research. Students from around the world should find the program challenging”**

Dr. Victoria Barham  
Department of Economics, University of Ottawa

***The path to innovative leadership***

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