



# AFRICAN GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION

2023 / 2024



In Celebration of Our  
Inaugural Gala and the  
Class of 2024.



# CELEBRATING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS AND SETTING NEW GOALS



## ACHIEVEMENTS

The E-Boards of 2023/2024 reflect on this term with immense pride and gratitude. Our collective efforts have led to significant achievements and laid a strong foundation for AGSA'S future. Here are some of our key accomplishments:

- **Strengthened Community Bonds:** Through various initiatives, we have fostered a strong sense of community and mutual support among our members, contributing to African graduate students' inclusion and sense of belonging.
- **Career Development:** Our leadership established the foundation for the AGSA Graduate Professional Mentorship Program, including the creation of a mentorship interest form and the establishment of connections with professionals and prospective alumni to become mentors. Additionally, our successful hosting of a career event brought professionals together to provide essential advice to students.
- **Financial Resources:** Considering the financial constraints faced by many graduate students and AGSA's funding limitations, our leadership compiled a document of financial resource recommendations and initiated AGSA's first fundraising efforts to eventually support our members in navigating these challenges.
- **Alumni Network:** We set up an alumni info database that contributes to building a strong alumni network, enhancing mentorship, opportunities, and community.
- **Enhanced Organization Visibility:** Through the development of our website and social media platforms, we've significantly increased our organization's visibility, connecting with new and current students, faculties and the broader audience.



## LOOKING AHEAD

As you step into 2024/2025, we're thrilled to share some key initiatives that will continue to shape and strengthen the African Graduate Student Association (AGSA) community:

- **Financial Resources and Access to Opportunities:** The Office of the Academic Chair will ensure regular updates on available opportunities for African students, both on and off-campus and advocate for more financial opportunities within the school.
- **Stronger Community Building:** We'll be hosting a town hall meeting to gather valuable feedback and suggestions from our members, fostering a stronger sense of community and collaboration on initiatives benefiting us all. We also hope to increase the number of active members in AGSA. By creating a welcoming environment for new students and fostering a stronger sense of community, we aim to boost participation and engagement within our organization.
- **Partnering with Other African Graduate Associations in Boston:** Collaboration with our counterparts in other African graduate associations will enable us to share resources, best practices, and create impactful initiatives that benefit our collective community.
- **Professional Development & Networking Event:** We are committed to providing networking opportunities to enhance our members' skills and expand their professional networks, fostering personal and career growth.

# AGSA'S FOUNDATIONAL MILESTONES

## A Timeline of Formation, Community building, and Firsts

**February 13, 2023**

### First Meeting

This meeting was held to discuss AGSA's establishment roadmap. Attended by Femi Lamptey, NASO president, Beza Ayalaw, co-founder & outgoing VP of AGSA, Etta Brooks, then-Project Manager of AGI, co-founder & outgoing president of AGSA, & Promise Onyibe, Global Partnerships Assistant at Employer Engagement.



**March 20, 2023**

### Engagement With Advisor

Etta and Beza met with Dr. Richard Wamai to discuss plans to establish AGSA and advising. It was an exciting coincidence as Dr. Wamai had been in conversations with other professors to establish a community body for African graduate students.



**August 15, 2023**

### Notification of preliminary recognition

While we did not yet possess the full privileges of a mature organization, this phase served as an opportunity for growth. Upon demonstrating progress, we were called to advance to the next stage or the tentative recognition stage.



**October 3, 2023**

### First Executive Board Meeting

The first E-Board Meeting was held in the College of Social Sciences and Humanities at Northeastern University Renaissance Park. Initially, we had six e-board members, and later, four more were added.



**October 10, 2023**

### First Full Student Body Meeting

Meet & Greet event, the first gathering with the entire student body was meant to discuss the ongoing establishment of AGSA, opportunities to serve in leadership roles, and foster connections. On October 13, 2023, AGSA received Tentative recognition.



**February 1, 2024**

### Student Government presentation

Bezawit Ayalew, Etta Brooks, Stephen Adepoju, Abdullahi Bello, and Victor Kaweesa presented AGSA to the Graduate Student Government. This was the final step to receiving full recognition. AGSA was voted approved on this day and later received an official recognition email.



**February 15, 2024**

### Full Recognition

AGSA received full recognition and is now eligible to receive all privileges of a recognized student organization.



# EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

A Celebration of Heritage, Unity, & Empowerment



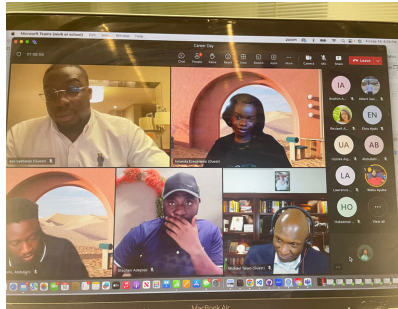
Meet & Greet  
October 10, 2023



African Gourmet Fest  
and Potluck  
December 15, 2023



AFCON Watch Party  
February 11, 2024



AGSA Career Day  
February 16, 2024



African Game Night  
March 8, 2024

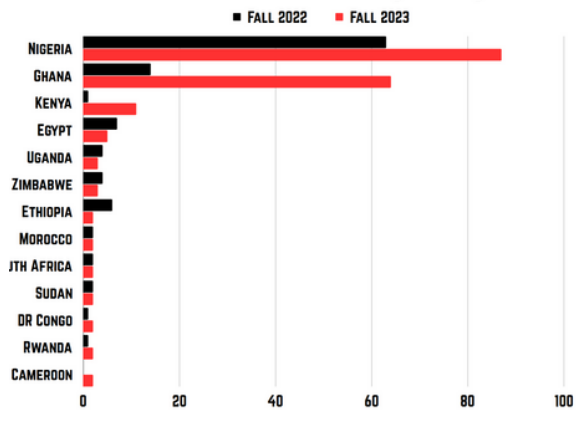


AGSA Inaugural Gala &  
Class of 2024  
celebration  
April 27, 2024

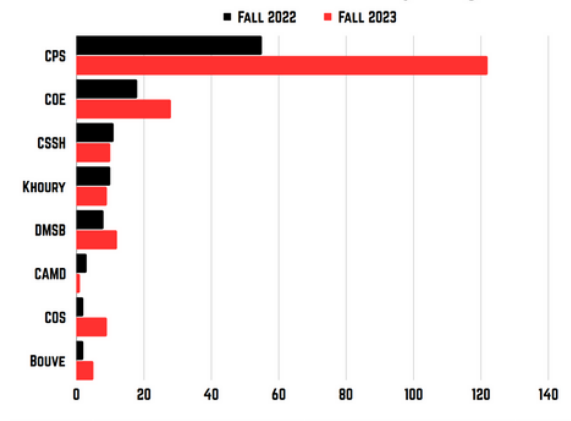


# AFRICAN GRADUATE STUDENTS IN NUMBERS

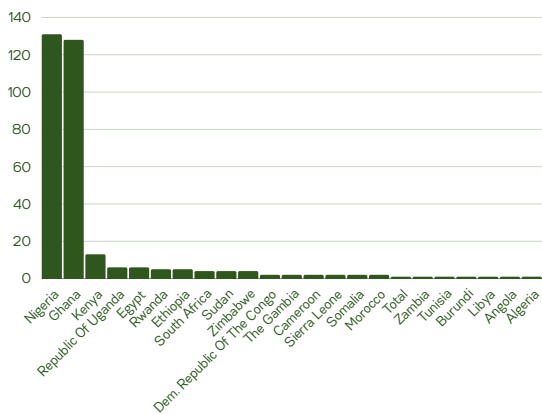
Graduate Enrollments - By Country



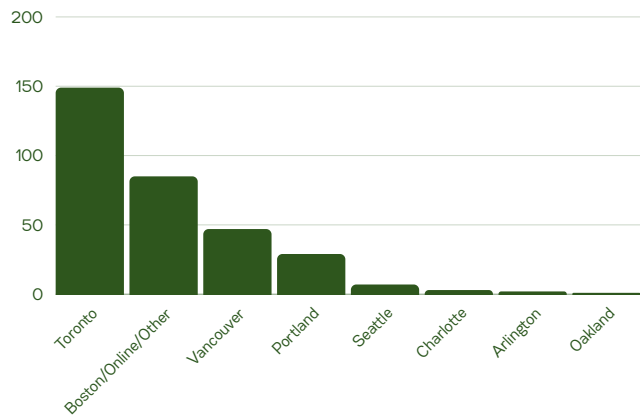
Graduate Enrollments - By College



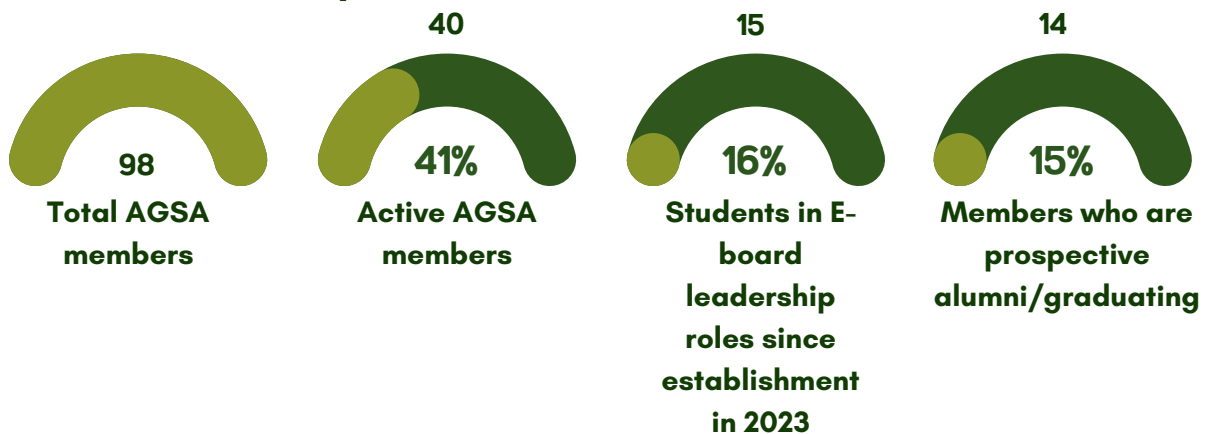
Graduate Enrollment - By Country 2024



Graduate Enrollment - By Campus 2024



## AGSA Membership Record



# Advice from Graduates to Current and Incoming Students

1

## Albert

As you navigate your journey as an African international student at Northeastern University, remember to speak up, network, and above all, be yourself. Your voice, connections, and authenticity will not only contribute to your personal and academic growth but also enrich the vibrant tapestry of diversity that defines the Northeastern community.

2

## Maina

Northeastern is great in a lot of ways — from the city, to the faculty, to the co-op program — make sure you enjoy it all.

3

## Kenechi

Stay strong amidst trials and seek comfort from home and peers. Remain focused and filter out the noise. Remember who you are and the significance of your name

4

## Feyi

Join communities that resonate with you. You are never alone.

[HTTPS://AGSA.SITES.NORTHEASTERN.EDU/](https://agsa.sites.northeastern.edu/)

