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**EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW**

## Harvard Prof. Jacob Kehinde Olupona

Celebrated Professor, Jacob Kehinde Olupona is a member of the illustrious American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Chair of the Harvard University Committee on African Studies and convener of the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies.



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## Yes, I Can

I was watching a cookery program with my younger daughter and her elder brother, whose feigned interest was so easy to see through. He was far more concerned with getting the latest premiership team news on his phone but I chose to ignore this and dragged him into our conversation anyway. The host of the cookery program, a celebrated chef, was praising one of the junior 'chefs' (a child who couldn't have been more than 11 years old) that his pasta dish was one of the best he had ever tasted. Not one of the best made by a child but by anybody, even other chefs. This got me thinking. How did this child make a dish so much better than so-called experts? I turned to my children and asked them a question which I know has a very obvious answer. "What makes adult cooks better than young cooks?" At least generally. And of course they blurted out the obvious, which were all absolutely correct. Adult chefs have more know-how, as a result of age, experience and so on. I then asked the question which took us to where I actually wanted to go. "Why is it that at times, children cooks produce magically good dishes that blow seasoned chefs totally out of the water? What enables them to achieve this?" Thankfully, they both pretty much got it, so I didn't have to spend the rest of the evening agonizing over why I've been spending quite so much on their school fees...Lol. Still, I tried to explain further and put it in my own words, just to give them greater clarity of understanding. Children are by nature less held captive by convention. They are more likely to try something that adults wouldn't dare try - all because they (adults) have been taught over time, the things that work and those that supposedly don't. Sometimes, it even goes beyond what they've been told. Experience, which we place so much premium on, may have conditioned their minds to accept what works and what apparently doesn't. Numerous failed attempts could have evaporated the last drop of adventure in them and whipped them into the line of conventional thinking. Children on the other hand are not constrained by such. To them, anything is possible once they can imagine it. Rather than waste time staring at a knotty issue and thinking of the pros and cons of taking this or that action, they

just get on with it, without doubting that they will succeed. Unlike adults, they're not hampered by 1001 reasons of why it won't work. They just make it happen because they refuse to entertain the thought of it not working.

In that wonderful book, *Nudge*, by Richard H. Thaler and Cass R. Sunstein, we learn that the authorities at Schiphol Airport in Amsterdam came up with an ingenious strategy to tackle the problem of careless 'aiming' into the urinals by male travellers who patronize their public lavatories. I want to believe they must have already trod the usual route of putting up notices and soliciting the cooperation of their patrons but hadn't enjoyed much success. They therefore employed a method which took everybody's eyes off the problem they were trying to tackle but instead appealed to the little boy within all of us men, who don't just love playing games but always want to win. A strategically positioned and very realistic image of a housefly was etched in each urinal and because boys will always be boys, irrespective of their age, their attention shifted to 'aiming' at the fly as soon as it caught their eye. Little did they know that it was simply a nudge for them to aim correctly. Careless shooting which had always left the floor in a terrible mess was reduced by a staggering 80% and essentially became history from that point onwards. Clever, eh? Exasperated after having tried so many different strategies and failed, it was time to think out of the box. It was time to try a less frontal and less obvious approach. But was it simple? Very. It's one of the many solutions we hear about that makes us ask yourself, "why didn't I think of that?"

Many a time, we're better off keeping things simple. In the book, 'Good To Great', the author Professor Jim Collins, came to a conclusion after spending several years tediously researching businesses and trying to understand why some were able to make the leap from good to great. Supported by volumes of largely incontrovertible statistics, he affirmed that those who made the transition from good corporate entities to becoming great organizations were the ones who were wise enough to streamline

their operations, narrow their ambitions and aim for simple goals. They identified what they could do better than everyone else while acknowledging and confronting the brutal facts. Those who had the amorphous ambition of becoming 'the biggest and the best' never achieved either. The great companies had succeeded in making their company goals simple by removing unnecessary complexities. They managed to focus the attention of their employees in a particular direction. Clear, precise and simple goals did the trick. Oh yes, there were a couple of other things too, especially one that Jim Collins himself identified as one of the most critical which is an ability to, "retain faith that you will prevail in the end, regardless of the difficulties". He called this the Stockdale Paradox and it's a notion that shouldn't be mistaken with baseless optimism. It's a sturdy belief in oneself even after taking all factors into consideration, that one will succeed.

To parents whose children are still young, my advice is that you allow them to remain in the naïveté that anything is possible for as long as you possibly can. There's no special place in history kept for those whose slogan is, "forget it, it can't be done", only for those who succeed in taking us beyond what we dared believe was possible. It's time many of us unlearn some of the 'facts' that have held us back for so long and quickly acquaint ourselves with truths that can set us free to fly. Great men and women have always emerged from the company of those who said "Yes, I can".



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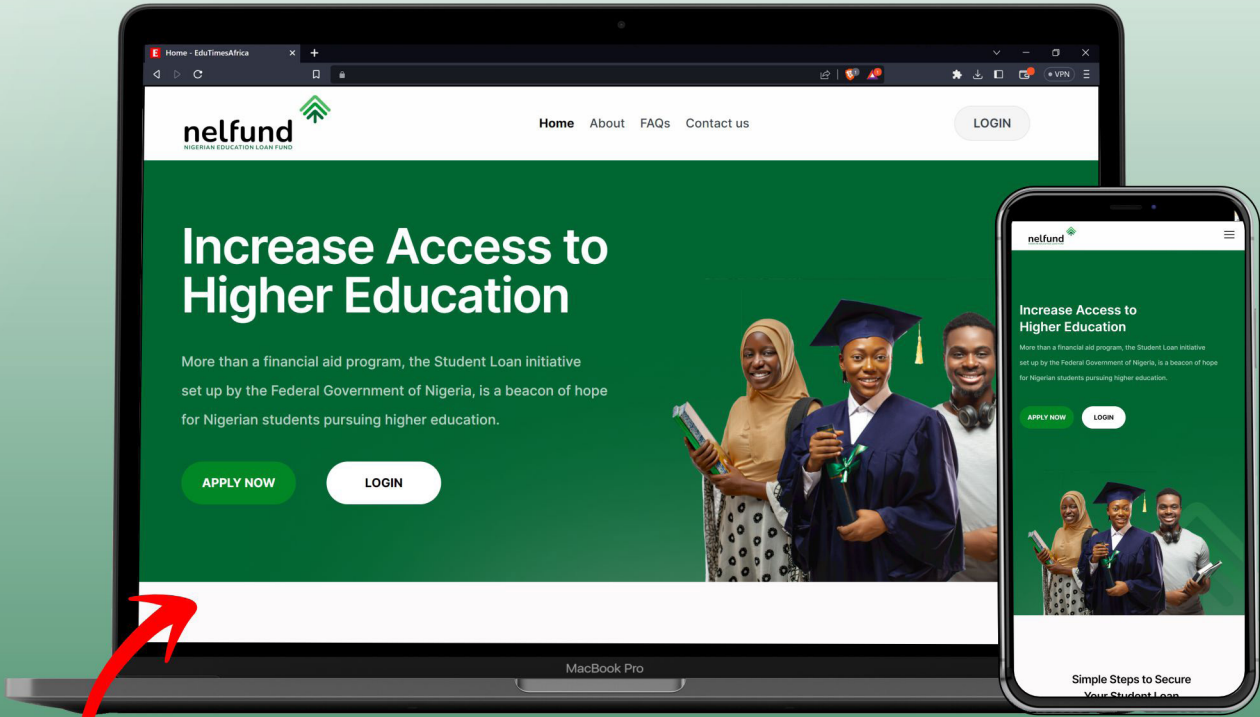
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# Sanwo-Olu gives outgoing Lagos corps members N100,000 each, makes other pledges

*Mr Sanwo-Olu assured each corps member that the N100,000 gift would be delivered directly into their accounts next week.*



*Mr Sanwo-Olu inspecting the Batch B stream 1 of 2024 Corps members during their Passing-out Parade on Tuesday*

**T**he Lagos State Governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu, on Tuesday, announced a gift of N100,000 for each corps member departing the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) camp in the state and a sum of N100 million for the NYSC support staff.

He made the pledge while delivering his address as the special guest of honour at the NYSC Passing-Out Parade/



*The 32-seater bus donated by Governor Sanwo-Olu to Lagos NYSC*



Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu being welcomed by the Batch B stream 1 of 2024 Corps members, during their Passing-out Parade

Closing Ceremony for the 2024 Batch 'B' Stream 1 Corps Members, at the NYSC Orientation Camp in Iyana Ipaja.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu being welcomed by the Batch B stream 1 of 2024 Corps members, during their Passing-out Parade. The Senior Special Assistant to the Governor on New Media, Jubril Gawat, disclosed this on his X account on Tuesday. In a video Mr Gawat also shared, Mr Sanwo-Olu was seen assuring each corps member that the N100,000 gift would be delivered directly into their accounts next week.

Mr Sanwo-Olu also

announced a N5 billion donation for the construction of a new permanent site for the Lagos NYSC camp, and automatic employment in the state public service for the best 100 corps members from the outgoing batch.

He also provided a 32-seater Hyundai bus for use in the camp.

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# Men's Health Under the Microscope: The Case for Routine Check-Ups

By MHF Medical Concierge

Many men neglect their own health until it's too late. It's a prevalent trend for males, particularly black men, to choose job and family duties over their health. This error can have major health repercussions, which could have been avoided with frequent medical check-ups.

Men today are more vulnerable to a variety of health issues that can have a substantial influence on their quality of life. **Cardiovascular disorders**, for example, are the biggest cause of mortality in males, and regular check-ups can help monitor blood pressure and cholesterol levels, allowing for early intervention to avoid heart attacks and strokes. Another common problem is diabetes. Many men get type 2 diabetes as a result of a poor diet and a lack of exercise, and regular blood glucose tests can detect the condition early, making it controllable with lifestyle changes and medication.

**Obesity** is another major issue. Excess weight can cause several kinds of health difficulties, including heart disease, diabetes, and joint problems. Regular visits to your doctor might help you maintain a healthy weight.

Our departure from a traditional African diet to a high calorie, high fat western diet possibly accounts for one of the sharpest rise in obesity in our population. Of course, one cannot discount society's departure from regular exercise whether it be formal (gym based, running, swimming etc) or informal (manual labour, long distance trekking etc) plays on the increase in obesity.

Men frequently go undiagnosed for mental health concerns like anxiety and depression. Regular **mental health** exams can help detect these issues earlier, resulting in improved outcomes. Thankfully, in recent years mental health issues have been brought to the fore in our African society. We are starting to understand that depression, anxiety, psychotic disorders are not just diseases attributable to the west alone. More and more of our children are being diagnosed with Autism, ADHD and dyslexia. This is as a direct result of our changing



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attitudes to mental health. More still needs to be done to destigmatised mental health but it is fair to say we are on the right path.

### Prostate Cancer

Prostate cancer is a major health risk for men, particularly as they age. It is one of the most frequent cancers among black males worldwide. Early identification through regular tests is important since early-stage prostate cancer frequently causes no symptoms. According to studies, black males have a five-fold higher risk of developing prostate cancer than Caucasians. If present, we also know that it is often of a more aggressive form. Symptoms may include trouble urinating, blood



in urine or semen, and pelvic discomfort. However, by the time these symptoms appear, the cancer may have advanced. This is why regular screenings are necessary.

**How often should men have check-ups?**

It varies according to age and health situation. Men in their twenties and thirties should get a full check-up every two years,

their health. A good diet and regular exercise can help you avoid many chronic diseases. Aim for at least 30 minutes of physical activity on most days of the week.

**Mental Health Awareness:** Do not neglect your mental health. If you are feeling overwhelmed, nervous, or depressed, seek help from a mental health provider.

services address the specific needs of men, such as prostate cancer screenings, bowel cancer screenings and cardiovascular health checks. Our expert healthcare professionals offer individualised care and assistance, ensuring that each patient receives the attention and treatment they require.

You can contact us for advance genetic prostate screening called Stockholm 3 which can predict your risk of aggressive prostate cancer and can help detect prostate cancer at an early stage.

To speak with a private GP for your health screenings or additional information, please call +44(0) 203 096 0019, email [admin@mhf.healthcare](mailto:admin@mhf.healthcare) or visit our UK medical centre 170 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1DX,UK



*MHF's Diagnostic equipment*

which includes blood pressure, cholesterol, and mental health screening. When you enter your forties, annual check-ups become necessary. This is when routine prostate screenings should begin, especially if there is a family history of prostate cancer. Annual prostate tests are vital for people in their fifties and older. Screenings for colorectal cancer, osteoporosis, and vision and hearing exams should all be covered. Most of these tests are simple blood tests and can highlight problems early on increasing the chance of successful treatment.

**Steps To Take For Improved Health**

Beyond routine check-ups, men can make real steps to improve

**Avoid Smoking and Limit Alcohol:** Smoking and excessive alcohol intake can lead to a variety of health issues. Quitting smoking and limiting your alcohol consumption can greatly improve your health.

**Develop a Relationship with a Healthcare Provider:** Having a trusted doctor encourages open conversation and improved health management. Don't simply see your doctor when you're unwell; regular appointments are essential for preventive care.

**How Does MHF Help?**

MHF prioritises men's health by providing comprehensive and tailored health services. Our personalised health screening

**Conclusion**

Regular health check-ups are a proactive method for men to protect their health and catch possible problems early. You can dramatically improve the quality of your life and lifespan by just being informed and adopting the appropriate steps. Remember that your health is your most important possession. Make it a priority by scheduling regular checkups and pushing the men in your life to do the same. Take control of your health today and enjoy a healthy tomorrow.

# Talent Management: The Key to Keeping Teachers

By Stephanie Martin and Dr Afnan Boutrid, Edvance

Education Consultants ||  UAE



*The teacher mass exodus continues. How can we prevent it?*

It's that time of year again where we must address the elephant in the room: Staff turnover - the pain point that continues to plague education. For many schools, mid-year presents anticipation of school holidays, signifying rest and relaxation for some. But for some of the educational leaders we've met over the past month, it's a time of angst and stress. A time of recruitment, planning for the new term, inductions for new staff and the busyness of new and existing contractual obligations which can also bear a financial strain on organisations.

Perhaps you're in a position where your school or nursery has achieved the 'low staff turnover' status - and kudos to your organisation if so. But for many others, this is not the case, and they contribute to the alarming statistic that teacher turnover and transience is at an all time high across the globe.

It's not news that teacher burnout is a growing concern in the education sector, affecting both educators and students alike. The intense pressures of teaching, coupled with limited resources and lack of professional

support have led many educators to feel overwhelmed and exhausted. A recent study conducted in the United States found that 44% of teachers in K-12 school report often or always feeling burnout and 90% of teachers claim that feeling burnt out is a serious problem (Peck, 2024). The African education system is no stranger to teacher burnout and a shortage of educators, with Nigeria's teacher shortage sitting at 194, 876 teachers in public primary schools alone (UBEC National Personnel Audit, 2023). More worryingly, a lack of appropriate facilities and resources also repels teaching as a profession worth entering in Nigeria (UBEC National Personnel Audit, 2023).

But here's the thing. If leaders and organisation owners opt to turn a blind eye to the root cause of turnover, the problem will never be solved. And the research continues to point to a lack of wellbeing, in its many forms, as the contributing factor. Each year we hear fantastic plans for an increase in resource budgets, facility upgrades and an investment in technology, but there continues to be little focus on investing in the wellbeing of our staff. Retention, talent management and organisational culture should be at the forefront of every agenda.

So, where must educational policymakers and leaders focus their attention to combat the never ending teacher exodus issue? The good news is that through talent management and strategic professional development, there is hope. Current research reveals how purposeful, meaningful development and growth of existing staff talent can play a pivotal role in addressing these issues.

One of the most effective solutions to lowering the teacher turnover rate and

to increasing retention is professional development. Investing in high quality and tailored professional development demonstrates to teachers that they are valued as professionals. This also ensures that the school environment builds a culture of valuing life-long learners. Let's take a look at the key components of impactful professional development.

