

**pasgr.org**

PARTNERSHIP FOR AFRICAN SOCIAL  
& GOVERNANCE RESEARCH



**The PASGR Institute**  
**Developing Africans for excellence**  
**in research for public policy**

## Developing Africans for excellence

The push for transformative governance in Africa demands that research and academic institutions, think-tanks and public sector generate and make use of the best available evidence from social science research for policy development and implementation.

This, in turn, demands a cadre of highly-skilled and competent researchers and policy actors who can provide top quality evidence and advice to inform policies, programmes and projects.

The PASGR Institute is an innovative programme for strengthening individual and institutional capacities to generate and utilise evidence-based public policy in Africa.

The PASGR Institute partners with world class research and academic institutions to:

- Tool (equip) and re-tool (re-equip) researchers and policy actors with research methods and policy analysis capacities
- Deepen institutional capacity to design, deliver and accredit distinctive professional development courses in research methods
- Develop an active community of practice and knowledge base for excellence in social science research

## Suite of high-level courses

The PASGR Institute offers a suite of high-level professional development courses for active and committed researchers, academic leaders and policy actors. The courses are designed to be adaptable for different research and policy audiences, and are especially effective when bringing together participants from different organisations and disciplinary backgrounds.

Courses are developed and delivered through partnerships with scholars from world class research institutions — including the Institute of Development Studies (IDS) at the University of Sussex, UK — and a cadre of highly motivated African scholars who undergo a training of trainers programme. Course modules are regularly reviewed and redesigned to ensure currency and relevance.

# Learning Modules

## Research Modules

- Advanced Research Design for policy-oriented research course lends itself to the Multi Methods Research approach (integrating both qualitative and quantitative paradigms) which is relevant to public policy and governance. It covers the following four modules:
  - Designing Social Inquiry
  - Mixed Methods Strategies
  - Critical Policy Engaged Research
  - Ethics in Social Science Research Methods
- Survey Design and Execution
- Comparative Case Studies
- Interpretative Methods and Ethnography
- Social Network Analysis
- Applied Quantitative Methods
- Action Research

## Policy Modules

- Informed Research Consumers
- Contemporary Political Economy Analysis
- Gender and Public Policy Transformation in Africa: Understanding and Practice

## Cross-Cutting Modules

- Impact Evaluation for Policy
- Engendering Social Science Research Methods
- Writing Scholarly Papers



## What course participants say

**“The course helped me to better conceptualise and complete my PhD thesis”**

*Doctoral candidate*

**“The courses expose participants to new directions in evidence-based policy research”**

*Team Leader, Policy Research Institution*

**“The training equipped me with skills to better supervise postgraduate students through thesis writing”**

*University lecturer*

**“The program made me rethink the way I have been teaching research methods”**

*Senior university lecturer*

**“The program enhanced my competence in undertaking research and analysis, and to better communicate with policy actors”**

*Research officer*

**“The PDT Programme offers the most elaborate participatory training by far compared to others in the African region”**

*PASGR Executive Director*

## Target audience and delivery

The PASGR Institute targets early and mid-career individual researchers, as well as policy actors, primarily from research and academic institutions, think-tanks, development sector, civil society and public sector across Africa. The training is offered along two tracks:

**Researcher-centred:** Targets post-graduate students, doctoral candidates, early and mid-career researchers including post-doctoral researchers, activists and academic faculty. The aim is to strengthen skills and competence in conducting rigorous policy research and generate robust evidence-based knowledge products.

**Policy-centred:** Offers policy actors, activists and policy researchers a unique opportunity to develop capacity to 'own' and utilise social science research and data for policy making.


**The courses are delivered through two main approaches: Open entry and tailor-made.** Open entry, targeting individuals with diverse backgrounds but with similar learning needs, and tailor-made courses delivered on request, typically aimed at institutional teams with specific learning needs, through in-house training.



# Innovation in course design and delivery

The PASGR Institute applies world-class innovation in design and delivery of courses to enrich learners' experience and maximise impact and reach:

- Interactive learning methods are used to provide a more practical, experiential approach to training—for example, through group discussions and role play—and ensure exceptional learning moments
- All courses are configured for blended delivery, i.e. can be offered through off-line and on-line platforms
- Multi-media resources for interactive delivery include e-cases, animations, recorded 'instructional moments' from previous training, instructional audio and video clips, and web-based interactions
- A quality assurance mechanism ensures that each training is different in terms of content and delivery
- A committed team of highly motivated body of instructors ensures a continuous review process to keep the programme current and relevant
- Tailored courses are available for specific audiences — particularly institutional participants — through in-house trainings



**The PASGR Institute acknowledges gender integration in sustainable development, promotes equal access to training by both female and male participants, provides content that is gender sensitive and well mainstreamed, and offers relevant and targeted modules on engendering social science research and policy process. Female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.**

## Funding

The PASGR Institute is supported by limited donor funding and, therefore, only subsidises the training (tuition) costs. Prospective participants are expected to fully cater for their living or travel expenses, in addition to the partial training (tuition) costs. Participants are encouraged to self-fund their participation or seek sponsorship from their employers or partner institutions.

## About PASGR

The Partnership for African Social and Governance Research (PASGR) is an independent, non-partisan pan-African organisation established in 2011 and located in Nairobi, Kenya. PASGR is a 501(c) (3) not-for-profit organisation. Currently engaged in more than 16 African countries, PASGR works to enhance research excellence in governance and public policy that contributes to the overall wellbeing of the population. PASGR focuses on the production and dissemination of policy relevant research; designing and delivery of suites of short professional development courses for researchers and policy actors; and development of collaborative higher education programmes. Through three core programmes (research, professional development and training and higher education), and in collaboration with the right mix of universities, research institutions, government, policy actors, researchers and academics, PASGR works towards a vibrant African social science community addressing the continent's public policy issues.

### **For more information, contact:**

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