1

## Maria Gloria

Your life is your story and the adventure ahead of you is the journey to fulfill your own purpose and potential.

2

## Bezawit

Embrace every challenge as an opportunity to grow, stay curious, and never underestimate the power of perseverance.

3

## Dare

Sometimes it looks so tough, the stress of being an international student. Far from home, fighting for survival, and again the culture shock. But whatever it is, keep your eyes on the prize and take it step by step. And don't forget to celebrate each progress, don't forget to live the moment, and have a full experience of both school and Boston itself.

4

## Amalachukwu

"The single biggest problem in communication is the illusion that it has taken place."  
George Bernard Shaw

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1

## Etta

Never feel held back from pursuing opportunities that genuinely interest you. View challenges as learning opportunities, seek improvement, and find supportive spaces. School can get really stressful and overwhelming; make sure to take care of your health and give yourself time to relax.

2

## Ayesha

Leverage the diversity you contribute to any team to create a significant impact. Explore new experiences and build meaningful connections that will last a lifetime.

3

## Victor

Resources! They are endless at Northeastern University. If you need something, small or big, ask.

4

## Jeff

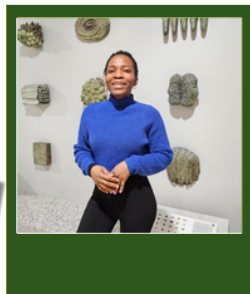
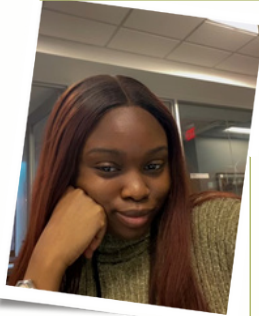
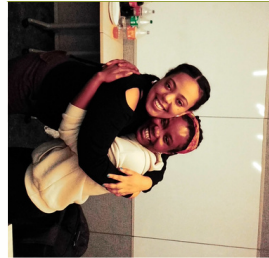
Be curious. Ask questions, explore. Take advantage of everything the school has to offer because at the end of the day Northeastern wants you to succeed. Wishing you all the best in your endeavors.