**Empowerment through Learning:** PD opportunities allow teachers to stay updated with the latest teaching strategies, technologies, and classroom management techniques. Most importantly PD should develop educators' knowledge, build their skills, and improve their mindsets (Guskey, 2002). It is vital that educators are kept up to date with the newest research on learning and the most effective instructional practices. This continuous learning process helps them feel more confident and capable in their roles as educators and directly impacts students' learning.

**Building a Supportive Community:** Engaging in PD workshops and seminars fosters a sense of community among educators. Sharing experiences, challenges, and solutions with peers can provide much-needed emotional support and reduce feelings of isolation. Educators should be viewed as assets and leaders should tap into the knowledge, experiences, and skills that these educators bring to the PD. Using an asset-based approach to PD can provide educators with an opportunity to rely on each other for support. When planning PD opportunities for educators, leaders should understand the needs of their teachers as well as strengths. Leaders must encourage educators with certain strengths to mentor and model their instructional practices for their fellow colleagues. This approach ensures that leaders are utilizing the knowledge and skills that educators bring to the school.

**Provide a clear Theory of Change:** Leaders should be explicit about how this PD is going to bring about positive lasting change to the teachers

and students. Educational leaders must identify the factors that motivate their educators and be well versed in the obstacles that might prevent change from happening. Teachers want clear, actionable, and easy to implement strategies that they can take into their classroom and apply the next day. Research has shown that the most effective types of professional development are the ones that provide teachers with the direct skills they will need to implement the strategies into their classrooms. Once teachers implement the strategies and experience first-hand the benefits of increased student engagement and student learning their mindsets start to shift (Guskey, 2002).

**Professional Development is Sustainable:** To truly support our educators, schools and students must invest in comprehensive, ongoing professional development. A one time approach is not effective. School leaders need to be well versed in how to look out for "implementation dips" and resistance from educators in incorporating the best practices into their instructional practice (Kirsten, 2019). Leaders must be strategic in how they plan the topics as well as the frequency of the professional development for their educators. The professional development plan must track teachers as well as students' progress throughout the school year and use classroom observations and student data as metrics for determining the success of the PD plan. By doing so, we can create a sustainable teaching environment that nurtures both educators and students, ensuring a brighter future for all.

**Stephanie Martin**  
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**Dr Afnan Boutrid**  
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# NCC and FintechNGR Renew Commitment to Deepen Nigeria's Fintech Sector

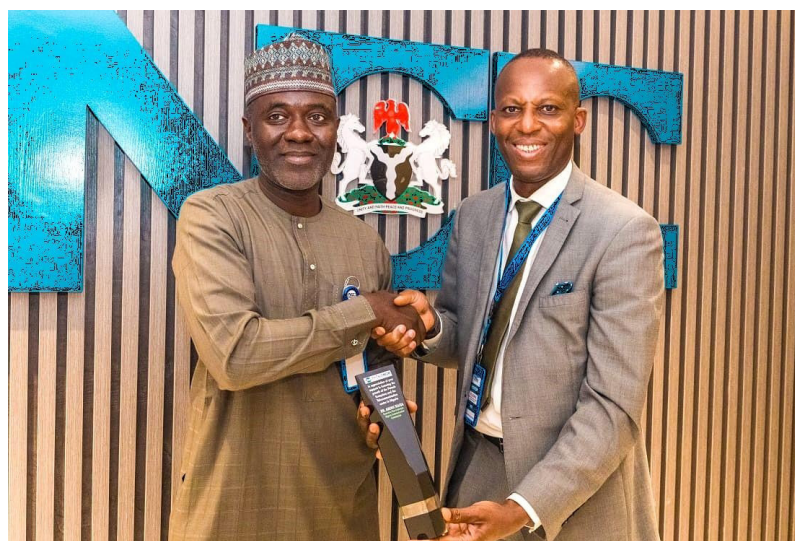


Following recent engagements with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), the Governing Council of FintechNGR, led by the President, Ade Bajomo, engaged with Dr Aminu Maida, Executive Vice Chairman of the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC), and his management team. This meeting aimed to deepen the role of the telecommunications sector as a crucial enabler of fintech in Nigeria.

The engagement

addressed the critical issue of connectivity and investment in public infrastructure, emphasizing the need for improved connectivity to support essential

services such as schools, airports, fire services, police stations and parks, thereby enhancing timely emergency response. Ade Bajomo highlighted the inclusive nature



L-R: Dr Aminu Maida, EVC, Nigerian Communications Commission, NCC and Ade Bajomo, President, Fintech Association of Nigeria during the Visit.

of FintechNGR as a strength that regulators should leverage to develop robust policies and regulatory frameworks. He underscored the importance of harnessing Nigeria's natural resources, particularly lithium, to power base stations and reduce operating costs

for telecommunications players. "Leveraging alternative energy sources built on lithium batteries will greatly enhance connectivity, facilitate efficiency, and drive environmental sustainability," said Bajomo. He proposed a public-private collaboration to develop these mineral resources.

Dr Aminu Maida responded by emphasizing the need for Nigeria to build internal capacity for creating mobile devices. He noted that approximately 57% of mobile phones in Nigeria still operate on 2G networks, which do not provide broadband speed for users, and that the Commission is working with the industry and other cross-sectors to advance user transition to newer technologies such as 5G. He stressed the importance of FintechNGR working with regulators to facilitate the maturity of fintechs through corporate governance empowerment, training, and mentorship. Dr. Maida also highlighted the need for a coordinated approach to combating fraud and cybersecurity threats in the financial sector. "Deepening partnerships between fintechs, financial services providers, and the telecoms sector through collaboration will significantly strengthen innovation in Nigeria," he said.

The NCC noted that it will work with FintechNGR to enrich the activities of the Regulators Forum—a forum of regulators and innovators in Nigeria that aims to balance regulation and innovation—to facilitate a more impactful Nigeria Fintech Week and leverage the Association as a valuable resource in future regulatory and policy development initiatives.

## CBN and FintechNGR Chart the Way Forward to Enhance Nigeria’s Fintech Ecosystem



L-R: Ade Bajomo, President, FintechNGR; Philip Ikeazor, Deputy Governor, FSS, CBN; Dr Rakiya Yusuf, Deputy Director, CBN during the engagement at CBN Headquarters, Abuja on June 19, 2024.

In light of recent developments aimed at strengthening Nigeria’s fintech sector, Ade Bajomo, President of FintechNGR, led a team from the Association's Governing Council in an engagement with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) to chart the way forward.

Receiving the team at the CBN headquarters in Abuja, Philip Ikeazor, Deputy Governor, Financial System Stability, commended FintechNGR’s active advocacy efforts that have significantly improved the fintech ecosystem. The Central Bank emphasized the need for the Association to work closely with stakeholders to operate within regulatory provisions, facilitate compliance, and establish robust risk management frameworks and governance structures. Mr. Ikeazor stated, “The Central Bank understands the critical roles of fintechs in driving financial inclusion to the



last mile. Our efforts are geared towards helping fintechs become more attractive to investors and achieve greater success.”

During the meeting, Ade Bajomo noted that while stakeholders strive to comply with regulatory requirements, they sometimes face challenges beyond their control. He stated, “The common understanding within our ecosystem is that compliance makes the environment safer for all to innovate, scale, and collaborate. FintechNGR will ensure the co-creation of a support structure with the CBN to enhance compliance.”

Some of the initiatives the regulators plan to pursue with the ecosystem include making the 2024 Nigeria Fintech Week more impactful, enriching the activities of the Regulators Forum, organizing fintech learning series for various stakeholders, and exploring self-regulation status for FintechNGR to foster closer relationships with regulators. FintechNGR remains committed to working with all regulators to better position the ecosystem to be more inclusive and impactful.



## Countries with the Best Funded Education Programs for International Students

By Davidson Abraham ||  UAE

Countries around the world offer a variety of funded programs that support students, traders, and professionals in pursuing their educational and career goals. These programs provide financial assistance, mentorship, and other resources to help individuals achieve their aspirations. In this article, we will explore the top countries with the best funded programs, focusing on scholarships for international students.

### United States

The United States offers several government-funded scholarships for international students. One of the most prominent programs is the Fulbright Foreign Student Program. This program provides full scholarships for international students from 155 countries to pursue a Master's or PhD degree in the US. The scholarship covers tuition fees, textbooks, airfare, a living stipend, and health insurance. Approximately 1,800 scholarships are

awarded annually.

Another notable program is the Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship Program, which provides a year of professional enrichment in the United States for experienced professionals from designated countries. The fellowship includes tuition fees, an allowance, accident and health insurance, and travel expenses. Approximately 200 Fellowships are awarded annually.

### United Kingdom

The United Kingdom offers the Chevening Scholarships, which are awarded to outstanding scholars from Chevening-eligible countries around the world. These scholarships are typically for a one-year Master's degree and cover tuition fees, a living allowance at a set rate, an economy class return airfare to the UK, and additional grants to cover essential expenditure. Around 1,500 scholarships are offered globally.

The UK also offers the Commonwealth Scholarships for students from developing Commonwealth countries who wish to pursue Master's and PhD study in the UK. Each scholarship provides airfare to and from the UK, tuition and examination fees, a personal maintaining allowance, a thesis grant (if applicable), and an initial arrival allowance. Approximately 300 of these scholarships are awarded each year.

### European Countries

Several European countries offer scholarships for international students. For instance, the Netherlands provides Holland Scholarships for non-EU/EEA students who wish to pursue full-degree higher education programs at

participating Dutch universities. These scholarships can be given as full or partial tuition fee waivers

allowance and other expenses such as return trip tickets, health insurance, and cultural activities.



and/or grants towards covering living costs.

Italy offers Italian Government Scholarships for Foreign Students, which are available for University degree courses, advanced vocational training, art and music courses, Master's Degree courses, and PhD courses. These scholarships are for three, six, or nine months.

France offers the Eiffel Excellence Scholarships, which were developed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to attract the best foreign students for Master's and PhD degree programs. Eiffel scholarship-holders receive a monthly

However, these scholarships do not cover tuition fees.

Germany offers the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD) Scholarships, which are available for international students pursuing postgraduate degrees in Germany. These scholarships cover tuition fees, living expenses, and other costs.

### Australia and New Zealand

Australia offers the Australia Awards Scholarships, which are scholarships for international students from selected countries in Asia, Pacific, Africa, and the Middle East who wish to study

at Australian universities. These scholarships are towards vocational education and training courses, undergraduate degrees, postgraduate degrees, and PhD degrees at participating Australian universities and Technical and Further Education (TAFE) institutions. The scholarship benefits generally include full tuition fees, return air travel, an establishment allowance, a contribution to living expenses, Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC), and other allowances.

fees, living expenses and other costs.

**Switzerland**

Switzerland offers the Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships, which are available for international students pursuing postgraduate degrees in Switzerland. These scholarships cover tuition fees, living expenses, and other costs.

**Conclusion**

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*based sports and business writer with over 7 years experience across sports, media & education; currently*

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*gWeek) Analyst/Correspondent. He has written with Editors of key media houses, supported international faculties, and involved with social media managing & content development for key institutions in UAE, and Global Education Group partner Universities. He has also written on education, Blockchain, Fintech, Corporate Governance, Sports and Global Politics, as well as assisting with research, book writing and marketing. Davidson is a proud alumnus of Gulf American University, UAE (a part of Girne American University, North Cyprus), and assists students with gaining scholarships for international studies in different universities.*

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New Zealand offers the New Zealand International Scholarships, which provide opportunities for international students from selected developing countries to study in New Zealand. These scholarships are designed to support students pursuing undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at New Zealand universities.

a variety of funded programs that support students and professionals in achieving their educational and career goals. These programs provide financial assistance, mentorship, and other resources to help individuals succeed. From scholarships for international students to funded trader programs, these countries offer a range of opportunities that can significantly impact one's future. By exploring these programs, individuals can gain access to top-notch education and career development opportunities, ultimately enhancing their chances of success.

**Canada**

Canada offers the Study in Canada Scholarships, which are open to international students. These scholarships support students pursuing post-secondary education in Canada, covering tuition fees, living expenses, and other costs.

**Japan**

Japan offers the Monbukagakusho Scholarships, which are available for international students pursuing postgraduate degrees in Japan. These scholarships cover tuition

Next month, we will enlighten on countries that provide funding for professional and trader programmes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Davidson Abraham, is a Dubai-*



# Transforming Rural Education in Africa: Strategies for Sustainable Development

By Folaranmi Ajayi ||  Nigeria

PHOTO: [www.ruralafricafacts.wordpress.com](http://www.ruralafricafacts.wordpress.com)



According to UNESCO, Sub-Saharan Africa has a particularly large proportion of its population living in rural areas. Many of these people are poor, illiterate and under-nourished. In 2022, 67.4 percent of people aged 15 years and above in Africa were able to read and write a simple statement and understand it. Regionally, Southern Africa presented the highest literacy rate, at 80 percent. North and East Africa had similar shares of literate people, at over 71 percent. In contrast, 67.5 percent and 54 percent of the adult population in Central and West Africa could read and write. According to a report Published by Saifaddin Galal, Nov 15, 2023 on Statista.

Tellingly, Improving the quality of education in rural areas within the

African context is a multifaceted challenge that requires a comprehensive approach. In Nigeria's National Policy on Education (FRN 1998), it stated that the Federal Government has adopted education as an instrument for affecting National Development in all areas of the Nation. Well, it seems this was said in the absence of proper procedure and process to implement. Taking a critical look at the Educational system in the rural areas of Nigeria, the overwhelming widespread of illiteracy is obvious to the undiscerning. For students, the physical pain of sitting on improvised benches or the floor for hours on end is a regular occurrence. These inconspicuous structures serve as the backdrop for an educational system in which pupils face the agony of learning on a daily basis making them

not only a health hazard but also potential death traps. For instance, in Mali, many rural schools lack proper roofing, leading to students being exposed to the elements (Save the Children, 2020). In Ghana, there is a shortage of functioning toilets, which affects students' health and dignity (UNICEF, 2019). In Malawi, ever since the government introduced Free Primary Education the pupil-to-teacher ratio in rural primary schools has been unbearable. For instance, according to the World Bank (2023) primary school pupil-teacher ratio at 58.68. This has a critical bearing on quality education as teachers do not have quality time with the learners. In Tanzania, a shortage of textbooks and learning materials affects students' ability to study effectively (Mkude & Tsamalaidze, 2017). In Burkina Faso, limited access

to electricity and the internet hampers students' access to online educational resources (World Bank, 2020). Governments and international organizations have played significant roles in addressing rural education challenges. The "Free Primary Education" policy in Malawi and Kenya has increased access to education for rural children by eliminating tuition fees (Oketch, 2007). In Senegal, the "Project to Improve the Quality of Education in the Moyen Chari Region" is a collaboration between the government and the World Bank, aiming to improve infrastructure and teacher training (World Bank, 2015). Generally, the rural areas in Africa are incessantly neglected by the government when it comes to the development of any form, educational development inclusive. Improving quality education in the rural areas is a necessity, let's consider strategies that can help improve quality education in rural areas in Africa

### 1. Infrastructure Development

One of the primary challenges in rural African education is the lack of adequate infrastructure. Many schools operate in dilapidated buildings, without basic amenities such as electricity, clean water, and proper sanitation. Investing in the construction and maintenance of school facilities is crucial. Governments and NGOs should prioritize building classrooms, libraries, laboratories, and sanitation facilities. Additionally, ensuring access to clean water and electricity can significantly enhance the learning environment.

### 2. Teacher Training and Retention

Quality education heavily relies on well-trained and motivated teachers. Rural areas often face a shortage of qualified teachers, and those who are posted there frequently lack the necessary training and support. To improve education quality, comprehensive teacher training programs should be implemented, focusing on both pre-service and in-service training. Incentives such as housing, transportation, and rural allowances can help attract and retain qualified teachers in these areas.

### 3. Curriculum Relevance

The curriculum in many African countries often fails to address the specific needs and contexts of rural communities. Developing a curriculum that is relevant to the local environment and culture can make education more meaningful and engaging for students. This includes integrating local languages, agricultural practices, and vocational training into the curriculum. A contextually relevant curriculum can also help in preserving indigenous knowledge and skills.

