Minigrid Digitalisation Entrepreneurship
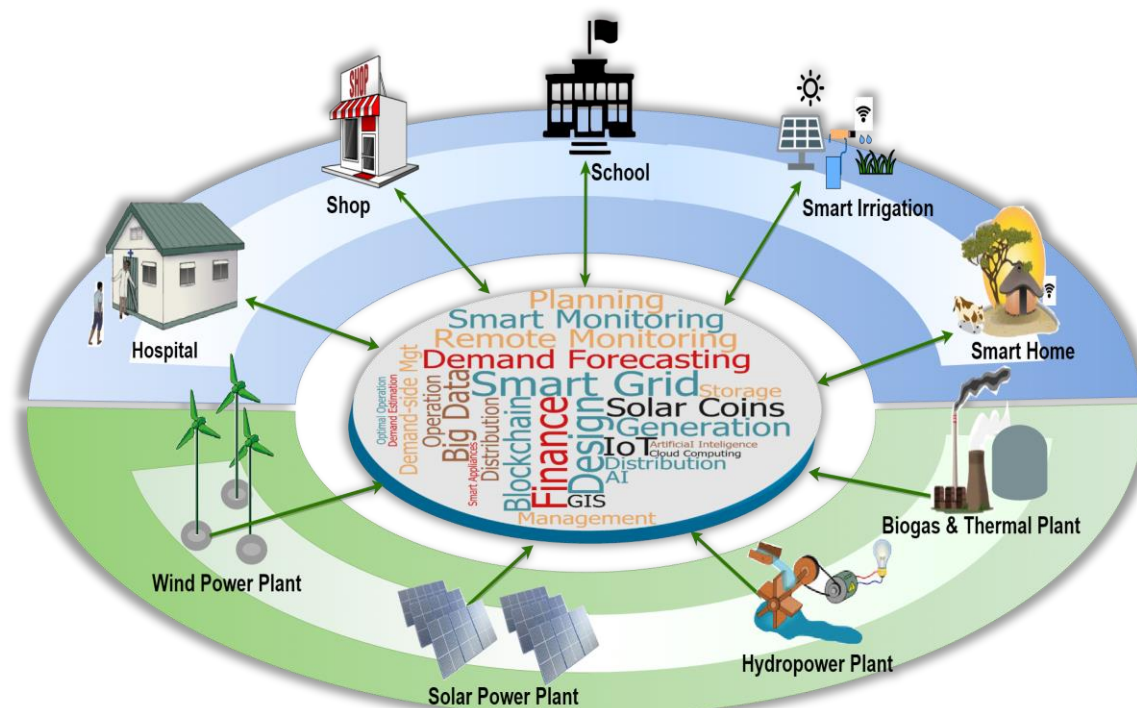
An online postgraduate programme to strengthen youth entrepreneurship capacities on the continent

PAU
Pan African University
Université PanAfricaine

UKaid
from the British people

TEA
Transforming Energy Access

www.pau-mde.com

About

The PAU Minigrid, Digitalization Entrepreneurship (PAUWES-MDE) is a new online postgraduate programme the Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES) is developing to **strengthen youths' capacity** on the continent with innovative business ideas in the mini-grid sector with **technical and entrepreneurial skills** for the creation of smart businesses and start-ups in African energy access sector.