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# LEAVE A NOTE FOR THE GRADUATE

GRADUATE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

# Graduating Class In Photos





# Outgoing & Incoming E-Board



**Etta Brooks**

President



**Bezawit Ayalaw**

Vice President



**Stephen Ajepoju**

President



**Jessica Chukwuka**

Vice President



**Victor Kaweesa**

Secretary



**Ayesha Lamin**

Treasurer



**Waliu Ayuba**

Secretary



**Martin Koroma**

Treasurer



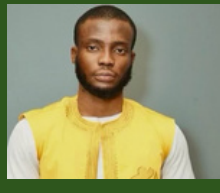
**Abdullahi Bello**

Program Director



**Stephen Ajepoju**

Academic & Career  
Development Chair



**Kwadwo Kyei Boahene**

Program Director



**Lawrence Ajayi**

Academic & Career  
Development Chair



**Colette Aryee**

Social & Cultural Chair



**Jessica Chukwuka**

Director of Public Relations



**Colette Aryee**

Social & Cultural Chair



**AGSA**

African Graduate Students  
Association

TBA

TBA



**Waliu Ayuba**

AGSA Ambassador



**Taiwo Williams**

Historian



**Tayte Adderley**

AGSA Ambassador



**Taiwo Williams**

Historian

2023/2024

2024/2025

# Graduate Spotlight



**Kenechi Dukor**  
Nigeria  
Program: Robotics (CS)

## What does being a member of AGSA mean to you?

Being part of AGSA meant being close to home. The cultural differences can be overwhelming as a new international student.

## What is your favorite AGSA moment?

Core memory of the organization: The food o. Yes, I am FFO.

## What are your other involvements at Northeastern?

I am a member of the Helping Hands Robotics Lab. I am an honorary member of the Indian (Tamil) community.

## Fun activities:

Playing musical instruments (Piano and Guitar), Playing COD, Photography, and Sleeping.

## Advice for incoming students:

Do not forget where you are coming from; remember that we no dey carry last. Remain focused, excel in the classroom, network outside the classroom.

## What's next?

I will be joining Motorola as a Product Management Consultant; Continuing my organizing activities at AI Saturdays Lagos, and then continuing some other t one or two.

**Jeffrey Machyo,**  
Kenya  
MS'23, cyber physical systems

An excerpt from the College of Engineering piece written about Jeffrey:

Jeffrey Machyo, MS'23, cyber physical systems, decided to shift gears to the embedded systems field when he was working as an electrical engineer at an electric power company in Kenya. At Northeastern, he completed a co-op at Desktop Metal, which gave him hands-on experience with programable devices and set him up for a successful career change.

As an electrical engineer at the Geothermal Development Co. in Kenya, Jeffrey Machyo, MS'23, cyber physical systems, found sensors and programmable controllers fascinating, and a bit frustrating. If a problem cropped up with one of these devices, he would need to seek technical support from the manufacturer, a process that could take days.

So, after a seven-year career in power systems, Machyo, who had received a BS in electrical engineering in 2013 from the University of Nairobi, started a search for an advanced degree program focused on embedded systems. As he was scanning YouTube videos for information, he learned about Northeastern's graduate engineering programs, including co-op opportunities.

"The Northeastern co-op plan would give me an extended amount of time to get some practical training," Machyo says. "So that's why Northeastern became a no-brainer."

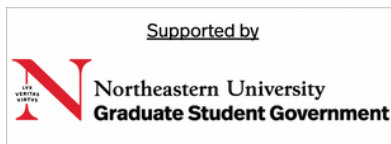
In 2021, he began an MS in the cyber physical system program. One of the highlights was his six-month co-op at the Burlington, Massachusetts-based Desktop Metal, which he began in July 2022.

"What hit me is that we can't control nature, and we can't control when it rains, but we can definitely control how we use the resource," Machyo says. "I haven't thought it through fully yet, but the ultimate thing would be to find a way through work to give back to my Kenyan people."

Check the College of Engineering website to read full article



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT



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# CHEERS TO A GREAT ACADEMIC YEAR

**STAY IN TOUCH**

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