### 4. Use of Technology

Leveraging technology can bridge the educational gap between urban and rural areas. Mobile phones, tablets, and e-learning platforms can provide access to a wealth of educational resources. Initiatives like solar-powered computer labs and mobile libraries can bring technology to the most remote areas. Teacher training programs should also include ICT training to ensure teachers can effectively use technology in their classrooms.

### 5. Community Involvement

Engaging the local community in the education process is vital for its success. Parents and community leaders should be involved in school management and decision-making processes. This can be achieved through the formation of school management committees and parent-teacher associations. Community involvement ensures



that the educational initiatives are tailored to the specific needs and priorities of the community, fostering a sense of ownership and accountability.

### 6. Financial Support and Scholarships

Many families in rural areas cannot afford the cost of education, leading to high dropout rates. Providing financial support through scholarships, bursaries, and conditional cash transfers can help keep children in school. Governments and private sector partnerships can play a significant role in funding these initiatives. Additionally, reducing or eliminating school fees can alleviate the financial burden on

families.

### 7. Health and Nutrition Programs

Health and nutrition are critical factors that affect students' ability to learn. Many children in rural areas suffer from malnutrition and health issues, which impact their cognitive development and school attendance. Implementing school



feeding programs can ensure that children receive at least one nutritious meal a day, improving their concentration and overall health. Regular health check-ups and deworming programs can also contribute to better student health and attendance.

### 8. Gender Equality

Gender disparities in education are more pronounced in rural areas. Ensuring that girls have equal access to education is essential for achieving quality education for all. This can be achieved by providing gender-sensitive facilities such as separate toilets, addressing cultural barriers, and promoting the importance of girls' education

within the community. Programs that provide scholarships and support for girls can also help in increasing their enrollment and retention in schools.

### 9. Inclusive Education

Inclusive education ensures that children with disabilities have access to quality education. In rural areas, children with disabilities often face significant barriers to education. Schools need to be equipped with the necessary infrastructure and resources to accommodate these children. Teacher training should include special education techniques, and community awareness programs can help reduce stigma and discrimination against children with disabilities.

### 10. Monitoring and Evaluation

Regular monitoring and evaluation of educational programs are crucial to ensure their effectiveness and sustainability. Establishing robust monitoring systems can help track progress, identify challenges, and make necessary adjustments. Data collected from these evaluations can inform policy decisions and resource allocation. Engaging local communities in the monitoring process can also enhance transparency and accountability.

Finally, Improving quality education in rural African areas requires a holistic and collaborative approach. The John Q Public must stop playing politics with education, therefore, by addressing infrastructure, teacher training, curriculum relevance, technology use, community involvement, financial support, health and nutrition, gender equality, inclusive

education, and robust monitoring



and evaluation, stakeholders can create an environment conducive to learning. The concerted efforts of governments, NGOs, communities, and the private sector are essential in transforming the educational landscape and ensuring that every child has access to quality education.

*Folaranmi Ajayi is an educator who doubles as a journalist, with over a decade of experience in teaching and helping students pass exams with above-average grades. He is now a full-time journalist, and a part-time online teacher, covering education and teaching gives him joy. As an education journalist, he has a special interest in local education reporting, providing data and solutions to educational issues in Africa. He mentors students, teaches public speaking, and organizes free online training during his leisure time*

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# Welcome Speech by UNESCO Representative in Nigeria on the official launch event of UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in Nigeria (22 July 2024)



*Left to right: Dr. Bosun Tijani, Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Communication Innovation and Digital Economy and Mr. Abdourahamane Diallo, Head of Office UNESCO Abuja Office and Representative to UNESCO in Nigeria*

**Protocols:**

Honourable Minister of Communication, Innovation and Digital Economy: **Dr Bosun Tijani**

UN Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator: **Mr. Mohamed Malick Fall**

EU Delegate Present (Name to be inserted on the day)

Our consultant for the project: **Dr Adekemi Omotubora**

Representatives from the

ministries and Agencies

The Project Steering Committees and Technical Working Group

My Colleagues from HQ (Virtually connected) and UN family Present.

**Distinguished Guests, Ladies, and Gentlemen**

Good morning and a warm welcome to UN House for this significant occasion—the official launch event of UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) in Nigeria.

It is with great pleasure that I extend my greetings to you all on behalf of the UNESCO Abuja Office. Today's event signifies a pivotal moment in Nigeria's journey towards embracing ethical artificial intelligence practices. As we gather here at the UN House, we are reminded of the transformative potential of AI in driving innovation and sustainable development across our nation. UNESCO's Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) stands as a beacon of guidance, ensuring that our advancements in AI are not only groundbreaking but also

aligned with global standards of ethics and responsibility. We are particularly proud that Nigeria is joining us as part of UNESCO's custodial role in promoting the ethics of AI worldwide. UNESCO's Recommendations on the Ethics of AI, adopted by 193 countries, provide a robust

transparency, and accountability, and it is heartening to see Nigeria committing to these principles as we work together to build an inclusive and ethical AI ecosystem.

I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to the Honourable Minister of

strategy on AI. Your leadership in this rapidly evolving field is truly commendable. Under your visionary guidance, Nigeria is poised to become a leader in ethical AI implementation, setting a benchmark for other nations to follow. Your tireless efforts and forward-thinking approach have been instrumental in driving progress and innovation, ensuring that Nigeria's AI strategy is robust, inclusive, and ethically sound.

**Honourable Minister,  
Distinguished Ladies and  
Gentlemen**

As we gather here today, we are reminded of the profound impact that artificial intelligence has on our society. AI permeates many aspects of our daily lives, and its ethical implications have become a focal point for all actors within the ecosystem. Recognizing this, in 2023, UNESCO launched the Readiness Assessment Methodology (RAM) as a pivotal tool for implementing its Recommendation on the Ethics of AI, which was adopted by 193 countries in 2021.

The RAM, with its comprehensive framework consisting of five dimensions, serves as a vital instrument for assessing a country's readiness to implement AI ethically and responsibly. It highlights strengths and identifies infrastructural, institutional, and regulatory gaps, enabling nations to address these challenges effectively and create an ethical AI ecosystem.

Today marks a significant milestone as we introduce and launch the RAM in Nigeria, bringing together leading experts and stakeholders from diverse fields, united in our commitment to ensuring that AI is developed



framework for the responsible and ethical development and deployment of AI technologies.

Communication, Innovation and Digital Economy, Dr. Bosun Tijani, for his unwavering commitment



These recommendations emphasize human rights, fairness,

and dedication to this project and to developing Nigeria's national



and deployed in ways that uphold human rights, fairness, transparency, and accountability.

**Honourable Minister, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen**

Your presence here today is invaluable. It signifies a collective commitment to fostering an ethical AI ecosystem that benefits all citizens of Nigeria. We are confident that with your support and collaboration, we can achieve remarkable progress in this endeavor.

I would like to take this opportunity to commend Ms. Gabriela Ramos, Assistant Director-General for Social and Human Sciences, for her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing UNESCO's mission globally. Her vision has been instrumental in shaping initiatives like the RAM, which are pivotal in guiding nations towards ethical AI practices.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our lead consultant Dr. Adekemi Omotubora for her remarkable efforts and dedication so far to this project. I am confident that, with her continued support, we will achieve a comprehensive and insightful report for Nigeria.

I firmly believe that today's discussions will pave the way for significant advancements in our national AI strategy, aligning with UNESCO's global mission of promoting ethical AI.

Thank you once again for joining us today. Let us embark on this journey together, as we work towards a future where AI is harnessed for the greater good, in alignment with our shared values and ethical principles. Thank you.



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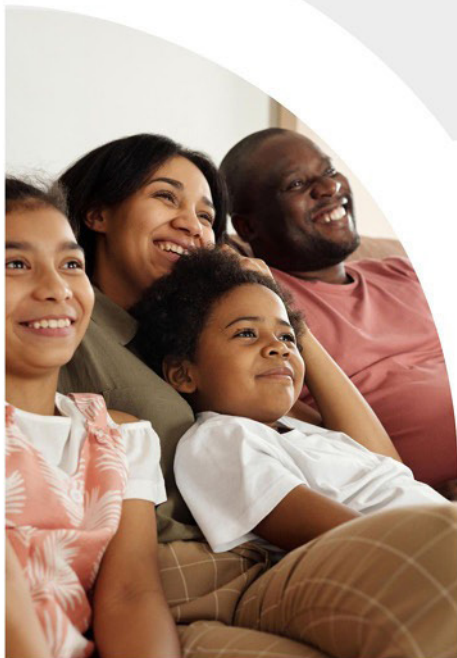
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Vitamin Check- Vit B12, Vit B6 (Folic acid) and Vit D	Cholesterol Check	Prostate Cancer Screen - PSA
Stroke and Heart Attack Risk Calculation	Stool Test - H.pylori and FOB	Memory Test
Urine Test	GP Consultation	Physical Checks- ECG, ABPI, Spirometry, BP, BMI



## Men's Health - Executive Package £755

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Immune System Check- White Cell Count, Neutrophils, Lymphocytes	Bone and Muscle Check	Screen for Chronic Inflammation, Arthritis and Chronic Infection
Major Organs Check- Liver, Kidney and Thyroid	Vitamin check- Vit B12, Vit B6 (Folic acid) and Vit D	Sexual Health Check including Testosterone Level
Urine Test Stool test - H.pylori and FOB	Physical Checks- ECG, ABPI, Spirometry, BP, BMI	Stroke and Heart Attack Risk Calculation
Mental Health Screening	GP Consultation	Ultrasound Abdomen- Liver, Kidney, Stomach, and Gall Bladder Scan

## Women's Health - Executive Package £875

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Major Organs Check- Liver, Kidney and Thyroid	Diabetes Test Cholesterol Check	Hormones Check- Oestrogen, LH, FSH, and Testosterone
Stool Test - H.pylori and FOB	Cancer Screen- Bowel, Breast, Blood, Cervical Smear, and Ovary	Ultrasound Abdomen and Pelvis
Bone and Muscle Check	Vitamin Check- Vit B12, Vit B6 (Folic acid) and Vit D	Urine Test
Stroke and Heart Attack Risk Calculation	GP Consultation	Physical Checks- ECG, ABPI, Spirometry, BP, BMI

## Women's Health - Comprehensive package £555

Ideal for those who perform regular or annual health checks		
Blood Health- Haemoglobin, Platelet Count, Iron Level	Cancer Screen- Bowel, Breast, Blood, Cervical Smear, and Ovary	Screen for Chronic Inflammation, Arthritis and Chronic Infection
Vitamin Check- Vit B12, Vit B6 (Folic acid) and Vit D	Diabetes Test	Major Organs Check- Liver, Kidney and Thyroid
Immune System Check- White Cell Count, Neutrophils, Lymphocytes	Cholesterol Check	Bone and Muscle Check
Stroke and Heart Attack Risk Calculation	Urine Test	Stool test - H.pylori and FOB
Hormones Check- Oestrogen, LH, FSH, and Testosterone	GP Consultation	Physical Checks- ECG, ABPI, Spirometry, BP, BMI

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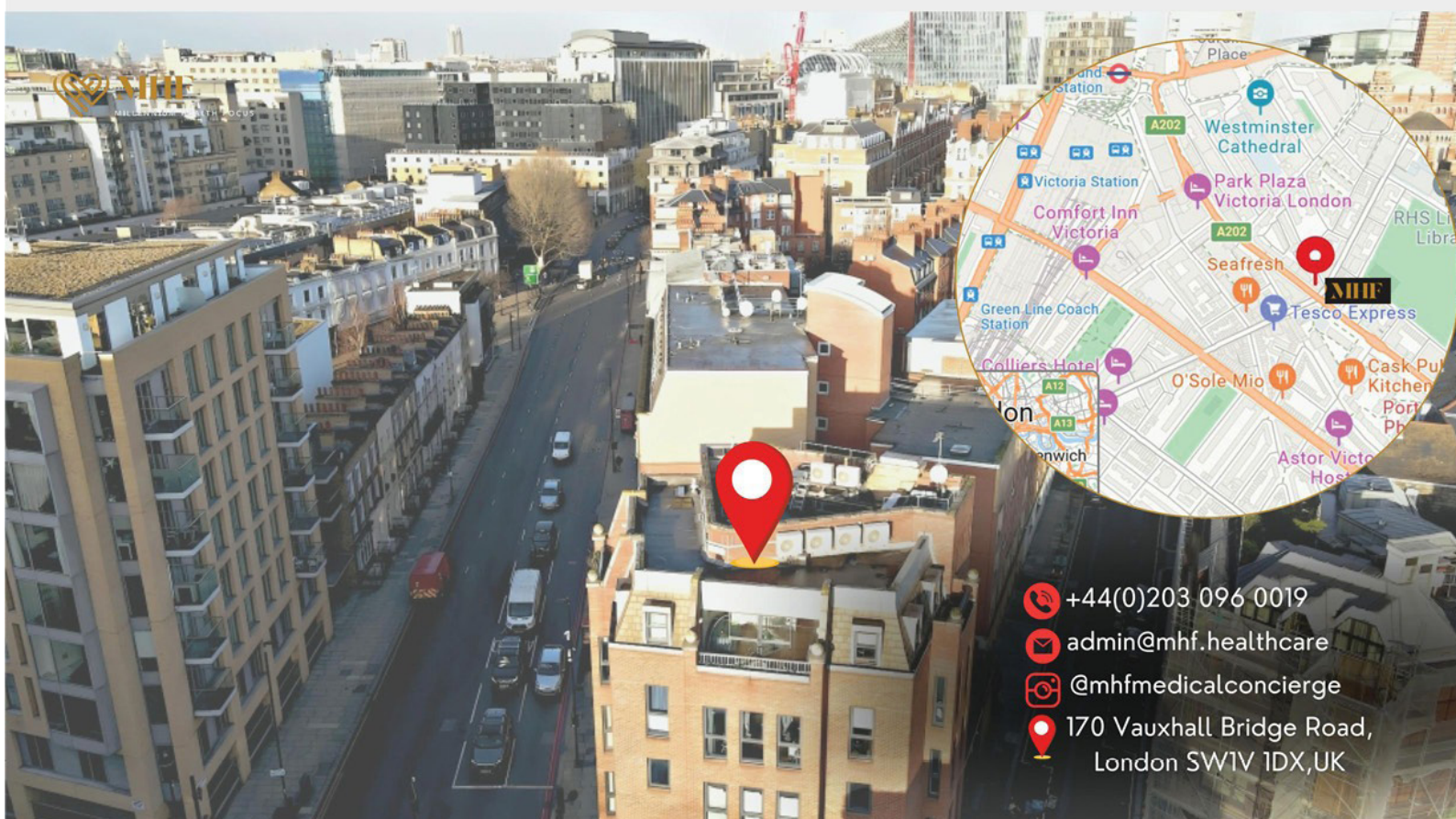
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# Some free SHS beneficiaries are performing poorly in our universities - ATAG

By [www.rainbowradioonline.com](http://www.rainbowradioonline.com)



All Teachers Alliance Ghana (ATAG) has called for a comprehensive review of the free Senior High School (SHS) policy to maximize its benefits and impact.

General Secretary Albert Amoah commended the ruling New Patriotic Party (NPP) for its policy implementation but acknowledged that the policy is facing serious challenges. He has, therefore, proposed a review of the policy to capitalize on its gains.

One of the challenges he highlighted was the struggles some beneficiaries of the policy are experiencing at the tertiary

level. He revealed that several free SHS graduates are finding it difficult to advance in their education after SHS, with those in the university performing poorly.

In an interview with Rainbow Radio 87.5FM, he underscored the importance of bolstering technical and vocational education to assist individuals who are unable to pursue humanities and other university-related courses.

"The free SHS policy is a good policy, and we need to commend the government for implementing it. However, the policy requires a holistic review.

"The reality is that some beneficiaries of the free SHS are struggling to progress academically. Some of them, who are in teacher training schools, nursing training colleges, and other tertiary institutions, are finding it difficult or are unable to cope.

"Others have also dropped out. One might ask, what are the reasons? Not every student prefers secondary education.

"They prefer technical and vocational training, so let's identify these individuals and provide them with the necessary training," he said.

"Information from various teacher training colleges indicates that some students are underperforming, and this has been attributed to the time allocated to their semesters while in secondary school. "That is why we need to review the free SHS policy to maximize its benefits," he emphasized.

