

Bourse d'Excellence Bringmann à l'Université de Kinshasa, BEBUK (Excellence Scholarship at the University of Kinshasa)

Rules

Preamble:

According to the strategic plan of the University of Kinshasa (UNIKIN), one of the urgent problems of the UNIKIN is the lack of young students who are interested in an academic career.

Some of the reasons for this situation are the financial problems of the students during their studies, the absence of well-equipped laboratories for a high-level practical training, the unnecessarily long duration of the study, and, consequently, the bad chances for the graduates to be accepted for further studies or research stays abroad.

On this basis, it seemed urgent to launch an efficient scholarship program that will permit excellent young students to be freed from useless, time-consuming jobs to earn their living, thus enabling them to dedicate their entire time, power, and enthusiasm to their studies at a highest-possible level, to provide these students with technical and practical experience, and, in particular, to encourage them to embrace the academic career.

Such a program has been started recently, on April 1st, 2008, by three professors of Chemistry and Pharmacy, among them Prof. Gerhard Bringmann (from Würzburg, Germany), who has, over the past years, contributed many ideas and activities to improve the situation at the UNIKIN, i.a., by scientific collaboration in the field of natural product chemistry, by giving lecture courses, by collecting and sending more than 30 tons of books (and analytical instruments), and by initiating the idea of this scholarship system. For this reason the new system carries his name.

Although the UNIKIN has ten faculties with more than 25,000 students, the program has initially been started with a limited number of subjects (Chemistry and Pharmacy) and students (each two per subject), to first gain experience and validate the new scholarship system. After this *pilot phase I*, the optimized and evaluated program has now been extended to students from three further subjects, viz. Medicine, French Literature, and Law (*pilot phase II*), i.e., from five out of ten faculties. At longer term, the system shall be extended to all subjects of the UNIKIN, possibly organized by a new NGO, which is being planned.

1. Aims

The aims of this excellence scholarship program are:

- to select the best students of the respective subject,
- to allow them to be entirely dedicated to their studies,
- to provide them with the best-possible practical and technical experience, e.g., to provide them access to the internet,

- to intensify and accelerate their studies,
- to prepare them for exchange study programs with other universities (possibly as guest students), and, later, for research stays abroad, e.g., in Germany
- to encourage them to embrace the academic career, and, finally, to form a new generation of excellent researchers and university teachers.

2. The Name

The name of this excellence scholarship program is given in honor of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Gerhard Bringmann (honorary professor at UNIKIN) as follows:

“Bourse d’Excellence Bringmann à l’Université de Kinshasa”, BEBUK (Excellence Scholarship Bringmann at the University of Kinshasa)

3. Funding

The funds for the scholarships (see below) and for other required expenses are covered by the three founding members; further scholarships are financed by additional persons, through personal sponsorships.

4. Criteria for Eligibility

In *pilot phase II*, students will be considered for support for the third, fourth, or fifth year of study of Chemistry, Pharmacy, French Literature, or Law; for Medicine: from the fourth year or later. Among these students, the very best students will be selected, i.e. those who are far above the average with respect to

- theoretical knowledge and experimental skill, as evident from the exams,
- but also social competences and
- further skills (e.g., languages).

5. Election Process

5.1 Application

a) Excellent students fulfilling the above criteria are encouraged to apply for the BEBUK scholarship before the begin of the academic year; for the exact deadline, see announcements (and also www.bebuk.org; presently under construction).

b) Documents (New Times Roman, 12 pt, preferably in English) to be included to the application:

- a CV (tabular form, maximum 1 page);
- a letter of application (maximum 2 pages), containing the applicant’s motivations and plans (e.g., why he/she has chosen his/her subject of study, what is the carrier plan, and why applying for the BEBUK scholarship, life visions, etc.);
- a short, but concise and specific recommendation by one UNIKIN professor plus one additional referee.

5.2 Selection

The selection committee selects the most qualified applicants and invites them to an interview consisting of

- a short presentation (10 minutes strictly) on a scientific topic given in the invitation letter (e.g. a topic from one of the lecture courses), assisted by chalk and blackboard, followed by a short discussion, and
- an interview by the committee.

The BEBUK committee informs the applicants about the decision. The decision is without suit.

6. Scholarship Coverages

The amount of the scholarship is monthly, it covers 12 months per year and it is decided by the BEBUK committee.

BEBUK will try to provide assistance to facilitate studies and to promote the students (e.g. by scientific books, journals, by web access, or other); these will be specified in the agreement letter.

The awardees will be informed about any further relevant issues by the committee in due course.

7. Obligations for the Scholarship Holders

Every chosen student has to sign an act of agreement before joining the BEBUK program.

After the first semester and 2 months before the end of the second semester (exact deadline will be given), every BEBUK scholarship holder has to provide a report of his/her study activities (including the results) plus additional activities if relevant. On the basis of these two reports and an interview (in English) the Committee will decide if the scholarship will be prolonged during the following academic year.

The decision on the prolongation (or end) of the scholarship is communicated to the student.

8. Assistants

The BEBUK committee members plan to extend the BEBUK program to fellowships for excellent assistants in the BEBUK-supported subjects, to allow them to engage themselves entirely in their duty at the University.

9. The BEBUK Committee

During the *pilot phase II* the BEBUK is managed by a committee of the following members:

- the President: presently Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. G. Bringmann; the President is the manager and official representative of BEBUK;
- the Vice-President, responsible for financial affairs: presently Prof. Dr. Virima Mudogo; the Vice-President presents an annual financial report to be controlled and approved by the BEBUK committee;
- the Secretary: presently Prof. Dr. Dibungi T. Kalenda; he prepares the yearly BEBUK reports, to be approved and published by the Committee.
- These three members form the Executive Panel.

- further members: at least one representative of the respective subjects (for *pilot phase II*: Chemistry, Pharmacy, Medicine, French Literature, and Law).
- associated members: selected international experts from the respective subjects from universities, research institutes, and/or from industry.
- These latter two groups of members / associated members are elected by the Executive Panel once per year, by consensus.

The BEBUK committee is an independent organ, it manages all issues regarding the BEBUK.

Decisions will be taken with simple majority of the members; in the case of equality of votes, the president decides.

In the case of non-availability, the vote can be transferred to another member of the Committee.

The present Executive Panel will be active during the pilot phases.

Exclusion of members requires a 2/3 majority and the consensus of the Executive Panel.

Any other possible problem encountered by the Committee and not specified in these rules is to be regulated by a fair discussion between the committee members.

10. Final Statement

During the pilot phases, the decision to dissolve the BEBUK is to be taken only by the Executive Panel.

Done in Würzburg, December 1st, 2008

.....
Gerhard Bringmann

and in Kinshasa, December 5, 2008

.....

Dibungi Kalenda Virima Mudogo