

## Microscopes donated to Gambia.

At the beginning of the 2019/2020 academic year, LJMU Faculty of science kindly donated 46 light microscopes, originally destined for the skip, to the Gunjur Project Association in The Gambia. A charity Dr Laura Randle has supported with Girlguiding Cheshire Forest since 2014 through fundraising, peer learning sessions, educational sponsorship and running practical science sessions at schools in Gambia. The microscopes were fully functional undergraduate level, inverted bright field microscopes that were used for microbiology, histology and general lab work. They were service by the technical staff and were shipped with spares and some ready prepared histology slides.

After some hard negotiations we secured very favourable rates for a 40ft shipping containers to ship the microscopes over to Gambia and set about fundraising £2500 and collecting other donations to fill the container. All donations were very kindly stored free of charge at BASF plc Widnes until required. Each microscope was then lovingly hand wrapped in packing paper and individual boxes before being placed into packing crates for shipping. The container was shipped early March 2020 and arrived safely in Gambia mid April 2020. Unfortunately travel restrictions prevented Dr Randle flying out to meet the container as planned.

A couple of the microscopes were donated to community health centres in Jarra Jappineh and Wellingara, Kombo (Figure 1). Attached is a letter of thanks from Lady Kira Dalton, thanking LJMU for their kind donation. Lady Kira met with Dr Bittaye, Director of Gambia Health Services to inform him of the donations.



Figure 1: Microscope in use at the community health clinics.

25 microscopes were presented to The University of Gambia in Sept 2020 and were very well received with TV cameras in attendance (Figure 2). Attached are letters of thanks and appreciation from Prof Faqir Muhammad Anjum (VC University of The Gambia), Kemo Fatty (President of The solutionists, Gambian student union), Sulayman Gaye (President, UTG Science Students' Association) and Muhammed Hydara (Chairman, Biology Club). They speak of the impact this donation will have upon student learning and experience.



Figure 2: The Gunjur Project Associations, Alagi Bojang presenting The university of Gambia with the microscopes.

The remaining microscopes were presented to a Gambian College in October 2020 who were also very grateful of the donation. Attached is a letter from Isatou Ndow (VP, Gambia College).

I would personally like to thank LJM Faculty of science technical team in preparing the microscope for donation.

OLE project

Dr. Laura Watkin,  
27<sup>th</sup> July, 2020  
John Moore's University,  
Brownlow Hill,  
Liverpool, L3 5UG  
U.K.

Dear Dr. Watkin,

**Microscopes - A big thank you !**

On behalf of the staff and communities of Jarra Jappineh and Wellingara, Kombo in The Gambia, we want to convey our very sincere gratitude for the donation of two microscopes for our lab facilities.

Both of these are primary care Community Health Centres which serve large populations within very poor communities. Having improved lab facilities means our patients no longer needing to travel to bigger hospitals – which they often do not have the funds to do anyway – and receiving better care.

The African Oyster Trust is a small charity run entirely by volunteers. We support several nursery schools around the country as well as these two Health Centres, which opened around ten years ago.

They rely on donations of equipment to enable them to steadily improve the services available in their diagnostic labs. If you have time, take a look at our web site [africanoystertrust.co.uk](http://africanoystertrust.co.uk) where you will see more about our work and photos of both facilities. Jo has some recent photos taken on site for you.

In these very difficult times of Covid when the public health services are under even more strain than usual, being able to offer basic health care on the doorstep of all Gambians becomes an even more urgent ambition. There are now rapidly escalating rates of community transmission here and, in two recent cases, patients who tested positive and subsequently infected many health workers before they passed away, had been brought to the major teaching hospital in Banjul BY TAXI – with the drivers still at large in the community.

You can rest assured that your microscopes will be well looked after and will provide many years of useful service in Jappineh and Wellingara.