## AUDA-NEPAD Launches "The Africa Skills Revolution" Initiative on World Youth Skills Day



by [www.nepad.org](http://www.nepad.org)

Africa's young population is expected to double to over 830 million by 2050, creating significant opportunities for economic growth and innovation. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) has the potential to unlock this opportunity by equipping African youth with the essential skills needed to drive the continent forward. To raise awareness about the incredible opportunities offered by TVET and to encourage young people to engage, AUDA-NEPAD, in partnership with Humana People to People, announced the launch of the "Africa Skills Revolution" initiative today through a webinar.

Inspired by the AU's Year for Education 2024, the "Africa Skills Revolution" is a collective initiative consisting of an advocacy campaign aimed at

challenging stereotypes around TVET and demonstrating the numerous opportunities it offers for interesting and fulfilling careers for Africa's youth. Additionally, it includes a competition aimed at amplifying and celebrating the achievements and successes of young Africans in and through TVET.

The campaign aims to ignite a movement, rallying the voices and energy of youth across the continent. By partnering with dynamic youth network forums like the ATUPA Youth Forum and Trust Africa, the campaign aims to empower young people to take charge of their futures. We call on more organizations to join forces with us and amplify this mission.

During the launch event, stakeholders from industry, the public sector, TVET providers, and youth came together

to engage in forward-thinking dialogue. The discussion focused on exploring current challenges and opportunities specific to TVET in Africa, with an emphasis on promoting sustainable development. Key topics included the future of TVET-related public policies, skills development, strategies for making TVET programs accessible to underprivileged youth in remote communities, and enhancing collaboration among all involved actors to address the most pressing challenges.

"As we launch 'The Africa Skills Revolution' initiative, we are dedicated to unlocking the potential of Africa's youth through TVET. This initiative, closely aligned with the AU's 2024 theme and our ten-year implementation plan, which aims to challenge stereotypes and celebrate the achievements of young Africans. Let's empower our youth with the skills they need to drive sustainable development across our continent,"

stated Mr. Nicholas Ouma, Senior Youth Advisor at the African Union.

The initiative's goals call upon governments, private sector entities, educational institutions, industry partners, NGOs, and international bodies to unite in this transformative journey. Your support and collaboration are crucial in creating an enabling environment where young Africans can thrive.

"The 'Africa Skills Revolution' initiative represents a significant step toward empowering young

Africans. By providing access to quality TVET, we are enabling the youth to become key drivers of prosperity and innovation in their communities," said Ms. Bolette Strandbygaard, Chairperson of Humana People to People Educational and Training Foundation.

Together, by joining forces, we can build a robust network that fosters skill development, drives innovation, and catalyzes sustainable economic growth.

For more detailed information on how you can engage and support the Africa Skills Revolution, please visit the official landing page. Join the conversation on social media using the hashtag #AfricaSkillsRevolution and follow updates through AUDA-NEPAD's social media channels:

Twitter: @NEPAD\_Agency  
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 For more information on the campaign, contact: NqobileZ@nepad.org, UnamiM@nepad.org, and ana.ramos@humana.org

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# The tech and innovation torchbearer

PART 2

## How Education Made Me

INTERVIEW WITH

Charles   
Emembolu

From the appropriately named ROAR, to TechQuest Academy, to ISN Hub, to The Omniverse and to the Nigeria-Finnish Company, Dexude, Charles Emembolu has consistently affirmed his position as one of Nigeria's leading lights in the tech and innovation space. As if to cement this position further, Dexude, which he co-owns, released

its novel AI tool last month. EduTimes Africa was swift to grab the opportunity to tap from this great mind once it arose. In this first installment of a two part interview, Mr Emembolu, amongst other things, opens his mind on how Nigeria and Africa can take full advantage of the AI revolution, so it can take its seat at the global table.



**You are said to have trained over 50,000 Nigerians in business and digital literacy skills. Tell us more about this.**

Yes, this has been a journey, but a very interesting one. We have

a research publication called Building a Community. A STEM Community here in Nigeria for digital skills. That is basically the method as Africa is a community-driven continent. We're a people-people, you know? We love

people. We love communities. We love coming together. **In 2018, Google funded a project that we were meant to deliver, but the project was so poor. However, we were hell bent on reaching so many people, so we built a volunteering system where we trained the trainers. But we didn't just do that for the project. We developed it into a proper community that enabled them to go out to their own locality, train people empowered by us, and train other trainers in their spare time, so that those other trainers can train more people.** In 2019, we put everything into an academic document or research and published it. We presented that paper in Thailand sometime in the same year. So with that



Charles Emembolu with Prof. Joseph Hopkins, President of Campbellsville University, Kentucky USA

document, we've been able to reach quite a lot of people with very minimal resources. We tried to push it through to become a national programme because that was basically what we've done in our only little way, and we thought that if it became a national programme pushed by the government, then it could even reach millions of people. We've not succeeded with that. We've not given up as well. But this is basically how we've been

**You are the current Chairman of ISN Hub. One, tell us what ISN Hub is all about. Two, would you say the Federal Government of Nigeria has been an obstacle or an enabler in the Innovation space?**

Okay, I think that the government is an enabler and will always remain one, whether we agree or not. For ISN specifically, it's been a journey. That journey got to a wonderful head with the role that

open-minded and there are scales that we can achieve together. In fact, just yesterday, but it was in today's news, ISN was named in the Startup Labeling Committee by the federal government, to say that in recognition of the role that we play in national development in the area of innovation, science and technology, we will present representatives on the Startup Labeling Committee. It's not Charles Emembolu, it is that group and that body that will present



able to reach more people using tools. We have a mobile app called Mission T. We also use that to train teachers. We've had quite a lot of partners over the years, different kinds of partners who have supported our journey. So we keep doing what we do. I think we're way above the 50,000 people mark today. And we just keep marching on.

ISN played in the Nigerian Startup Act, which was still a bill at the time. ISN handled or anchored the community engagements and the state meet-ups to ensure that when that bill was eventually signed into law, people from different states who normally wouldn't care about what the Abuja people are doing, felt that they were a part of that act. So it means that there are synergies that we can develop if we remain

people there. So that's the news I woke up to this morning. I studied Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Science Park Development at Lund University in Sweden. In Sweden there's something they call Vinova. Vinova, which is a national innovation ecosystem, is very similar to what the Startup Act enables for Nigeria. And one of the critical positions for a system like that is labeling. So how do you categorize a



business? If you miscategorize it or you categorize it politically, or you don't have professionals categorizing it, there's nothing, no intervention programme that you deploy that will work. If you try to use a twine to pull a lorry, you know what will happen. So to answer that question, the government is an enabler and will always remain an enabler. And that is the approach we've adopted. We work very closely with them. A lot of the time, things don't work the way we want but it's also a lesson as education

**people complain that they are competing with the innovators but I always tell them not to worry. The main thing is that they will try. They will see what we see. So when we come to talk next time, they will listen. They will also understand how to enable us and empower us. So there's no need to worry. We should just keep moving. So they are enablers. And the**

youth?

I tell you this, contrary to what some people might say, they are certainly not lazy... Lol. And I like giving examples. I have a guy who walked up to me on a ferry between Tallinn in Estonia and Helsinki last year and he said to me, are you Charles? And I said, yes. And he asked me another question before saying, you're the reason why I'm here today. I said, I don't understand. I don't even really know you. And he says, I was at ROAR Nigeria Hub. Now, at the ROAR hub, we did not have an integrated STEM training. We just told them, listen, you can't pay for developers. You're students and you're young so you better burn the midnight oil. Go and learn it yourself. So they were mostly self-taught. They didn't even go through TechQuest programmes or anything like that. And if you know anything about Estonia, it's a digital first nation. There are about 1 million people, but everything there is automated. **So this guy says, do you know what it means to be a senior mobile developer in Tallinn? As a Nigerian, I have no foreign degrees, I've never been trained in any top school anywhere and yet I was recruited straight from Nigeria. They even did all my paperwork and brought me to Tallinn. So, I say this not to boast, but to say I'm proud that I am part of such a story.** But it is also a testament to the fact that Nigerian youth are smart, they are not lazy, and they are achieving many, many great things across the world. And those stories should be told far more than the negative ones that are



Charles hosting the President of Campbellsville University, Kentucky USA. Joseph Hopkins, Joshua Switzer and Jude Ogene

is happening along the way. **You see, every government that comes talks about innovation, whether that's in agriculture, or in tech, or in the creative sector. They all talk about innovation. All of them want to set up innovation hubs. Some**

**biggest one at that.**

**We are always hearing people say that Nigerians are blessed and gifted people. Having trained so many and given your full participation in the EdTech and Innovation space, what is your assessment of the Nigerian**

always cropping up.

**Will ISN be considering innovation HUB set up opportunities for primary and secondary school students to help them participate actively in the innovative economy space by the end of high school education?**

The answer is yes. We would love to if only we had the resources. I will speak for myself on this. Going by some of the strategy sessions and interactions I have had, this is what I will say. If your house is burning and you have a room where your certificates are, you may want to focus on that room and either get the certificates out or quench the fire right there. So just like TechQuest, we started focusing on 6 to 16 year olds. By December 2020 the unemployment rate had hit 30%. And unemployment concerns 18 years and above. So you can see why at that point we had to immediately switch focus from 6 to 16 year olds or to the room where the certificates were burning, as it were. We still do our summer camps for 6 to 16 year olds when they are on holiday but we had to switch focus to where people needed to get into the workforce very quickly. So the answer is yes. I think that is a key place where government



Charles Emembolu with Dr Sven Thore Holme, Co-founder, pioneer CEO, Ideon Science Park, Sweden and radio host Ifeoma Ajumobi, 2017 promoting Roar Nigeria Hub, UNN and the partnership with Ideon at Solid FM, Enugu.

enablement is required because a lot of the economic models or economic driven models that support training and innovation hubs, that support training and innovation hubs above 18, do not exactly work at 6 to 16. That therefore means it needs to be de-risked. It needs something like the government bringing in funding that just trains these people without any worries. So I think that the answer is definitely yes, subject to the availability of resources.

**Congratulations regarding the prestigious Business Finland TEMPO funding that your Edtech organisation, Dexude was recently awarded. Tell us more about this funding and about Dexude's mission.**

Thank you. So, the Dexude mission is that we want to be able

to reach a billion people over the next decade. And we've thought about the ability to scale training. Like you have heard, I've done training since I was young. And I see the problem with scaling training. **There are about 80 million unfilled job roles in tech today across the world. That is a very big problem. And Africa, on the other hand, is complaining**

**about a lack of jobs. So what we decided to do with Dexude is to go the non-traditional route. What do training organizations lack? Find innovative ways to give them that.** What do learners lack? Find innovative ways to give them that. What do training partners like governments or NGOs and policymakers lack? Things like data. We find a way to give them that and then use tech or digital platforms to reach aggregates of communities. The current pilot scheme that we are running in Nigeria speaks to things like the fact that training organizations typically never have full classes. So, if you wake up now and decide to start training, maybe you will do a small lesson in your home because you can't pay for a big classroom. Sometimes

you don't have the digital tools that will enable you to deliver. If you want to do Zoom that lasts more than 40 minutes, you have to pay in dollars to somebody. The marketing budget, you don't have it. So, we decided to create a platform that provides for some of these things. And then, if you're a student and maybe you're not even young or perhaps you're even a 40

keep them on the bench. We are not even talking about placing people yet, because we know that if they are well trained, there are jobs out there looking for them. If you know any chief information officer at any corporate organisation in Nigeria, ask him if he has open jobs, he will tell you yes. The problem is that the people applying do not have the skills that

very front-seated in supporting different people, not just my own company. **I have seen where an organization, government, or NGO is ready to give out \$1 million, for instance, but there's no Nigerian company in that space that has proven capacity to receive it. I've**



Charles Emembolu hosted an innovation and startup ecosystem mixer in Nairobi, May 2024

year old banker who has suddenly lost his job, but you have 20 years of experience under your belt, and you're trying to pivot your work skill, right? But you don't even know where to start, Uzo AI is there to help you. Just talk to it, like you talk to a ChatGPT and it will guide you, show you the different career options that you have, how much you can earn, places you can learn it and basically just simplify all those kinds of things. So, Dexude is just your skill partner at scale. Andela had to train people physically and

he's looking for. Dexude is here to solve that problem at scale.

**Are there many opportunities out there for funding? Are Nigerians generally aware of them?**

Hmmm... There's more money chasing Africa than Africa needs, directly or indirectly. What is lacking is capacity, understanding and the misplacement of capability. There are several foreign organisations that are very,

**seen tenders go out for development, for grants, for projects, and then come back with no viable party. I've seen where organizations like the EU have had to take calls back out to Europe so that they can find people that have the competence and capacity to deploy.** It's a shame because that's one of the very few regrets I have about 'Japa'. I think

'Japa' is a good thing, by the way. I don't think there's a problem with it. But the regret is in some of the losses, the huge losses that we'll experience, because some of our best leave. Let me take myself as an example. The first round of banking consolidation from around 2006 to around 2010, most of the people that I worked with in deploying a lot of that core infrastructure have left the country. We still maintain a few contact groups but if I host my birthday party in Lagos today, maybe two people out of those groups will turn up. If I host it in Canada, 40 people will turn up from the groups. If I host it in the UK, the same thing. If I host it in America, the same thing.

a truck can fall. They know all those things and yet they were able to deploy successfully. So they have unique experiences plus the knowledge and know-how. But to come back to your question, yes, I think there's a lot of money and opportunities for funding. But it needs to be met with capacity, capability, and understanding and that is in short supply. Let me also add that before I took on the roles that I now play with ISN, I would typically only tell you about my own experience. But in the last two or three years I have been in the front seat of supporting organizations beyond my own. So these days I can have people calling me from Zaria saying there's this grant that is coming

give them \$5 million? So that's what I was trying to say in terms of capacity.

### **Nigeria's high unemployment rate poses much danger for the country. What can be done to bring it down?**

Well, I think we've touched on this a little already. The very first thing is that we need to embark on an education system overhaul. In tech, a lot of startup founders and people who need more advanced tech talent, would typically tell you that in Nigeria, yes, there's an abundance of people but it's just quantity rather than quality.

**Increasingly, we have university graduates that can hardly draft a letter, not to talk of having coding exposure. So we need to embark on an education overhaul. We also need to shift our focus from just certificates to problem solving. People that leave school with a skill that solves a problem rarely ever run around looking for work. So that shift is something we still pay lip service to.** And I think that to

achieve that in 2024, we must move away from the traditional systems. We must ensure that we adopt technology in deploying those changes. Are we ready? I don't think so. But we just keep doing what we are doing. But that has to happen for that danger not to materialize. However, if it does not happen, it portends disaster for Nigeria. We've already seen some snippets of it. Some call it a religious problem. Some call it a political problem. Some call it



*Charles Emembolu engaging community leaders at Lagos Mainland Local Government Area Ebutte Meta Lagos in 2018 training 1000 children (6 - 16 years) in digital skills (coding, digital electronics and robotics)*

But I can tell you this, that crop of people were some of Nigeria's finest in that period. People who have deployed systems in our environment with all of its peculiarities. They know that NEPA can fail. They know that

to the North. They want to give us, they say it's up to \$5 million, but we need a company that has been able to do at least \$500,000 turnover in the last year or two. And you find out they've only done \$20,000. How can you then



TechQuest hosting the Innovation Support Network Ecosystem Mixer Lagos State 2023. A cross section of top leaders of Lagos Innovation and Tech Ecosystem

a tribal problem. I think it's an education problem that we have.

**Where do you hope to see Nigeria and Africa's innovative economy in 10 year's time?**

Well, I'm an incurable optimist so I'm betting on Nigeria and I will keep betting on Nigeria. You know, I missed the first 'Japa' wave. That was before it even became a word. I missed the second one too so we are here. I can tell you that we are here because Nigeria's potential will materialize. We just need the right leadership, and we do have some already in certain spaces. We just need to galvanize that action. And I'm not talking about political leadership alone, even religious leadership. I mean, a lot of what people are learning nowadays are in places of religious worship; school leadership is there and of course, the governments.