Classical education component

Online Incubation

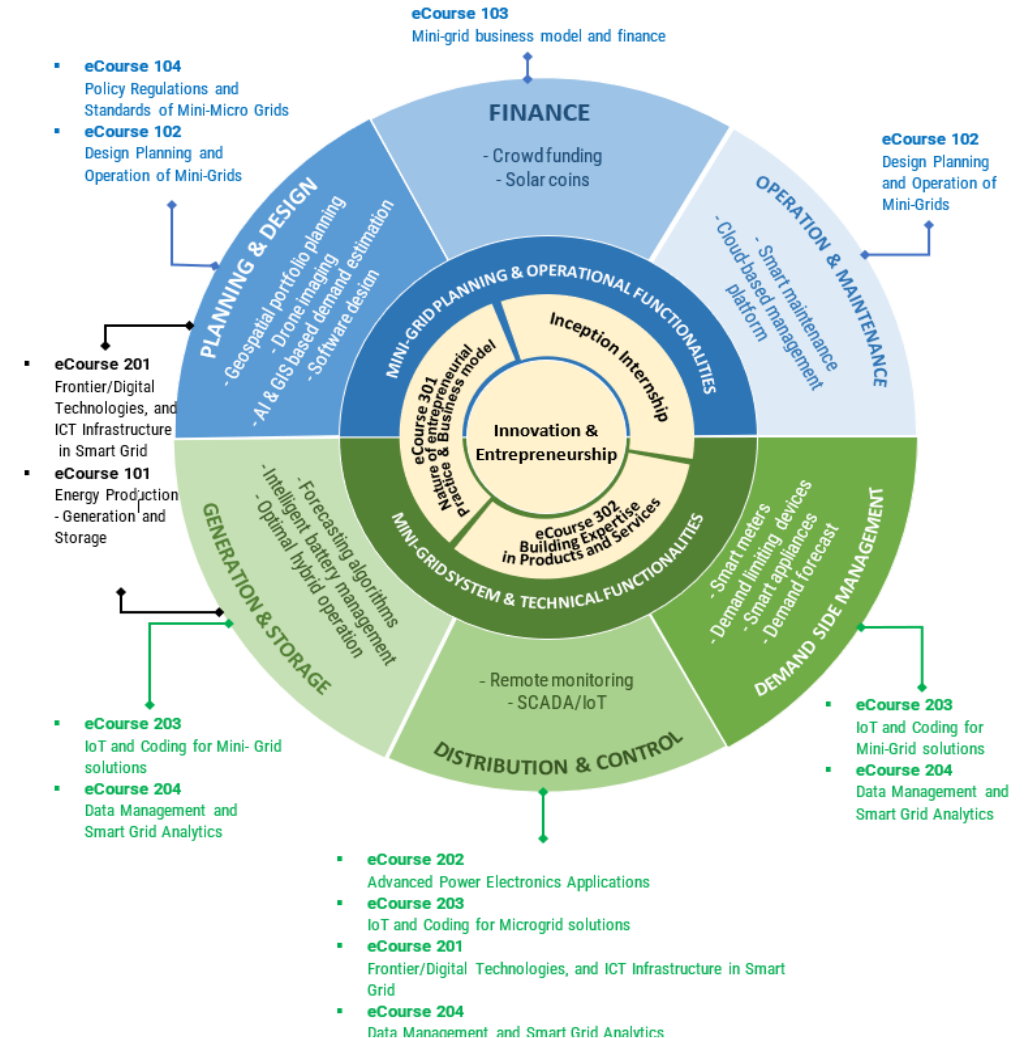**Mentorship**

Programme features

Overview

Programme overview

The programme is built around three layers as represented in the diagram.

- The **first layer** in the center which is transversal, and covers innovation and entrepreneurship skills and knowledge;

- The **second layer** highlights the main functionalities of mini-grid grouped in two main clusters: Operation & Maintenance and System & Technical functionalities;

- The **third layer** presenting the different courses offered by the programme aiming at developing specific digital-based capacity and skills applicable to a specific functionality of mini-grid, in which the students would develop their entrepreneurial business cases and prototypes.
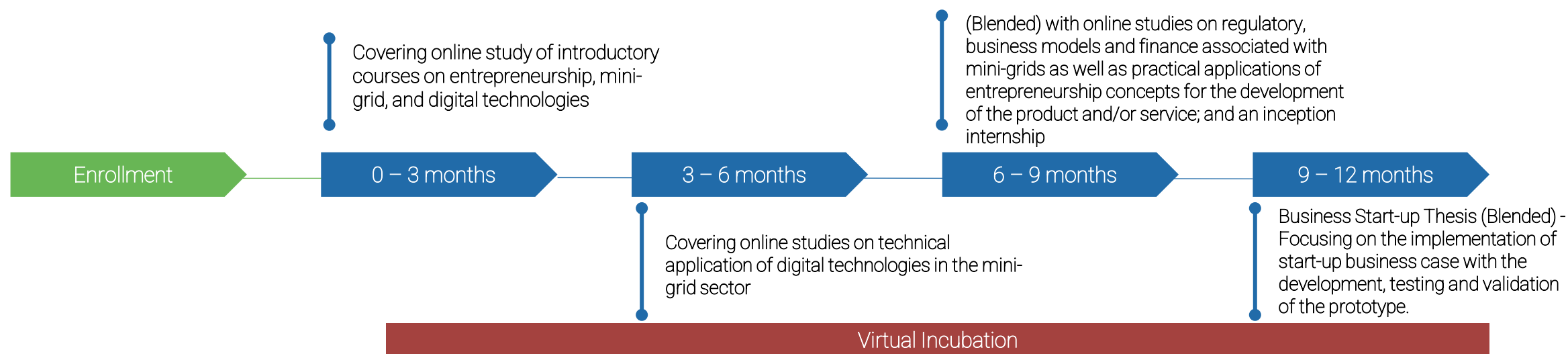
Programme Duration

The programme is designed for a period of **four terms** duration.

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At a glance

The programme structure

Covering online study of introductory courses on entrepreneurship, mini-grid, and digital technologies

(Blended) with online studies on regulatory, business models and finance associated with mini-grids as well as practical applications of entrepreneurship concepts for the development of the product and/or service; and an inception internship

| Enrollment | 0 – 3 months | 3 – 6 months | 6 – 9 months | 9 – 12 months |

Covering online studies on technical application of digital technologies in the mini-grid sector

Business Start-up Thesis (Blended) - Focusing on the implementation of start-up business case with the development, testing and validation of the prototype.

Virtual Incubation

The programme uses **problem-based** and **experiential learning**, following a blended approach that combines online lectures, tutorials, assignments and practical exercises.