Yours sincerely,

Lady Kira Dalton  
Director – African Oyster Trust Charity

**UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA**  
(OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR)



Chancery and Admin Building  
Kanifing Campus  
7th September, 2020

**Ref: ACB117/286/01(156)**  
The Programme Coordinator  
Gunjur Project Association  
Gunjur

Dear Sir

**LETTER OF GRATITUDE AND APPRECIATION IN RESPECT OF DONATED ELECTRONIC  
MICROSCOPES TO THE UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA**

The University of The Gambia presents its compliments to the Programme Coordinator, Gunjur Project Association, and has the honour to express its deepest appreciation to your association for the donation of twenty-five electronic microscopes to our institution.

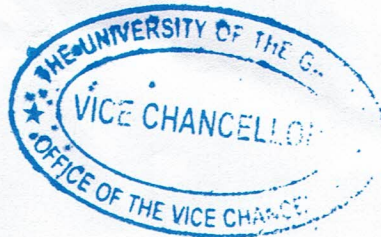
Sir, such a noble gesture would, to a great extent, complement our efforts in promoting quality and relevant education, particularly in Science and Technology. We wish to extend our heartiest thanks and appreciation to John Moore University in Liverpool for providing the equipment and Team Solutionists for championing the negotiation. The University Community is grateful and appreciative of the gesture.

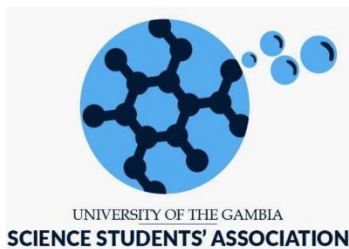
The University of The Gambia avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Gunjur Project Association, John Moore University and Team Solutionists the assurances of its highest consideration and esteem.

Sincerely

*Prof Faqir Muhammad Anjum*  
5/9/2020

**Prof Faqir Muhammad Anjum**  
Vice Chancellor





UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA SCIENCE  
STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION (UTG-SSA)  
BRIKAMA CAMPUS  
THE GAMBIA  
TEL: 3192304/3921711/2182474  
EMAIL: [utgsc@utg.edu.gm](mailto:utgsc@utg.edu.gm)



03<sup>rd</sup>October,2020

The Program Coordinator  
Gunjur Project Association  
Gunjur

Dear Sir,

### LETTER OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the *University of The Gambia Science Students' Association*, it is with profound pleasure that I write to your very noble and benevolent association in deepest appreciation of the recent donation you made to the university. The donation came at the right time. As Science students of the University we are in dire need of scientific equipment. Our laboratories are poorly equipped. Hearing the story about a Biology student completing his or her undergraduate without touching and using a microscope in a laboratory setting is frighteningly very common. But this is now a thing of past, as we are benefiting from this very equipment in our departments. Therefore, these electronic microscopes are undoubtedly going to impact positively towards the practical knowhow and research capabilities of students. We look forward to seeing more donations especially in advanced equipment such as Spectrometers, Spectrophotometers; GC-MS; UV-VIS; Infrared; Fluorescence; Atomic Absorption spectrometers. These materials are what make researches easy and breakthroughs possible.

We wish to extend our sincere thanks to Gunjur Project Association for the good gesture and John Moore University for the immediate intervention in helping our university. We also thank our comrade leaders in Team Solutionists, a trusted and vibrant student support organization in the university that champion students' interests at heart, particularly towards this magnificent opportunity for the university of The Gambia.

Thank you.

Sulayman Gaye  
President, UTG Science Students' Association

# THE SOLUTIONISTS

## The University of The Gambia

### THE SOLUTIONISTS- THE UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA

#### THE SOLUTIONISTS

1. Founded in 2017, **THE SOLUTIONISTS** is a movement of students across the University of The Gambia that advocates for the rights and welfare of the students in the University. The vision for **THE SOLUTIONISTS** is to help shape students to be providers of solutions to the problems that they face and those that face their societies, to be equipped with the necessary tools to defend their rights and to seek opportunities for the general wellbeing of the Students of the University of The Gambia.
2. With the undertaking to contribute in the development of both the University and society through quality education and other measures, **THE SOLUTIONISTS** initiated and collaborated with different partners over the years to provide assistance to students of the University of The Gambia, and have engaged in different community services both in the form of advocacy, research, sensitization and campaigns.