Traditional leadership too. So, if only we are able to galvanize action on this. Somebody challenged me recently and asked me if I'd be happy to take up a local government position. You know the debate on local government autonomy has been on for some time. I come from a big city, Onitsha. I come from Onitsha proper. And this guy says, do I know the budget or allocation for Onitsha? Would I be happy to pick up the local government chairmanship of my community? He went on to say that I would probably

achieve more impact than I can running around doing what I'm



Charles Emembolu with Afrobeat legend, Tuface Idibia



A courtesy visit to iBiz Africa Incubation Centre at Strathmore Business School, Nairobi, Kenya 2024. In the picture with Dr Vincent Ogutu, Vice Chancellor, Ludovica Ochieng and Dr Thuweba Diwani, Digital Transformation Centre, Nigeria.

**It's just leadership at the right levels that we lack. And then of course, education to support the build. And 10 years is enough time for that.**

Charles is a thoroughbred professional with over eighteen years cognate experience in the areas of telecommunications, IT strategy, project & change management (P3CM). Business transformation and entrepreneurship. He commenced his career in the telecommunications sector with stints at Bourdex Telecoms and GS Telecoms (now Vodacom). He has consistently championed innovation and technology local talent development using a global market approach.

He Co-founded Roar Nigeria Hub, Nigeria's first university-embedded, private sector led technology incubator established in partnership with the University of Nigeria in 2016. With more than a decade of experience. He has founded and supported various technology and innovation-focused organizations. He is also the Co-Founder of TechQuest, a not for Profit Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Organization. Together, TechQuest and Roar Nigeria have impacted over 60,000 young Nigerians through entrepreneurship support, business incubation, and digital literacy skills. Charles founded Crestsage Limited in 2010, an IT consulting firm delivering enterprise solutions for corporates, academia, and government.

Charles is a trained IT architect, certified project manager, and

doing, because I will have more people, government power and resources at my disposal. It was a big challenge because honestly, I couldn't immediately say yes. If you know what I mean. Yes, everybody wants to be governor, everybody wants to be a minister, everybody wants to be president. A lot of people that are learned and exposed, who can actually do the work, don't want to become a local government chairperson because some parts of it have been bastardized. They no longer see it as public service and the kind of people that have gone into those positions in recent times are not what you want to be known as. But we must change that. And if we bring the right leadership to the table, in 10 years time, Nigeria will dominate. We're already dominating anyway, to be frank with you, it's just not at the right level. We have the most Unicorns, for instance, in Africa. We have

the most funds, because funds always follow value. Nobody throws away venture capital for the fond of it. So all those are indicators. It's just that with the value proposition that we have, it's so undervalued, it's so under-realized that it is a shame. But I think that 10 years is enough time if we keep marching at this pace, if we keep collaborating, if we keep leveraging networks like ISN instead of the siloed building that we typically would adopt in Nigeria; if government continues to engage, like the wonderful news I woke up to this morning, that is recognizing a collective for collective good, rather than just appointing people for the sake of it, we will be a leader, not just for Africa, but for the world. **Nigeria has what it takes to be in the top top five innovative countries in the world. We have everything it takes.**



*Driven by his passion for collaborative innovation, Charles is the current Board Chairman at Innovation Support Network (ISN) in Nigeria, which represents over 150 incubators, accelerators, and innovation hubs and Co-Convener of Omniverse Africa. This role aligns perfectly with his wealth of experience, ambition and dedication to enhancing strategic collaboration.*

*has attended academic programs at institutions like University of Nigeria, Lagos Business School, Lund and Harvard University.*

*Charles is an investor, industry leader, and an international speaker, with several publications and articles.*



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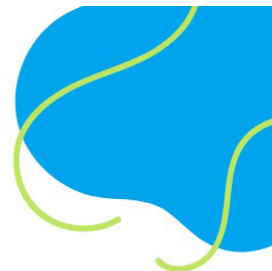
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## Journaling (Part 2)

by Femi Ogunleye ||  Nigeria

1. Begin your day with a prayer. Take a moment to express gratitude, reflecting on what you are grateful for.
2. Consider the goals you wish to accomplish today that aligns with the principles in this journal. Identify something you haven't been doing or have neglected, look within yourself and write it down.
3. Keep your written goals in mind and seize every opportunity to work towards achieving them.
4. Contemplate the daily affirmation and quote.
5. In the evening, reflect on how well you accomplished your set goals. Write down what you did and how you felt.
6. Before going to sleep, say a prayer of gratitude. As you sleep, imagine how beautiful the next day will be.
7. "Exhale" means venting out your frustrations for the day. "Inhale" means writing down the pleasant moments of the day. "Breathe" means reflecting on how you feel after exhaling and inhaling. "Reflections" means noting the lessons you learned from



the day, especially in your interactions with others.

the entire journal by their sets (the 4 Ds).

8. Read about the personality for the week. If it's someone unfamiliar to you, you can research about that person and involve your friends. It will bring you closer together.
9. Summarize your week on "The Weekly Summary" page.
10. Answer the weekly questions. It's best to discuss these questions with friends.

**MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR JOURNEY**

”If you want to go fast, walk alone, if you want to go far, walk with a friend” - African Proverb

1. Seek friends who share your noble goals and are willing to walk and work with you. Having a support system will help prevent burnout and provide encouragement.
2. You may face challenges

who observe your progress and recognize your potential. They will try to hinder your success by using various tactics to persuade you to give up on your goals. They are motivated by fear.

6. Steer clear of people who lack clear ambition. They may show interest, but you will soon realize that they have no genuine desire to pursue any goal.
7. Align yourself with friends who are moving in the same direction as you. Dedicate more time to friends who share your vision and can fuel your passion.
8. Find a mentor who can provide guidance during challenging times. Share your goals with this person. Look for someone who possesses the qualities you desire. Be cautious when selecting a mentor.
9. Always ask questions and seek clarification when you are unsure about something. Be humble in seeking guidance and remain open to learning.
10. Involve your parents and/or guardian. You don't have to share the journal with them, but discuss your reflections. They will understand you better and increase your confidence in expressing yourself.
11. Once you gain clarity, discuss your discoveries with friends and younger individuals. It will broaden your knowledge and begin to influence your immediate community. That is the beginning of leadership and influence.



11. Repeat this process until the end of the month and summarize your overall experience. It's necessary to be honest with yourself.
12. For the next month, you can choose another principle or repeat if you feel the need to.
13. Store your journal in a safe, dry place, like a shoe box
14. Repeat this process again and again. You will gain mastery of yourself; nothing will stop you from achieving your goals.
15. We suggest you go through

- with writing, thinking, and planning. That's okay, practice regularly and unlock your potential one day at a time.
3. Take at least 10 minutes each morning to reflect (meditate) on what you are thankful for and set goals for the day. In the evening, spend 20 minutes writing about the lessons you learnt.
4. Avoid individuals who make jest and try to belittle your journey. They lack direction and clear goals. They want you to conform to their ways and are motivated by ignorance.
5. Confront the bullies, those

**THE COMMITMENT**

My name is .....

.....  
 I am ..... years old, the year is ..... and live in .....  
 I am in .....  
 .....  
 My vision is to .....

In the next 28 days I would have accomplished

1. ....
2. ....
3. ....
4. ....

In the next 28 days I would have become .....

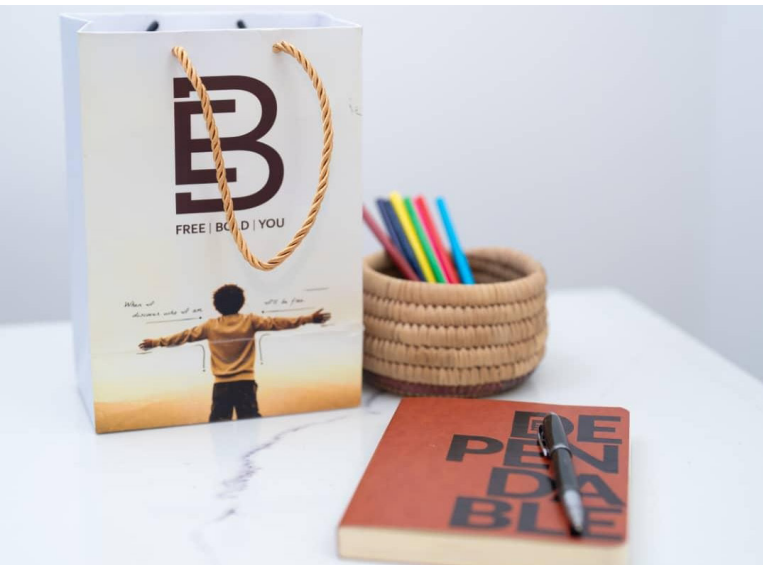
.....

I am embarking on this journey with my friends .....

.....

.....

With them I know the journey will be easier and I promise to support, encourage and help whenever I can.



**MY PLEDGE**

Put your right hand on your chest as you say these words audibly.

I .....

..... have embarked on a journey to create a meaningful impact and become an exceptional individual. I expect to face challenges, but I am determined to overcome them. My goal is to discover, serve my talent and gift to the world.

Failure is not an option; I will persist tirelessly without making excuses or hesitating. Even if it means putting in more effort than my peers, I will willingly do so

because my future depends on my success. I recognize that I have a valuable contribution to society, and it would be selfish to hide from those who rely on me. Therefore, I promise to take a step forward each day towards achieving my goal, even when obstacles stand in my way.

If ever faced with defeat, I will rise again fearlessly; if I am lost, I will seek guidance; if I am weak, I will seek companionship and assistance until victory. I will settle for nothing less than success!

**PRAYER**

Dear God, I am grateful for the opportunity to embark on this journey; may I find it rewarding and inspiring that I will become a better person to myself and society. May my life be an inspiration to many and to those that will learn from my experience. Amen



with extensive experience in various aspects of the financial industry in Nigeria. Starting with modest capital, he successfully built a company that generated over \$50,000 in revenue within three years and lost it all.

Despite facing significant setbacks due to erroneous decisions and challenges, he underwent a transformative journey of self-reflection and mentorship, leading him to identify the root causes of his poor decisions. Now, he is

committed to preventing others, especially young people, from encountering similar difficulties. He authored "The HUBU Journals," a series aimed at guiding teenagers through self-discovery, introspection, and self-awareness, encapsulating 12 life-changing principles.

He has held seminars with students, teenager's boot camps, events and other similar engagements.

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Mr. Ogunleye is a seasoned investment banker, member of the Chartered Institute of Stockbrokers and an entrepreneur,



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by Dr Genevieve Pearl Duncan Obuobi ||  Ghana

**By Dr Genevieve Obuobi**  
 EduTimes Africa's International Bureau Chief for the West Africa Region

# Tarragon Edge Partners HIVE Africa

Over the weekend, Tarragon Edge Limited partnered HIVE Africa to host HIVE Africa 9.0. We had the privilege of hosting over 75 distinguished global leaders from Zambia, Nigeria, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon,

Ethiopia, Ivory Coast, Congo, and several other countries at the 9th edition of the Hive Global Leaders Program.

This gathering marked an unforgettable Hive experience, filled with enriching discussions, collaborative projects, and a profound exchange of ideas aimed at creating positive



exceptional individuals into the Hive Global Community.

Their contributions and insights will undoubtedly strengthen our collective efforts to address some of the world's most pressing challenges in Africa. The bonds formed and the ideas generated during this program will continue to resonate and inspire action long after the event.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce that the 10th edition of the Hive Global Leaders Program will take place in Lusaka, Zambia. We eagerly anticipate another round of transformative experiences and impactful connections.

We hope to partner HIVE as we plan for Lusaka and inviting you all to be there. Together Let's embark on the next chapter of our journey together.

HIVE Africa

global change.

The event was a testament to the power of diverse perspectives coming together under one roof.

Our participants engaged in thought-provoking sessions, networking opportunities, and workshops designed to equip them with the tools and knowledge to drive impact in their respective communities and beyond.

The energy, passion, and commitment displayed by each leader were truly inspiring.

We are thrilled to welcome these





*Enthusiast of SDGs 5,7,8 and 17. She is currently the Lead Consultant of Tarragon Edge Limited. Prior to her new role, she worked with Fidelity Bank Ghana Limited where she managed flagship branches and was known for her exceptional service delivery experience. Her expertise are in personal and team development, leadership, customer experience, partnership brokerage, writing and management consulting.*

*Dr. Genevieve Pearl is a multiple award winner in Banking, Leadership and a light bearer for African Women. A versatile international speaker and panel moderator. She is listed as one of the 100 most impactful change*

*makers in Africa by Humanitarian Awards Global 2023, and listed amongst the 40 most influential female leaders in Ghana 2020.*

*She is a Customer Experience Strategist, Corporate Trainer and an SME consultant with great passion for gender financing and youth leadership. She is an*

*Dr. Genevieve is an alumnus of the Swiss Business School Zurich, Switzerland where she earned her Doctorate in Business Administration, and the University of Ghana, Legon where she had her Masters Degree and GIMPA for her Bachelors in Business Administration. She is also management certified by CEIBS,*

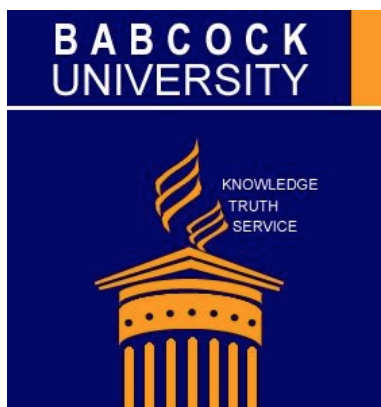


Shanghai, Cranfield Management - UK and Harvard, USA. She is a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Leadership and Governance, USA (Ghana Chapter)

Dr Genevieve is a columnist in the Business and Financial Times in Ghana, the Author of *The Jigsaw Effect of Leaders* and *The Diary of the Branch Manager*. She is also a co-author of *Who moved my heels* and *My Africa, my Identity*. She enjoys sharing knowledge, writing, traveling and listening to good music.

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## NMCN registrar seeks holistic approach to nursing practice

By Godwin Ugbaka, Assistant Director, Communication and Marketing, Babcock University.



Registrar/Chief Executive Officer of the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NMCN), Dr. Faruk Abubakar has called for the adoption of a holistic approach to nurturing nursing practice. Dr Abubakar made the call while delivering a keynote address at the opening of a four-day international conference which took place at Babcock University.

In a paper, “This Mission is Possible: Excellence in Nursing Practice and Leadership for Success”, Dr. Abubakar said a holistic approach required continuous learning, compassionate care, technological proficiency and a focus on patients’ wellbeing.

The conference was a tripartite collaborative venture organized by the International Outreach Health Educators (IOHE), the

School of Nursing Sciences and the Nursing and Midwifery Council of Nigeria (NWCN).

Apart from the pivotal role nurses play in shaping positive patient outcomes, Dr. Abubakar said nurses have a huge contribution to the overall success of healthcare systems.

He equally advocated continuous investment not only in nurses’ professional development but also in patient care, dedication to duty, and compassion, the essence of nursing profession.

“Overall, nursing excellence is about striving for the highest standards of care, constantly seeking opportunities for growth and improvement, and making a positive impact on the lives of patients and the healthcare community,” he said. According to him, nurturing excellence in nursing is not

just a goal but a commitment to creating a healthcare environment where both nurses and patients thrive

In his goodwill message, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Professor Philemon Amanze stressed the need for collaboration as a panacea to the Japa syndrome in the health sector.

He said any recommendations from the conference that would improve the efficiency and proficiency of the nursing profession in an era of recurring pandemic, economic challenges and the Japa syndrome would be much welcomed.

Chief Medical Director, Babcock University Teaching Hospital (BUTH), Professor Barnabas Mandong said any inputs from the facilitators on BUTH’s facilities would help in their improvement where necessary.