The programme is offered using English as instruction language.

The programme is **accessible** across the continent

Dedicated mentorship support throughout the programme from industry experts and practitioners on the continent

Students connected to an Entrepreneurship Community (**Virtual incubator**) built around the programme to develop their business ideas

Admission Requirements

1 Be an African citizen

2 Maximum age of 35 years for both male and female applicants

3 Master* degree from a recognized university in a relevant field (renewable energy, energy, ICT with background in energy, etc.)

4 An innovative business idea across the mini-grid value chain or ICT application to energy

5 A recommendation letter from at least one university lecturer

6 Be computer literate (use of internet, computer, etc.

7 Be fluent in English

* An undergraduate university degree in renewable energy or energy related sector may also be considered

Female candidates are highly encouraged to apply.

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Why choosing the programme

An environment to develop expertise in the mini-grid and digital technologies nexus

- Cutting edge technical knowledge and skills to implement innovative solutions in the energy access sector to drive the economic development of the continent
- Latest entrepreneurship concepts and tools for the development of successful business and start-ups on the continent

State-of-the-Arts facilities

- Latest online learning environment with dedicated digital tools for a unique learning experience
- Virtual incubation space to mature start-ups and business ideas
- Access to business information related database

International environment

- Internationally renowned academic and private sector experts from across the continent
- Partners in the entrepreneurship ecosystem in Africa and beyond
- Cooperation with accelerators of local Tech Hubs on the continent and internationally to mature the start-up prior to their deployment into the market
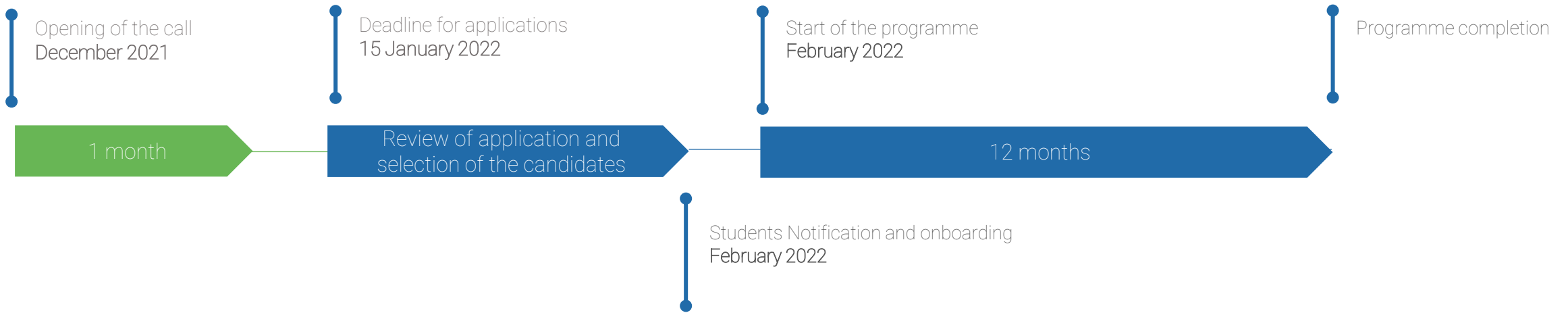
Career perspectives/opportunities

- The programme offers students from Africa and the diaspora the chance to bring their business ideas in the mini-grid to fruition.
- With the support of the industry's experts and stakeholders of the entrepreneurship ecosystem, successful students will develop successful start-ups including Non Governmental Organisations, Social Enterprises, and businesses in the mini-grid value chain on the continent.

Scholarship

- Successful and committed African candidates to the programme will be offered to take the programme **free of charge**. The tuition and costs associated to the purchase of specific software and equipment needed to undertake the practical class and exercises will be offered.

Timelines

Opening of the call
December 2021

Deadline for applications
15 January 2022

Start of the programme
February 2022

Programme completion

1 month

Review of application and selection of the candidates

12 months

Students Notification and onboarding
February 2022

To apply kindly follow the link below:
https://pau-mde.org/calls/submit-your-application-final/

Connect with us

The Consortium

The **Pan African University Institute for Water and Energy Sciences (including Climate Change) (PAUWES)** is one of the five hubs of the Pan African University; an initiative of African Union Commission to create excellence and revitalize higher education and research in Africa. Part of its core mandate is to enhance the development of programmes in this area. PAUWES capitalises on the youth's potential by developing their capacities through education, leading to entrepreneurship and the creation of start-ups. Consequently, this fosters employability on the continent.

The **Global e-Schools and Communities Initiative (GESCI)** is an international non-profit organisation founded on the recommendation of the United Nations Task Force on ICT. GESCI is an accredited online training provider specializing in developing curricula and skills programmes that promote entrepreneurship. It envisions a world with widespread use of digital technologies to achieve a higher level of inclusiveness and equality, making use of ICT in the provision of services, including skills development for youth enterprise and employment.

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