#### ABOUT THE CHALLENGES FACING SCIENCE STUDENTS

3. Since the establishment of the University of The Gambia in 1999, the Science faculties have graduated thousands of students like other faculties/schools. However, the biggest challenge that faced Science students in the University is the lack of practical aspect of their studies which is now public knowledge. **THE UNIVERSITY OF THE GAMBIA IS VIRTUALLY, WITHOUT A FUNCTIONING LABORATORIES.**
4. The University of The Gambia has three labs. The Biology Lab, Physics Lab and Chemistry Lab. These labs are, in realistic terms, simply rooms without any relevant equipment to assist in the Lab courses of the students of the University.
5. Evidently, the lack of practical aspect of the academic journey of the Science students of the University of The Gambia hampers the true understanding of the theoretical part of the degree being sought by these students who constitute more than 15 per cent of the population of University.

There is, therefore, an urgent need for assistance to enable the proper functioning of the laboratories (The Biology Lab, Physics Lab and Chemistry Lab) in the University. The following basic scientific equipment are desirable to assist in the proper functioning of the labs:

DESCRIPTION	SPECIFICATION	PACKAGE QUALITY	OTHERS
Alconox		1	
Assorted Glass Rods		10	
Assorted Glass Rods		12	
Balances	Triple Beam	1	
Balances	Electronic	1	
Beaker Tongs		1	
Beaker with Handle	1,000 mL	1	
Beaker	50 mL	12	
Beaker	250 mL	12	
Beaker	400ml	6	
Broken Glass Collector		6	
Burner	NG	1	
Burner	LP	1	
Drying Rack		1	
Erlenmeyer Flask	100ml	12	
Erlenmeyer Flask	250ml	12	
Erlenmeyer Flask	500ml	6	
Eye Wash Station		1	
Filter Paper	9 cm	100	
Filter Paper	24cm	100	
FlexCam 2		1	
Flint		15	
Funnel	4"	1	
Funnel	6"	1	
Goggles	University Students	10	
Graduated Cylinder	10ml	6	
Graduated Cylinder	25ml	6	
Graduated Cylinder	100ml	2	
Graduated Cylinder	500ml	2	
Graduated Cylinder	100ml	1	
Hand Lens		1	

Hot Plate/Stirrer	7X7"	1	
Kevlar Glove		1	
Lab Cart		1	
Meter Stick with Metal Ends		1	
Nitrile Glove	Small	100	
Nitrile Glove	Medium	100	
Nitrile Glove	X-large	100	
Petri Dish	100 x 15 mm	100	
Pipet, Plastic	3ml	15	
Pipet, Plastic	5ml	1	
Ruler		1	
Spatula (micro spoon)		1	
Sterilizing Goggles Cabinet		1	
Stir Bar		1	
Stir Bar Retriever		1	
Stoppers	2 Assorted	1	
Storage Bottle	Amber	1	
Storage Bottle	Clear	12	
Support Stand with Rings		1	
Test Tube	16 x 150 mm	50	
Test Tube	24 x 150 mm	24	
Test Tube Brush		4	
Test Tube Clamp		1	
Test Tube Rack		1	
Thermometer	Alcohol Immersion	1	
Utility Clamp		1	
Volumetric Flask	100 mL	6	
Volumetric Flask	500ml	6	
Volumetric Flask	1000ml	1	