“Don’t go away without lending us your experiences. We are happy and proud of you,” he said. Speaking, a representative of the eight facilitators from US, Kathleen Farrel, expressed delight for the opportunity to offer the support that would make the mission possible. “We are happy to be in the conference because we care, and we have something to share. We came well prepared and hope that what we brought to share is

School of Nursing Sciences, Professor Christiana Sowunmi, Provost, Benjamin Carson (Snr) College of Health and Medical Sciences, Prof John Sotunsa, Representatives of the Permanent Secretary, Ogun State Ministry of Health Sciences, Mrs. Aminu Omobolanle, Permanent Secretary, Ogun State Ministry of Health, Mr. Olakanni Abiodun, Executive Secretary, Ogun State Primary Healthcare Board, Dr. Ogunsilu Esther

Nigerian Nurses and Midwives, Ogun State, Comrade Adejoke Bello among others. Meanwhile, President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo has charged nurses not to shirk their responsibilities as care givers. Speaking at the opening of the four-day international conference on nursing which took place at the 600-seater auditorium of Babcock University, Professor Tayo reminded the nurses that ‘compassion and self-less services’ are non-negotiable in their chosen career. As caregivers, Professor Tayo said, the nurses protect, treat and care for patients that have all kinds of diseases at the same time. “Know it that you have excellent responsibilities”, he added. He therefore noted that nurses’ role in the healthcare sector of any nation cannot be downplayed in view of the multiplicity of diseases troubling the African continent in recent times. Professor Tayo said the conference was not only an opportunity to get the participants acquainted with the best practices in nursing practice but also to foster a healthy Nigeria. He urged participants to interrogate and take full advantage of the conference to interact and get the best in what is in stock for you.



acceptable,” she said. The opening ceremony was graced by the Dean of the

Abiola, respectively. Also in attendance was the Chairman, National Association of

# Babcock Alumni signs MoU with EASS

By Godwin Ugbaka, Assistant Director, Communication and Marketing, Babcock University.



L-R: CEO, Education Advancement Support Services, Mr. Tunde Ijyemi; Company Secretary, Barrister Kunle Adeola; Business Development Manager, Miss Kemi Anifowoshe, all of EASS and Babcock University Legal Officer, Dr Joseph Agada during the MoU signing ceremony between BUAA and EASS at Babcock University, Ilishan -Remo Ogun State.

**B**abcock University Alumni Association (BUAA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Education Advancement Support Services (EASS) to facilitate the creation of an online platform to engage and raise funds from alumni and donors for the university. According to the terms of reference, EASS is to implement, programme the online platform, Konnect on behalf of BUAA to import data

into the platform, set up web front-end with customization and branding, manage BUAA's administrative portal among others.

Speaking at the MoU signing ceremony, witnessed by the university's principal officers, BUAA and EASS officials, President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo said he was convinced that the agreement would be mutually beneficial to both parties. He,

however, said it was important that the company first reaches out to the alumni before they engage them for anything whatsoever. Professor Tayo explained that EASS would leverage the alumni to scout for the funds for which they will earn their percentage. "If you do it well you will get much and if you do little, you will also get little," he advised.


Also speaking, National President of BUAA, Dr. Adeoti Tayo said the MoU signed offers the partner the opportunity to use its far-reaching platform to engage Babcock alumni and donors all over the world to raise funds from them for the university. "It is one thing for the alumni to receive from the university but another thing for the alumni to give back to the university. We want to add value to our Alma Mater by shifting the burden of funding from the institution to the alumni as commonly done in developed countries." In response, Chief Executive Officer, Education Advancement Support Services (EASS), Mr. Tunde Ijyemi said the company would employ its online platform, Konnect, which aids easy fund raising, campaigns and tools to engage alumni and other donors to get donations to support Alumni operational activities, mission and vision. "We have just entered

into partnership with Babcock Alumni to engage her alumni wherever they are anywhere in the world,” he said.

He said they have been in this business for upward of 15 years and have already been working with the University of Lagos, University of Ibadan and Yaba College of Technology.



President Babcock University Alumni Association (BUAA), Dr Adeoti Tayo (4th left ) and Chief Executive Officer, Education Advancement Support Services (EASS), Mr. Tunde Ijiyemi (6th right) displaying a copy of the MoU signed between BUAA and EASS as Deputy Vice Chancellor, Management Services, Prof Jacob Haliso as Director of Alumni and Connectivity, Dr. Jonathan Dangana; Executive Secretary, BUAA, Dr Gift Okata; President/Vice Chancellor, Professor Ademola Tayo; Company Secretary, Barrister Kunle Adeola; Business Development Manager, Miss Kemi Anifowoshe all of EASS; University Bursar, Dr. Folorunso Akande and University Legal Officer, Dr Joseph Agada watch.



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8th Annual Ife Institute of Advanced Studies Summer Institute Theme Announced:

## "Building Communities of Practice: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Academic Leadership in Africa"

The Ife Institute of Advanced Studies is excited to announce the theme of its 8th Annual Summer Institute: "Building Communities of Practice: Interdisciplinary Collaboration and Academic Leadership in Africa." Convened by Professor Jacob Kehinde Olupona of Harvard University, the institute boasts over five hundred fellows across the continent. This year, the institute will host 70 early career, doctoral, and post-doctoral scholars at Ilé-Ife and over 100 remotely for two weeks of critical conversation, workshops, and mentoring sessions.

This prestigious event will take place from July 22nd to August 2nd, 2024, at the African Centre of Excellence, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ilé-Ife, Nigeria. The Institute will gather renowned scholars, researchers, educators, policymakers, professionals, practitioners, and leaders from diverse fields to engage in meaningful discussions and collaborative activities.

The theme underscores the vital role of interdisciplinary collaboration and strong academic and public leadership in addressing Africa's complex

challenges. The Summer Institute aims to foster a vibrant network of professionals committed to innovative research, entrepreneurship, and impactful scholarship.

The Summer Institute will welcome distinguished scholars from various prestigious institutions, including Harvard University; Wake Forest University, North Carolina; Princeton Theological Seminary; Amherst College; Elon University, North Carolina; Stony Brook University, New York; University of Pennsylvania; UMass Boston John W. McCormack Graduate School of Policy and Global Studies; Boston University; University of Delaware; Regent University; Yale University; Penn State University; Mount Royal University, Canada; York University, Toronto; Glasgow Caledonian University; University of Ghana, Legon; L'Ecole Normale Supérieure for the Letters and Humanities, Bouzareah, Algiers; University of Nairobi; University of Lagos; University of Ibadan, and the host institution, Obafemi Awolowo University, among others.

This year, His Excellency, the Honourable Governor of Oyo

State, Engr. Oluwaseyi Abiodun Makinde, will grace the occasion as the Distinguished Guest of Honour. The keynote speech will be delivered by Professor Adéléké Adéẹ̀ kọ̀, Humanities Distinguished Professor of English and African American and African Studies at Ohio State University. The program features workshops on interdisciplinary research methods, community engagement, and leadership development. Panels will feature distinguished speakers sharing insights on building effective communities of practice within African academic and professional landscapes. The Institute is designed to foster connections, networking opportunities, and collaborations among participants, encouraging the exchange of ideas and best practices. Participants will also tour cultural and heritage sites and visit the institute's permanent site.

Professor Olupona stated that this year's theme reflects the Institute's commitment to advancing knowledge and leadership through collaborative efforts. By building communities of practice, we can drive sustainable development and innovation across Africa.

## The University of Texas, Dallas and Cavista Holdings launch Africa office in Lagos.



*From Left to Right: John Olajide (Chairman Cavista Holdings) || Dr. Inga Musselman (Provost at UT Dallas) || Dr. Richard Benson (President of UT Dallas) || Dr. Juan Gonzalez (Vice Provost Global Engagement at UTDallas) || Jennifer Hilton Montero, Ph.D.(Dir. International Initiatives) || Josephine Vitta, J.D. (Dir. Student Services)*

Hosted by Axxess and Cavista Global in Lagos, Nigeria, this exclusive event brought together business community members, diplomatic officials and leaders in the higher education space, who all came to celebrate the opening of the University of Texas at Dallas liaison office which will serve Sub-Saharan Africa.

The grand opening took place on Thursday, July 18th at the Cavista office located at 13 Town Planning Way, Ilupeju, Lagos. The purpose of this new office is to reach out to quality prospective students, connect with alumni in the region, facilitate partnerships with African higher education institutions, connect its faculty for research opportunities and further build UTD's brand.

The UTD Africa Office owes its inauguration to UTD's esteemed alumni, John Olajide, CEO of Axxess. The office's opening further affirms his leadership and support of connecting African youth to quality education and professional opportunities. Gracing the event was the US Consul General to Nigeria amongst other dignitaries. The UTD Africa Office represents UTD's International Center as it increases its immigration-related, educational, and diplomatic programmes that bring the world to UTD and UTD to the world.

You can find more information about the International Center online at [ic.utdallas.edu](http://ic.utdallas.edu) and for further enquiries kindly contact [internationalinitiatives@utdallas.edu](mailto:internationalinitiatives@utdallas.edu)



*L-R: Olumide Olayomi, Director of Government and External Affairs, Cavista Holdings with Oladapo Akande, CEO, EduTimes Africa*









L-R: John Olajide, Chairman, Cavista Holdings; Will Stevens, United States Consul-General, Lagos; Ayuli Jemide, lead partner, Detail Commercial Solicitor; Richard Benson, President, University of Texas at Dallas, USA; Abubakar Suleiman, MD/CEO, Sterling Bank; Inga Musselman, Provost, University of Texas at Dallas, USA; Folashade Ambrose-Medebem, Commissioner for Commerce, Cooperatives, Trade and Investment, Lagos State; Juan Gonzalez, Vice Provost, Global Engagement and Dean of Graduate Education, University of Texas at Dallas, USA; and Jennifer Hilton Montero, Senior Director for International Initiatives, University of Texas at Dallas, USA, at the launch of the University of Texas at Dallas, office in Nigeria, held in Lagos









*Dr. Juan Gonzalez (Vice Provost Global Engagement at UTDallas) || Mr Will Stevens, USA Consul General to Nigeria || Dr. Inga Musselman (Provost at UT Dallas)*







*Dr. Inga Musselman (Provost at UT Dallas) || Dr. Juan Gonzalez (Vice Provost Global Engagement at UTDallas) || Emmanuel Aduayi (Senior Business Development Manager, Axxess, USA) || Jennifer Hilton Montero, Ph.D. (Dir. International Initiatives) || John Olajide (Chairman Cavista Holdings)*





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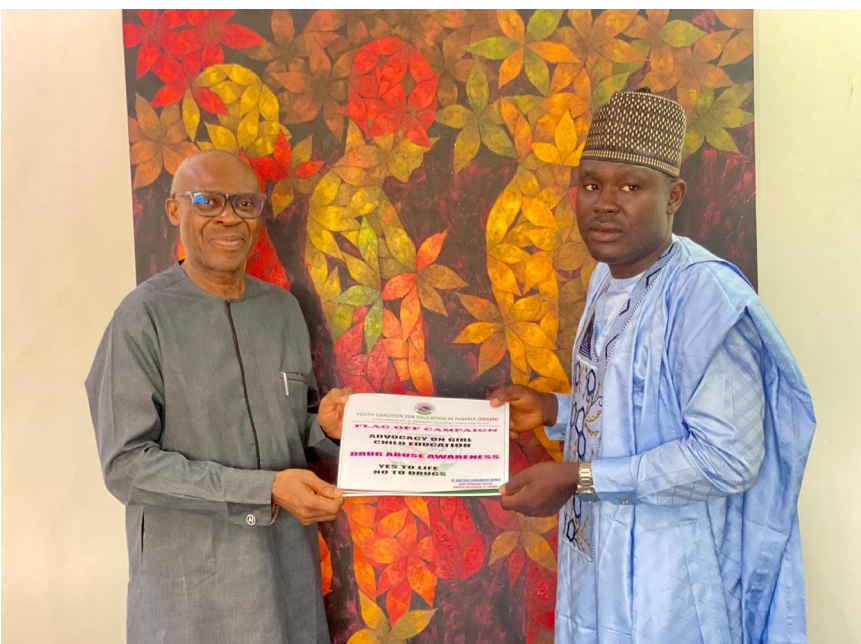
## Youth Coalition for Education in Nigeria (YOCEN) Honors Dr. Babatunde Obrimah at Prestigious Award Ceremony



On June 28, 2024, The Youth Coalition for Education in Nigeria (YOCEN) held a distinguished award ceremony to recognize the exceptional contributions of Dr.

Babatunde Obrimah, COO of FinTechNGR, and the association. The event took place at B & I in Lagos, underscoring YOCEN's unwavering commitment to youth advocacy and education in

Nigeria. The ceremony began with an opening prayer and an introduction to YOCEN's mission and activities. The association, renowned for its advocacy efforts on behalf of Nigerian youth, highlighted its ongoing initiatives, including a campaign supporting girl child education and combating drug abuse.



Dr. Babatunde Obrimah received the Certificate of Noble Prize for Excellence, recognizing him as a Vanguard of Societal and Human Emancipation in Nigeria. Additionally, the Corporate Mandate Award of Credence was presented to the Management Team, Stakeholders, and Esteemed Members of FinTechNGR for their dedication and contributions to youth



education and empowerment through the association's programs.

A special recognition was also bestowed upon Dr. Obrimah, who received a traditional wrapper from Ivory Coast. This gift, presented by a representative of YOCEN's director in Ivory Coast, acknowledged Dr. Obrimah's significant role as a mentor and leader within the association.

The ceremony was a testament to YOCEN's continuous support and advocacy for youth and education in Nigeria. The heartfelt speeches and well-deserved recognitions underscored the collective efforts of the association and its members in driving positive change and development within the

community.

About YOCEN: The Youth Coalition for Education in Nigeria (YOCEN) is dedicated to advocating for the educational and social well-being of Nigerian youth. Through various initiatives and campaigns, YOCEN strives to create opportunities and foster a supportive environment for young people to thrive.

About FintechNGR: FintechNGR is the premier national fintech association in Africa, dedicated to accelerating fintech growth, connecting stakeholders, and advocating for the adoption of regulatory supports and reforms. With a diverse membership base

spanning various sector. FintechNGR aims to foster an innovation-driven environment and make Nigeria one of the world's leading markets for fintech innovation and investment.

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INTERVIEW WITH

# Professor Jacob Kehinde Olupona of Harvard University

by Taiye Timmy Fatoki

*EduTimes Africa's International Bureau  
Chief for the European Region.*



Formed in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences is what you may call an ultra exclusive 'club' with members representing the most illustrious of the American society. Past and living members include the likes of Benjamin Franklin (elected 1781), Ralph Waldo Emerson (1864), Albert Einstein (1924), Martin Luther King Jr. (1966), Stephen Hawking (1984), Condoleezza Rice (1997) and the famous musical artist, John Legend (2017). Members are elected based on their exceptional contributions to society through leadership in their chosen fields, whether this be in the arts, sciences, public affairs, business or in philanthropy. This makes Professor Jacob Olupona's election into the Academy no mean feat. In this exclusive interview with EduTimes Africa's International Bureau Chief for Europe, Taiye Timmy Fatoki, the highly distinguished Harvard University Professor speaks passionately about his country Nigeria and the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) which he founded some years ago as a way of giving back and contributing to the development of his homeland.

**What are some of the things and who are the individuals in your early years who influenced you, especially concerning the establishment of the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS)?**

My background, my parents' legacy and the advantages of being

raised according to the Christian ethos of love, community upliftment and development are my biggest motivation. A surrogate mother, who was also responsible for raising me, and my interest in community development also influenced me. My love for culture and tradition came from her too,

because she married a Chief at Oke-igbo, who was a devotee of one of the deities. As a result, I grew up listening to Ibeji (twins) chants and songs. My father was also an Anglican priest, he moved from one community to another to preach the gospel, and so anywhere he went, I was



there as well. My upbringing was cosmopolitan as a result. Then of course, the high school and universities I attended were very instrumental to my interest in supporting scholarly work. All these had a great impact on my interest to start the IIAS. I attended the University of Nigeria, Nsukka after the civil war and there they have buildings named after great Nigerians like Obafemi Awolowo, Richard Akintola, Isa

point. It is about a lot of work and years of sacrifice.

**I am a very lucky person, because none of our scholars in Africa and beyond Africa that I have ever called upon to help us has never said ‘no’ to me, not even one.** It is a model I think I am interested in talking about. It is not about competition. It is even good for us that we

things, so that I do not begin to be proud and arrogant, or feel I have accomplished.

