

African entrepreneurs sought for funding programme

By Tom Jackson

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The Accra-based Meltwater Entrepreneurial School of Technology (MEST) has opened applications to entrepreneurs in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya, South Africa and Ivory Coast to join its entrepreneurship programme and stand the chance of gaining funding of up to US\$100,000.



The latest <u>MEST</u> programme will begin in Accra in August, and will be the most pan-African yet, after it extended to accepting <u>South African</u>, <u>Kenyan</u> and <u>Ivorian</u> entrepreneurs over the last 18 months.

Selected entrepreneurs will be exposed to new and diverse cultures, learn how to become globally competitive, and be eligible to receive seed funding of between US\$50,000 and US\$100,000 from the Meltwater Foundation.

The entrepreneurs-in-training (EITs) who are accepted into MEST also receive perks that allow them to focus 100% on building globally successful software companies, such as accommodation for one year in Ghana, three meals a day, and a small monthly stipend.

Applications are open <u>here</u>, with South African entrepreneurs required to apply by March 10. For those in Ghana, Nigeria, Kenya and Ivory Coast, the deadline is May 10.

Previous MEST entrepreneurs have developed solutions addressing local and global markets, received outside follow-on funding from global investors, and have gained admittance to top accelerator programmes, such as Y-Combinator, 500 Startups and Techstars.

ABOUT TOM JACKSON

- Co-founder @DisruptAfrica. Tech and business journalist in Africa. Passionate about the vibrant tech startups scene in Africa, Tom can usually be found sniffing out the continent's most exciting new companies and entrepreneurs, funding rounds and any other developments within the growing ecosystem
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