Wash Bottle	500ml	1	
Weigh Boat		200	
Wire Gauze with Ceramic Centre		1	

## **COMPUTERS (LAPTOPS)**

6. Related to the outlined above challenge is the lack of technical equipment and software desirable in the modern study of Science. To conduct researches, run data analysis with software like MATLAB and to further compliment, and ease learning through technology, the students in the Science needs to be equipped with technological devices such as desktop computers, laptops, tablets, among others.
5. The provision of these apparatus for students (on merit base) especially those who are financially weak, would help to strengthen both their effective study and promote Science in general. The provision of a general software relevant for data analysis would help to ease data collection and analysis during research.
7. The provision of both the equipment and the laptops would benefit hundreds of students in the University of The Gambia currently offering Biology, Chemistry, and Medicine. Additionally, it would indirectly benefit the families of the beneficiaries, the University of The Gambia and also the society in general.
8. By providing the abovementioned equipment to the students through this project, it is expected to facilitate ease data analysis, research and the education of the students offering Biology, Chemistry, and Medicine.
9. It is expected to enable the students to have the practical aspect, which is crucial for their studies.
10. It is also expected to equally enhance and improve the discoveries by the Science students in the University of The Gambia, and thus to an extent, improve the standing of the University.

## **MONITORING AND REPORTING**

11. **PROPER KEEPING OF EQUIPMENT:** There shall be a committee established to monitor the proper utility of the equipment kept in the laboratories. Safety measures and proper up keeping of a scientific lap would be strictly upheld.
12. A report detailing the condition of the laboratories and equipment shall be produced at the end of each academic year for our partner' s consideration.
13. **PROPOSED IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE:** The implementation of this programme shall be based on the availability of the sources (equipment) relevant for its implementation.

Signed

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Kemo Fatty  
President, The Solutionists,  
University of The Gambia.

Biology Unit  
Division of Physical and Natural Sciences  
University of The Gambia



5th October, 2020

Program Coordinator  
Gunjur Project Association  
Gunjur

Dear Sir,

On behalf of all the students of the University of The Gambia Biology club, we would like to thank Gunjur Project Association, John Moore University and Team Solutionists for their tremendous support and partnership for securing a scientific microscopes to the science disciplinary unit on a successful ceremony on September 7, 2020. We greatly appreciate the support of the partners for providing the lab equipment to our department as we have been struggling to further our research on genetics, cells and other microorganism's studies but now that struggle is a thing of past.

The Biology unit is grateful and appreciated the support that came under the leadership of the solutionists' team, we are indeed honor and we will like to assure the partners that we will make the best uses of the microscopes, to assist biology students to do more research and practical.

We look forward a lasting partnership between Gunjur Project Association, John Moore University and Team Solutionists for a better University Education for us.

Yours sincerely

Muhammed Hydera  
Chairman, Biology Club  
University of The Gambia

Gambia College  
PMB 144  
Banjul  
The Gambia  
www.gambiacollege.edu.gm



Principal: Aboubacarr Jallow  
Telephone: 220-44-84-812  
Telephone: 220-44-83-136

**VICE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE**

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2020

To:  
The Gunjur Project  
Gunjur

Dear Friends of Gambia College,

We received a donation of Science equipment (Microscopes) which we request from you. We cannot express how grateful we are to you for such a noble gesture. The arrival of the microscopes is as timely as it coincides with the starting of the academic year after a COVID-19 lock down of almost six months. The donation is also timely as we are developing courses on lab training and we would not be able to implement the training in the absence of lab equipment. This donation means a lot to our institution and the impact it will have on our teaching and learning activities cannot be underestimated.

On behalf of The Gambia College and on my own behalf, I would like to register our sincere gratitude and appreciations for all the support you have been giving to our institution (The Gambia College) through The Gunjur project (Jenny, Jo, Alhagie). We really appreciate all the efforts and hard work put in in order to deliver the Microscopes thank you so much for all the efforts.

I do not want to sound like Oliver Twist asking for more all the time, but, we would be grateful if you can donate to us any science equipment or chemical that could be of use to our institution. Chemicals for the laboratories for teaching and learning are very expensive in the Gambia and not all the time available. I am attaching a list of chemical and other science items that we would be very grateful if you have them and would like to dispose of them to kindly donate them to us. We would also be grateful if you have second hand laptops and other teaching and learning items that you would want to dispose of to donate them to us.