**What is the motivation behind your support for scholarly research; work etc., especially for young scholars, educational empowerment and the establishment of IIAS?**

It has its own history. It has to do with how people of my generation, especially those who went to university in the 70s and 80s, and how we were trained, how lucky we were to be trained by some of the best and the brightest in the country, even from the High school. **The teachers who taught me back then at Gboluji Anglican Grammar School, Ile-Oluji, Ondo State, are equivalent to today’s senior professors in the universities. We had very bright teachers who were also like parents to us. Education back then, was not just about academics.**

**It was also about good character, which was a very important part of our training.** As a result, gaining admission/entry into the university was not difficult for us. Infact, there was a time when about five students from our school Gboluji Anglican Grammar School gained admission to study medicine and surgery at the same time. That was how awesome education was then. Many Africans, including myself, were unique when we went to study abroad. So when we finished, we asked ourselves, why did we come here? Let us go back home and create something similar, so we can train the young generation



Katia, Akpabio etc. However, a few years ago when I went there to receive an Honourary Degree from the university, I wept because of the present state of the university. This is another reason why I thought we must work strategically together to make things right.

**What can you say about the institute so far, especially regarding the trainers, how it started and so on?**

I am glad we chose the right thing and I am very happy with what we have seen so far as outcomes. I did not just wake up to do this. Anyone who thinks that was how IIAS came about, has missed the

become the model of excellence that people now see. That is the beauty of it. We also try as much as we can to make it open so that we can get more of this initiative from other people.

Some of the people who are involved in this, when they start telling stories of their encounter with me when I was a young Lecturer. Most of the things they say, I do not even remember. Imagine someone telling me, “you paid my school when I was stranded somewhere...” Nevertheless, I cannot even remember. It got to a point in my career and life when I started thanking God, and even begged God not to let me remember these

of scholars. I am grateful to God for the opportunity to train many Nigerians at the University of Ife (Obafemi Awolowo University). It is this success story we are bringing back via IIAS, so that

**of Ife (now, OAU), if your course was not available at the graduate level (postgraduate) or if your course was not available**

and myself. Most of us who went to the United States of America, came back home, we did not stay back. There was no reason to hang around America, because home was better. We came back and



*Prof. Olupona with Fellows of the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS)*

we can train and support people who are ready to be the change and make a change, because really, time is against us as a country. I thank God for the opportunity to encounter great minds who sacrificed themselves for other people's benefits. Even among ourselves, we had healthy rivalry that propelled us to be better as students. Those great minds then, are today's great men and women who live in and outside of Nigeria. All these are few of the motivations behind what I am doing today in support of scholarly works.

Please tell us about your training abroad as a young scholar

**Back then at the University**

**in the country, and there was no one to teach it, they would create a scholarship for you and send you abroad for further training.**

Ife was able to send many people, including myself out for training. However, because they did not want us to be too comfortable in Europe and America, they were paying us stipends, and not a salary. It was a great way to ensure we faced our goal of studying abroad.

All of us were anxious to finish and come back to Nigeria. One of the best minds in Nuclear physics, Professor Adegbulugbe, was part of that group alongside others

we were challenged to do things we would never have been asked to do in the United States i.e to develop new programmes in our various fields. The nuclear science technology at the University of Ife (now OAU), Professor Adegbulugbe was involved in that. I was given the responsibility of revising the syllabus in religion... so, we trained ourselves for Nigeria and for our universities, and we came back.

**Sir, at what point did you decide to leave Nigeria?**

When the crisis started because of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in the 80s, a lot of us left Nigeria. **You**

**know that the United States of America is good at making the best use of talent. America will grab talent and turn them into something better for themselves. Today, it is easy to see Nigerian Professors distinguishing themselves there, whether it's in cancer research, engineering, literature etc.,**

the world contributing to human development.

**Prof, why Ife Institute of Advanced Studies?**

At one point, it occurred to me that things must not continue the way they were going; that we just had to do something about the state of education/ scholarly training and research as a collective response for a brighter future. Therefore, I had meetings

a way that it didn't conflict with the existing structure. Therefore, we decided to create a programme that would not involve the awarding of degrees, but one that would empower young scholars to know what they need to know to become formidable global scholars. So we provide a kind of rite of passage for them, to know how to become a global scholar. I convinced our colleagues and friends who were abroad, came back home and had meetings



**we are there.** It also comes with sober reflection. I knew I trained myself for Nigeria and Africa, and they trained me, and I came back to give back. Infact, the first set of students I trained are now professors too. They are all over

with people that I have trained, my friends and some who have not even been to Africa, nor are they Africans, to come together and support the vision of supporting stronger scholarly work in Nigeria. However, we had to do it in such

with our colleagues at home too, because without their support, the idea would fail. IIAS is an in-person training and support that offers listening sessions, one-to-one interactive support, and follow-up support (cluster and

global).

I visit Nigeria every year, I teach students in class. I support the professors, some of whom were my former students. I was able to convince them (Professors from the University of Ibadan, Ilorin and OAU) about the institute initiative. Then we created a critical mass of scholars who will be responsible for mentoring and teaching young scholars. Then we focused on pre-doctoral and doctoral.

We carried out our homework, and noted all the sins of omission and commission, as well as all the important things necessary to teach and train young scholars. We also included the issues of ethics, relationships (lecturer-students relationships). We got experts from Nigeria, Germany, South Africa, etc. to support them via the annual IIAS programme. When we started the programme, we had trainers who came on their own. They paid for all the expenses themselves. That was the type of passion and commitment our trainers put into the vision. I also made a deliberate commitment to ensure that the IIAS programme started as a summer institute, then later transformed into what it is now known as Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS). The 2024 programme makes it the eighth year since we started. It started as a Nigerian dream, then African, but now, a global programme. Participants are welcome from around the world.

**Prof, what is the sustainability plan you have for the Institute (IIAS)?**

We encourage fellows, professors and lecturers to have a mindset

that the institute belongs to all. Because one of the reasons why many of such dreams died in the past is the fact that they were mainly associated with the founder. However, because IIAS is based on a non-profit idea, it was first funded by Michael and Henrietta Olupona Foundation, which was established in memory of my parents, to build a socially, economically and spiritually strong Africa through education,

to suit our needs. We are also planning to have an endowment, to ensure sustainability. We want the institute to be in a place of its own where we would be having consultancy, workshops, conferences, etc.

**Prof, why do you think many of today’s scholars staying back abroad? Why do you think they are not as anxious as you were to return to Nigeria?**



*Prof. Olupona with a fellow scholar at an event*

peace and equal opportunity for all. Presently, we welcome donors who are willing to support the vision. If we are lucky to have great minds who are interested to support our vision, we shall name buildings in their name or preferred names to remember their deeds towards supporting scholars for societal development. We also plan to name some of our structures after great people that today’s generation of young people do not know. People like Professor Adeoye Lambo and so on. So that their contributions to national development will be remembered forever. It is our desire to bring in something we have seen elsewhere back home,

Nigeria is able to do things right, ‘Japa’ (traveling to live abroad without an immediate plan of returning home) will become ‘Japada’ (anxious plan and readiness to return home after studying or working abroad). Let me say that many Nigerians are aware of opportunities at home, and they would love to come back. However, there are challenges existing at home that they all do not want. For example, insecurity is one, No one wants to come back home and be wasted by some ignorant and evil people. Basic infrastructure that could make work easier is another. Even for me, it is difficult for me to visit my hometown, Ute, in Ondo State because of insecurity. The

existing avoidable challenges make it difficult for Nigerians abroad to come back home. So, as soon as many have the opportunity to

purpose and vision. Already, we have secured some hectares of land for this. We are working to have such a place with modern

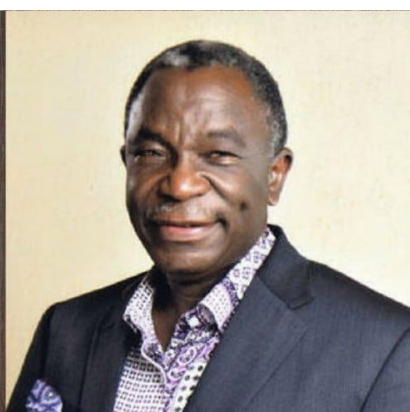
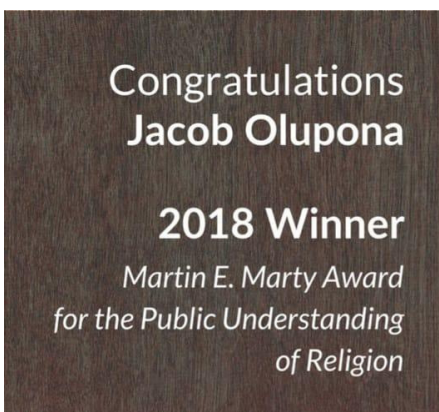
People feel there is an urgent need for the government to do a lot more about the issue of poverty eradication. For example, due to insecurity, some farmers cannot afford to go to farm regularly. The ripple effect of this is enormous. But beyond the anthem issue, irrespective of our differences, let us speak the truth always and let the devil be ashamed. Truly, the mess met by the government is huge. But there are certain things we should be able to do right. Nigeria needs a structural change to take us out of our challenges.



leave, they take advantage of it to plan for their future.

technology and great engineering designs etc. We have some of the best specialists in the world

**What role do you think philanthropists, corporate organizations, faith groups and religious institutions can play to support the IAS vision?**



Philanthropists have played a major part in what we have been able to do in the last eight years. Quite often, philanthropists think that we know what to ask and how to ask. But we do not. We are scholars, we are thinkers. In a country like the USA, people in the universities or foundations will bring scholars and supporters together, connecting gaps like this. But here in Nigeria, we do not have that. **That is why we**

**Prof, how has IAS been funded?**

**The Ford Foundation (WA) and Master Cards Foundation have supported us. Nevertheless, we want to move beyond this by ensuring we have our own mini campus. We have been using the Obafemi Awolowo University (OAU) campus but it is time we have a permanent place of our own. We need a place that would say a lot about the institute's**

working with us on this. People like Professor Olurinde Lafe - a highly distinguished Nigerian professor of engineering. We are glad to have such a genius in our midst.

**Prof, what do you have to say on the issue of the 'Old' New National Anthem?**

The old new national anthem is more meaningful. However, people reacted badly to it because they cannot see the connection between an empty stomach and a meaningful national anthem.

**need philanthropists to come forward and support our vision for the benefit of society. It is also another way for philanthropists to leave a lasting legacy behind. Sustainable support from an individual, people or organizations would go a long way to establish a permanent perpetual memory. In our institute, we want to create that. We want it to be a center of**

**excellence, of philanthropy, so that people will know how to immortalize their legacy, and that of people who are dear to them. Chief Dele Fajemirokun is the kind of philanthropist that fits into this category.**

We need people like him who have good intentions and can match today's vision with tomorrow prosperity. There are still many people like him out there, we need their support.

Old students of various high schools and higher institutions of learning should come out more to support their institutions from

me that if the institute were to be in the United States of America, by now, foundations would have been coming to ask how they can support us. Really, that is the truth. Let us educate our people who are capable of supporting initiatives like this, so that we can make a great nation out of great ideas such as this. Nigeria is blessed in all areas. We are blessed even by the caliber of professors we have around the world. We are not short of professors.

**Infact, I once challenged a Vice Chancellor to ask me to provide a list of 100 distinguished Nigerian professors from across the**

**security of life, political will, and appropriate funding support for their ideas? Those are the issues.**

**You seem to be very committed to a greater Nigeria Prof...(Prof cuts in)**

The world is wondering how a country like Nigeria that is so blessed can be this chaotic. Despite this, some of us are still very committed to Nigeria and we are not going to give up on her. We are not going to allow anyone to drive us away. By God's grace, we will be safe to carry out our dreams of a better Nigeria,



decay and ruin. All of them, home and abroad should come together to salvage our education system for our collective future as a nation. Several people have told

**world that we could bring to Nigeria. They want to come home too. But would they get the resources, support, cooperation,**

and we will support our leaders. We know what we are doing is a revolution but it is one that does not involve the use of arms and violence. It is a revolution that has

to do with the gradual training and support for young scholars; giving them opportunities to be themselves and be able to excel in their chosen career for national development. I believe in Nigeria. I love Nigeria and this is where I belong. When I am gone, by God's grace I will come back to Nigeria as a Nigerian. I pray to God to live long, but when I am gone, I am going to come back to this country called Nigeria. I am coming back.

**On IIAS Fellows.**

Some IIAS Fellows have gone to first rated universities across the world for their PhD. Some are winning more Fellowship opportunities all over, and are excelling in their career. This is a big testimony for us.

**On religious organizations.**

number of religious/ faith groups have universities. It is a great way for us to support their scholars through partnership with us at IIAS.

**In brief, what do you think about the future of IIAS, Prof?**

The future is bright which is another reason why we keep praying to God to have the appropriate resources we need, to carry out our plans and achieve the set vision. We already have people who share the vision and are willing to take over the coordination and management of the institute. In a few years from now, some of the professors who have been with us on this journey will be asked to become conveners. This is also a part of the sustainability plan. So far, we have

**What would you tell President Tinubu regarding national development if you were to meet him again?**

**We met a few years ago to discuss his ambition, so that I could offer some advice. I did the same during the last election. However, I would reiterate the need to take seriously the concerns in the education sector, so that we can strengthen the quality of education at all levels.**

I will tell him about the need to take some actions and decisions. For example, we don't have any reason as a country to go through what we went through because one person decided to change the country's currency without going through the laid down procedures; something that happened during the tenure of the last administration. An action which unfortunately led to the death of so many people. Such action even led to people questioning our existence as a country. We must do things better in the interest of the citizens. The president must ensure he sets things right, even if that is the only thing he can do, he would be remembered in history for setting things right. The President Tinubu I know means well for Nigeria. He wants the best for Nigerians and Nigeria. But he needs help to right the wrong. We must all do our part too.



Three of the IIAS 2023 Trainers

We must do better to connect with religious organizations and associations. Let us not limit ourselves as a people, to criticizing them alone. We need to also see them as partners in progress in our efforts towards a greater Nigeria. For example, quite a

trained about 500 Fellows. We shall make them more involved in the running of the institute. With God on our side, once we have more resources to support us, the future is very bright.

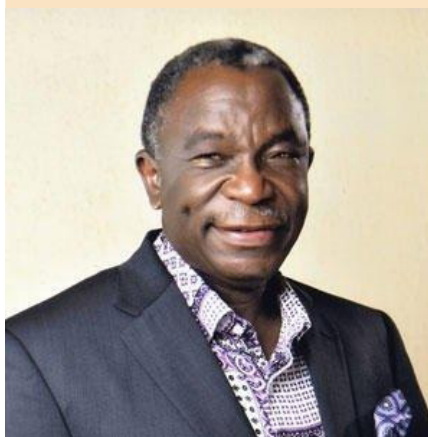
*Jacob Kehinde Olupona is a Nigerian born American professor, writer, and scholar of religious*

studies. He is a professor of African Religious Traditions at the Harvard Divinity School with a joint appointment as Professor of African and African-American Studies in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences at Harvard University. Professor Olupona was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in April 2023.

Jacob Kehinde Olupona was born in Ondo State, Nigeria. He obtained his BA, Religious Studies from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (1975); MA, History of Religions from Boston University, Boston (1981), and PhD, History of Religions also from Boston University, Boston (1983). He was a Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor), Department of Religious Studies at the University of Ife (now OAU), Ile-Ife between 1987-90. Became Chair, Harvard University Committee on African Studies, 2006. Was Director African-American and African Studies, University of California, 2000-2005. Professor Olupona was also the Edna Gene and Jordan Davidson Chair in the Humanities, Florida International University, Miami, Florida (Visiting Fall of 1999). He was a Senior Fellow, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University, Cambridge Massachusetts (Fall semester) among others. Professor Jacob Kehinde Olupona has published many books, academic journals and articles among which are *Orisa Devotion as World Religion: The Globalization of Yoruba Religious Culture* (University of Wisconsin Press, 2008); *City of 201 Gods: Ile-Ife in Time, Space, and the Imagination* (University of California Press, 2011) and *African Spirituality: Forms, Meanings and Expressions*.

