The SCOA Foundation, (Student Consultants & Operators for Africa Foundation), is a nonprofit organization dedicated to building opportunities for students in the US and UK to engage professionally with African institutions. SCOA was founded in 2024 by Mr. Ryan Jordan, a US-EU student and serial entrepreneur at Harvard University who has an enduring interest in developing markets and a deep appreciation for African potential, and by Ms. Madonna Okpaleke, a Nigerian professional who has headed Legal and Compliance Departments at Reckitt Benckiser and Coca-Cola HBC, and who previously served as a Federal Prosecutor for the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency of Nigeria.

It is our aim to mold every participant in SCOA into a future representative of their respective country or region that is equipped with the education and connections to leverage a global professional network in the future. Together, working with students across numerous US and UK universities, as well as numerous African businesses, governments, and institutions, we believe SCOA will have great value in not only exposing Western students to Africa, but in establishing and investing in these relationships to generate tremendous value in the future.

Thank you,

Mr. Ryan Jordan and Ms. Madonna Okpaleke

SCOA's main site can be accessed at https://intlscoa.org/, or by the QR code above:

Key Questions Regarding SCOA

What is the value of SCOA?

- For US & UK Students: One of the things that we heard most often from students interested in Africa was that there was no way to engage professionally with the continent at the undergraduate level. SCOA solves this problem by doing the heavy lifting, building relationships with stakeholders across the continent to facilitate the network needed to thoroughly introduce the next generation of Western leaders to the key players and immense opportunities present in Africa. Through SCOA, students can pursue various forms of consulting for African stakeholders, as well as engage with any number of businesses and institutions on the continent as an operator.
- For Our African Partners: We were told once that "top US colleges offer the kind of networks and resources that many people can only dream of." At SCOA, we want to apply those networks to create value for Africans and connect African entrepreneurs, businesspeople, and leaders to the brain power and expertise that exists in the US and UK – the same brain power that is actively seeking opportunities to engage with Africa. Whether our partners are geared towards social impact, revenue generation, or good governance, SCOA connects them to a volunteer network at the top institutions in the US and UK that have a proven track record of producing Western leaders. Here, our partners are able to access the best Western minds and networks in a streamlined and cost-free manner.
- For Students and Partners: Despite SCOA being a term-time and remote experience for the majority of students, it is our ultimate goal to create opportunities for students to travel to Africa to work on their projects directly, as well as to facilitate travel opportunities for African stakeholders and researchers to connect with their teams and explore equivalent markets and institutions in the US and UK.

How does SCOA work?

- SCOA is an independent nonprofit that oversees operations across various university chapters. We facilitate opportunities and help to organize funding for each university chapter, while each chapter is responsible for managing chapter governance and elections, arranging events for members, and recruiting members at their respective universities.
- We partner with a wide variety of African institutions, including fellow nonprofits, for-profit companies, startups, educational institutions, and African governments (at the national and local level, as well as embassies and consulates). Within the next two years we aim to partner with African undergraduate institutions to build joint project teams.
- Once SCOA has established a partnership, we work with our partners to craft projects and timelines that can be accomplished remotely throughout each academic semester (these projects include consulting projects, engineering and coding projects, and more). Our partners will meet on a regular basis with their "teams" directly to track progress, adjust, and evolve. As we approach Winter 2024 and Summer 2025, we will also begin exploring how to facilitate travel opportunities for both students to Africa, and students/partners/stakeholders to the US and UK.