Thanking you so much for all the support

I remain

Yours sincerely,  
  
Isatou Ndow  
Vice principal  
Gambia College  
CC: File



Email: [yp@gambiacollege.edu.gm](mailto:yp@gambiacollege.edu.gm)  
Email: [isatoundw@gmail.com](mailto:isatoundw@gmail.com)  
Email: [isatoundw@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:isatoundw@yahoo.co.uk)

Tel: 220-9908826/ 220-7760102

DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE  
 GAMBIA COLLEGE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION  
 CHEMISTRY EQUIPMENT AND REAGENTS

No	EQUIPMENT	DIMENSION
1	Burette	50ml
2	Pipette	25ml
3	Conical flask	250ml
4	Volumetric Flask	250ml
5	Volumetric Flask	1000ml
6	Dropper (glass)	5ml
7	Retord stand with clamps	
8	Stirring rod (glass)	
9	Tripod stand	
10	fume cuboard	
11	Electronic balance	
12	Test tube	
13	Test tube rack	
14	Beakers	
15	Beehive shelf	any size
16	Motar and pestle	
17	Water bath	
18	Desicator	
19	Oven	
20	Crucible tong	
21	Crucible and lid	
22	Evaporating basin	
23	Bunsen Burner	
24	Wash Bottle	
25	Pipette filler	
26	Test tube Brushes	
27	Centrifuge	
28	pH meter	
29	Colorimeter	
30	Distillation apparatus	
31	Funnel	
32	Separating Funnel	
33	Thistle funnel	
34	Gas jar	
35	Glass trough	
36	Delivery tube	
37	deflagrating spoon	
38	Heating mantle	
39	Spectrophotometer	
40	Stoppers (rubber)	
41	Color charts for univ,indic.	

No	REAGENT/SUBSTANCES	Quantity
1	Acetic Acid glacial	
2	acetone	
3	Agar -Agar	
4	Aluminium metal	
5	Aluminium powder	
6	Aluminium sulfate	
7	Aluminium chloride	
8	Aluminium Potasium sulfate	
9	Aluminium nitrate	
10	Ammonia solution	
11	Ammonium bromide	
12	ammonium carbonate	
13	Ammonium chloride	
14	Ammonium nitrate	
15	Barium hdroxide	
16	Barium carbonate	
17	Barium chloride	
18	Benzene	
19	Biuret solution A and B	
20	Bromine	
21	Bromothymol blue	
22	Buffer solution	
23	Calcium chloride	
24	Calcium nitrate	
25	Calcium hydroxide	
26	Calcium sulfate	
27	Copper (II)chloride	
28	Cobalt (II)chloride	
29	Copper(II)carbonate	
30	Copper(II) chloride	
31	Copper(II)nitrate	
32	Copper(II)sulfate	
33	Ethanol (95%)	
34	Glucose	
35	Iodine crystals	
36	Iodine solution	
37	Iron(II) slfate	
38	Iron (II)slfide	
39	Iron( II)chloride	
40	Iron(III)sulfate	
41	Iron(III) chloride	
42	Iron(III)nitrate	
43	Lead(III)chloride	
44	Lead (III) nitrate	
45	Lead( III) sulfate	
46	Magnesium nitrate	

No	REAGENT/SUBSTANCES	Quantity
47	Magnesium sulfate	
48	manganese (IV) oxide	
49	Methyl orange	
50	Phenolphthelein	
51	Potassium carbonate	
52	Potassium hydrogen carbonate	
53	Conc Hdrochloric acid	
54	ConC sulphuric acid	
55	Conc Nitric acid	
56	Silver nitrate	
57	Sodium carbonate	
58	Sodium hydroxide pellets	
59	Sodium nitrate	
60	Iron(II) sulfide	
61	Universal Indicator	
62	Zinc granules	