

Profile – Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo

Professor Nana Aba Appiah Amfo is the Acting Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor with responsibility for Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) at the University of Ghana. She is an experienced academic and university administrator, with twenty years of experience in the higher education sector. She brings a lot of innovation, resourcefulness, and tact to her professional engagements, and is adept at change management. As Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA), she brought significant technological innovation to impact the University's academic and administrative processes.

Prior to her becoming Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA) in November 2019, Professor Amfo was founding Dean of the School of Languages (2014 – 2019). She previously served as the Head of the Department of Linguistics (2013 – 2014). She has participated in the governance of the University of Ghana through her service on several statutory and ad hoc boards and committees. As Acting Vice-Chancellor and Pro Vice-Chancellor (ASA), she chairs several standing boards and committees of the University such as the Academic Board, Appointments and Promotions Board, Business and Executive Committee, Careers and Counselling Centre Advisory Board, Library Board, Advisory Committee for Staff and Students with Special Needs, International Programmes Office Advisory Board, Residence Board and Housing Committee. She previously served as the Chair of the Management Board of the University Basic School (2011 – 2016), the College of Humanities Senior and Junior Staff Appointments and Promotions Committee (2014 – 2018) and the Mentoring and Professional Development Sub-committee of the Centre for Gender Studies and Advocacy (CEGENSA) (2010 – 2013). She was the University of Ghana's representative on the Catholic University College Appointments and Promotions Committee (2011 – 2016). She was also a member of the College of Humanities Advisory Board, and she served as a Tutor of Mensah Sarbah Hall.

Professor Amfo is a professor of Linguistics and obtained both her PhD and MPhil degrees from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Her bachelor's degree in French and Linguistics is from the University of Ghana. She has a post-graduate certificate in Administration and Management from Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA) and has received additional training in higher education management and leadership from Harvard Business School, University of Applied Sciences, Germany, and INSEAD, France. She is a past student of Holy Child School (O'Level) and Archbishop Porter's Girls Secondary School (A'Level).

Professor Amfo's career in academia started in 2001 as a Lecturer in the Department of Linguistics after her Master's degree. In 2007, the same year she obtained her PhD degree, she was promoted Senior Lecturer. She became Associate Professor in 2011, and Professor in 2017. Professor Amfo's research interests are in the linguistic sub-discipline of Pragmatics, which allows her to explore the role that context plays in conversational interactions and how that influences communication in different domains such as health, politics, gendered and migratory contexts. She has led several research projects in her disciplinary area of linguistics as well as in multi-disciplinary teams. Her research has resulted in numerous internationally recognized publications and conference presentations.

Professor Amfo has acquired extensive multi-cultural experience through various professional engagements in twenty countries in Africa, Europe, Asia, North America and Australia. These engagements include giving competitive and invited talks, serving as external assessor, and

engaging with research and professional collaborators. She has been an external examiner for a number of universities including University of Nairobi, University of Dar es Salaam, Stellenbosch University, University of the Western Cape, and Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Her passion for mentoring particularly younger professional women has driven her to organise and or facilitate several capacity building training programmes in both the public and private higher education sectors, as well as in other public and private organisations. She has been a consultant trainer for the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Ghana. Professor Amfo's Board membership includes the Coalition of People Against Sexual and Gender-Based Violence & Harmful Practices (COPASH), University of Ghana Medical Centre, UG-HFC Limited and the World Universities Network.

Professor Amfo's professional expertise and leadership has been recognized by her peers. She serves on the Consultation Board of the International Pragmatics Association (the first African to be so elected since the Association's establishment in 1986). She is an Assistant Secretary General of the Federation of Modern Languages and Literatures, FILLM (a UNESCO affiliated scholarly association). She was the President of the Linguistics Association of Ghana (2010 – 2014). She is a member of the West African Linguistics Society and the Society for Communication, Medicine and Ethics (COMET). She is a pioneer fellow, senior scholar, mentor, and assessor of the African Humanities Program of the American Council of Learned Societies. She is the Chair of the Interim Executive Committee of the African Humanities Association (AHA), an off-shoot of the AHP. She is currently the Associate Director for Transition for the AHA. She is Co-founder and the Acting President of the African Pragmatics Association. Professor Amfo is a fellow of the German Academic Exchange Services (DAAD), Commonwealth Professionals Fellowship, the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, and the prestigious International Women's Forum Leadership Program. She is a life member of the University of Ghana Alumni Association. Professor Amfo is married to Mr. Frank Amfo, and they have been blessed with three children, Yoofi, Maame Araba and Efua Benyiwa.