Professor Olupona has served

on the editorial boards of several journals and also as the president of the African Association for the Study of Religion. He holds an honorary doctorate in divinity from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. He is the convener of the Ife Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS) - an international Institute for doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships in the Humanities, Social Sciences and STEM.





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
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## ENGLAND 1-2 SPAIN - NICO WILLIAMS AND LAMINE YAMAL SPARKLE AS SPAIN OUTCLASS ENGLAND TO WIN EURO 2024 FINAL

by [www.eurosport.com](http://www.eurosport.com)



Alvaro Morata of Spain lifts the UEFA Euro 2024 Henri Delaunay Trophy after his team's victory during the UEFA EURO 2024 final match between Spain and England at Olympiastadion on July 14, 2024 in Berlin, Germany. Image credit: Getty Images

Spain found the crucial winning goal in the 86th minute of the Euro 2024 final to deny England and clinch another major trophy. Nico Williams opened the scoring with a wonderfully clinical finish in the 47th minute, only for England substitute Cole Palmer to equaliser in thrilling fashion in the 73rd. But Mikel Oyarzabal pounced with four minutes remaining as Spain left Berlin with a fourth Euros.

Substitute Mikel Oyarzabal came off the bench to fire Spain to a record fourth European Championship victory with a merited 2-1 Euro 2024 final win over a battling but limited England side in Berlin.

Oyarzabal slid home the winner from Marc Cucurella's pass on 86 minutes to consign Gareth Southgate's England to a second successive heartbreaking defeat in European finals after their Euro 2020 penalty loss to Italy at Wembley.

After a forgettable first half, Spain moved up several gears with Nico Williams slotting the opener on 47 minutes from a lovely Yamine Lamal pass.

Despite Harry Kane toiling before being replaced by Ollie Watkins in second half, England never stopped fighting with Cole Palmer stroking home a fine equaliser from 22 yards on 73 minutes only moments after coming on

for Kobbie Mainoo, but it was ultimately rendered futile. While Spain celebrate seven straight wins in the finals as the tournament's outstanding team, England's 58-year wait for a major trophy continues as the inquest into another failure begins.

**TALKING POINT: WHAT NOW FOR ENGLAND UNDER GARETH SOUTHGATE?**

England have certainly made progress under Gareth Southgate since he took on the role of national manager in 2016, but they cannot really argue with their latest setback in losing the final of Euro 2024 to a better, more progressive side.



After edging Serbia by a goal, and drawing with Denmark and Slovenia in winning Group C in unconvincing fashion, they needed a last-gasp wonder goal from Jude Bellingham to avoid defeat to Slovakia in the last 16, required penalties to overcome Switzerland in the last eight and benefited from a poor decision by VAR in earning a penalty in their 2-1 win over Netherlands in the last four.

There is little doubt that England carried some luck on the field and in the draw in the knockout phase, but their stodgy approach caught up with them in the end.

Unless England learn to play more expansive football and keep better possession of the football, these sort of regretful nights at Berlin's Olympiastadion will not disappear in the near future. Whether under Southgate or a new manager.

"We didn't keep possession of the ball well enough," conceded Southgate. "They had more control of the game, and that can wear you down a bit.

"As always in these games it is fine

margins, but I think they were the best team in the tournament and overall they deserved to win."

**PLAYER OF THE MATCH:  
NICO WILLIAMS (SPAIN)**

Spain were reeling from losing Manchester City midfielder Rodri at half-time, but that setback merely seemed to inspire them as Williams scored within moments of the restart with a brilliant finish. In truth, Spain could easily have finished off the final before Palmer equalised as they cut open England at will with Williams and his fellow vibrant winger Lamal, who celebrated his 17th birthday on Saturday, very much to the fore throughout the second half.

In the final analysis, England just did not possess the same level of quality in the key areas as Luis de la Fuente's impressive European champions, who also claimed the title in 1964, 2008 and 2012.

**PLAYER RATINGS**

England: Pickford 8; Guehi 6, Stones 6, Walker 6; Saka 6, Mainoo 6, Rice 6, Shaw 6; Bellingham 6, Foden 6; Kane 6  
Subs: Toney 6, Watkins 6, Palmer 7

Spain: Simon 7; Carvajal 7, Le Normand 7, Laporte 7, Cucurella 7; Ruiz 7, Rodri 6; Olmo 7, Williams 8, Yamal 8; Morata 6  
Subs: Nacho 6, Zubimendi 7, Oyarzabal 7, Merino 7

**MATCH HIGHLIGHTS**

**47' GOAL! (WILLIAMS) SPAIN 1-0 ENGLAND** Brilliant play by the two wingers. Yamal with a super pass to Williams and he slams the shot low and hard into the net arriving late in the box with Walker nowhere to be seen

in marking him. No chance for Pickford. Lovely finish. We have a goal in the final.

**49' CHANCE FOR A RAPID SECOND GOAL** Some more stunning play by Spain as Williams picks out Olmo, who turns but mishits a shot wide of goal. Spain right at it so far in this second half. Could easily have been a second for the Spanish.

**73' GOAL! SPAIN 1-1 ENGLAND (PALMER)** And England have a quickfire equaliser from Palmer. Brilliant finish. Saka to Bellingham and the pass to Palmer is guided into the corner of the net. 1-1. Game on. Supreme finish from 22 yards out.

**83' PICKFORD TO THE RESCUE FOR ENGLAND** Brilliant passing play by Spain to cut open the white shirts. Williams so, so dangerous. Ball breaks to Yamal, whose shot is repelled well by Pickford. Was a decent height for the England 'keeper. Straight at him.

**86' GOAL! (OYARZABAL) SPAIN 2-1 ENGLAND** Sub Mikel Oyarzabal arrives in time to slide the ball into the net from the Cucurella pass. So, so slick. Lovely goal from Spain under Pickford. Is that the winning goal? They lead 2-1 in the final.

**89' SPAIN CLEARING OFF THEIR LINE** Simon blocks the header by Rice before the header by Guéhi is off the line by Olmo and Rice then nods over. So, so close to an equaliser for England late on. Four minutes added in Berlin.

# EduTimes Africa's Good Schools Guide

By Folaranmi Ajayi



Nigeria proudly boasts of numerous outstanding secondary schools, with students frequently excelling both domestically and internationally and with Nigerian students often ranking amongst the most gifted globally, despite the nation's many challenges.

This is that time of the year where many parents will need to make one of the most critical decisions that they will ever need to make as parents. Which school should their child attend? In making this decision, a plethora of factors may come into play. How affordable are the school fees? Boarding or day? Proximity to the house for school runs? Is the school academically sound? Is it sound morally? Is it a well appointed school with modern facilities? And perhaps most critically, though most parents still overlook this - will the school suit their child? As most of us know, building on a faulty foundation is an exercise in futility, which will ultimately lead to frustration for all parties - the child, the parents and even the school. One more thing. Whether the fees are high or relatively low, you must also ask yourself

this - is it good value for money?

Below is a list of 100 secondary schools that EduTimes Africa recommends as some form of guidance, based on academic performance, teacher quality, awards, and their learning environment. Kindly note however that this is not an exhaustive list of good schools.

1. Loyola Jesuit College, Abuja
2. Capital Science Academy, Abuja
3. Model Secondary School, Maitama, Abuja
4. Nigeria Turkish International College, Abuja
5. Federal Government College, Kwali, Abuja
6. Federal Government Girls College, Bwari
7. Christ Academy International School, Abuja
8. Glisten International Academy, Abuja
9. International Community School, Abuja
10. Noble Height College, Abuja
11. Dove Prime International Schools, Abuja
12. J C Best Schools, Abuja
13. Atlantic Hall, Lagos
14. British International School, Lagos

15. Grange School, Lagos
16. Chrisland Schools, Lagos
17. Caleb International College, Lagos
18. Downen College, Lagos
19. Greensprings School, Lagos
20. Vivian Fowler Memorial College, Lagos
21. Queen's College, Lagos
22. King's College, Lagos
23. Methodist Girls High School, Lagos
24. Lagos State Model College, Lagos
25. St. Gregory's College, Lagos
26. International School Ibadan
27. Loyola College, Ibadan
28. Government College, Ibadan
29. Olivet Baptist High School, Oyo

41. Federal Government College, Ogbomosho
42. Government College, Umuahia
43. Regina Pacis Model Secondary School, Onitsha
44. Saint Louis College, Jos
45. Shalom Academy, Nsukka
46. College of Immaculate Conception, Enugu
47. Hill View High School, Enugu
48. Army Command Day Secondary School, Kaduna
49. Adeyemo College, Ilorin
50. Pine Crest School, Enugu
51. St. Michael's Anglican College, Kaduna
52. Zamani College, Kaduna
53. Trinity College International, Kaduna
54. Challawa Schools, Kaduna
55. Excel Universal College, Kaduna



30. Christ the King College, Gwagwalada
31. The Bells School, Ota
32. Corona Secondary School, Agbara
33. Adrao International School, Lagos
34. Saker Baptist College, Akwa Ibom
35. Granny Murray Schools, Abuja
36. Graceland International School, Port Harcourt
37. Norwegian International School, Port Harcourt
38. Cedar Mount International School, Port Harcourt
39. Brainfield Secondary School, Port Harcourt
40. Federal Government Boys' College, Garki

56. Jinja Secondary School, Kano
57. Crescent International School, Kano
58. Green Field Secondary School, Kano
59. Prime College, Kano
60. Sankoree International School, Kano
61. University Demonstration Secondary School, Port Harcourt
62. Excel Universal College, Kaduna
63. Joy International College, Kaduna
64. Stars International School, Ikorodu
65. Indian Language School, Lagos

- 66. Redeemer's International Secondary School, Lagos
- 67. Fountain Heights International College, Lagos
- 68. Roshallom International Secondary School, Lagos
- 69. Dansol Secondary school, Lagos
- 70. Springboard College, Lagos
- 71. Igbinedion Educational Centre, Benin City

- 82. High School, International School, Calabar
- 83. Graceville International School, Asaba
- 84. Merit Mixed Secondary School, Delta State
- 85. Dayspring Christian School, Warri
- 86. College of the Holy Cross, Lagos
- 87. Queens College, Lagos
- 88. King's High School, Lagos



- 72. Federal Government College, Benin City
- 73. Edo College, Benin City
- 74. Holy Trinity Grammar School, Benin City
- 75. St. Angela's Grammar School, Benin City
- 76. Word of Faith Schools, Benin City
- 77. Regent International School, Warri
- 78. Santa Maria International School, Delta State
- 79. Danglad International Schools, Calabar
- 80. Assurance Secondary Commercial School, Calabar
- 81. Surefoot American International School, Calabar

- 89. Christ the King College, Onitsha
- 90. All Hallow Seminary, Anambra
- 91. Bishop Crowther Junior Seminary, Anambra
- 92. Boys Secondary School, Obosi
- 93. Boys Secondary School, Ogidi
- 94. Boys Secondary School, Nnokwa
- 95. St. Maria Goretti Girls Grammar School, Benin City
- 96. Federal Government College, Ibillo
- 97. St. John Bosco College, Ubiaja
- 98. Amaka International School, Asaba
- 99. Sacred Heart College, Enugu
- 100. St. Patrick's College, Asaba

This list highlights a selection of Nigeria's top secondary schools, reflecting the diversity of educational excellence across different states in the country.



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- Grants available

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# The Student Leader

By Gbemisola Oluwasina ||  Nigerian



'Before you are a leader, success is about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is about growing others.' Jack Welch

This topic is dear to me. I got close to tears, just writing about it. I have had the opportunity to serve as a student leader, as well as to work with and observe other student leaders. I recognise that every school is organised differently, so the expectations from and efficacy of student leadership may differ from one to

another.

For me, leadership first happens in and to a person, before he or she transfers it to others. It takes a level of personal mastery to accomplish certain things in one's life and to effectively show others how to. Can I also mention that working with humans (who have individual wills and minds) is not a walk in the park? Oh, I already did.

I am wrapping up my journey

as an undergraduate and I have been doing some reflection. In the process of serving my university community in a number of capacities, I observed many things. This past month, a number of hand-overs/inaugurations occurred in student associations in my school. It brought home, for me, the reality that no office is forever and that there is some urgency attached to value addition (which is the essence of every office). Furthermore, capable succession and sustainability of



initiatives should be the goal of true leaders; whether they are students, politicians or corporate executives.

It is easy for people to dismiss student leadership opportunities as 'unnecessary and not worth much after school, anyway.' On



the other extreme are those who 'abuse' the availability of offices, by lobbying their way in or even blindly taking on more than they can competently do. Who is a student leader? He or she attends a school, has mastered himself or herself (in terms of awareness and grooming of: personality, strengths, weaknesses, habits, triggers) to an appreciable extent - I won't say perfectly because the journey is continuous - and is able to achieve personal success

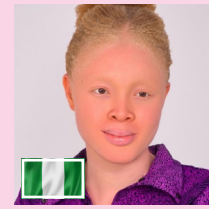
in some areas of life (usually academics, technical skill and character). This success attracts the person's peers or superiors, and he or she is then given a platform to inspire others.

Frankly, student leadership has its highs and lows. There are times when the imposter syndrome is super palpable, and other days when you think everything is good or that you are in charge. While I understand that students operate in a context (like school officials with different temperaments and perspectives, policies that cover different areas within the scope of the particular school), the focus of this article is the student and what is within his or her control.

You can't control everyone else; least likely a superior. If there is something you must understand, it is that there is need for healthy boundaries - even in service or leadership. These are needed for your sanity and effectiveness. Too many people leave office as broken, bitter people and (maybe) worse off in the very areas of strength that brought them in. Stay with me, a few more articles, and we will look at some aspects as well as remedies.

Student leadership is a key part of the school experience, but how well it has been utilised, as well as its impact on the leader and led, are entirely different ball games.

*Gbemisola Oluwasina is also known as Elegant Inker. She is committed to helping (personal, business, corporate) brands accelerate their visibility, influence and profit through writing services and coaching. These areas of service and coaching range from: creative*



*writing, content writing, editing and proofreading, ghost writing, content strategy consultation,*

*transcription to copy writing. She has worked with 10+ brands, authors and writers. She has had her poems and articles published in magazines, too.*

*Gbemisola is blessed with a voice that enriches what she says. She has honoured 20+ virtual speaking invitations from 2020 till date. These engagements covered topics around: writing, content creation, online business, social media positioning, public speaking, (self) leadership, the Christian faith and albinism. She looks forward to more of these, as well as to features in the media and TED(X).*

*Gbemisola is a student of International Relations at Covenant University who has had the privilege of occupying different leadership offices. She is a recipient of numerous certificates and awards. She is an ardent believer that individuals are responsible for the achievement of organisational and national goals. She is a lover of Abba and of the progress of others. She likes to sing, learn other languages and make beaded articles. She loves the colours, purple and lemon.*

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Telegram channel, Instagram and Facebook pages: Elegant Inker.*

# African Scholarships for Africans

## Time to Look Within

The brain drain that is currently bedeviling Nigeria and other African countries is not limited to professionals such as those in the medical field or teachers or bankers alone but is denying Africa of its brightest students too. Every year, thousands of Africa's brightest secondary school leavers are lured to the Western Countries, with their universities offering African students mouthwatering scholarships. Many of these students

eventually make those countries their home with Africa ultimately losing. We at EduTimes Africa think it is time to enlighten our readership about university scholarship opportunities that abound here in Africa. The benefits of this are multiple but here are just a few: It will encourage more cross border movement among African countries leading to better integration and subsequently leading to more trade and commerce between African countries.

It will enlighten the African public and guide them in making choices while also giving some indigent but brilliant Africans hope. It will help to promote the universities that are giving back in the way of scholarships and hopefully spur others to do same. Last but not least, it will lead to more of the continent's brightest remaining in Africa to pilot its development drive.



## Nigerian university offers scholarships to celebrate 20th anniversary

By [www.premiumtimesng.com](http://www.premiumtimesng.com)

***Under the scholarship terms, incoming students will receive tuition fee discounts ranging from 10 to 50 per cent, depending on the programme they enrol in.***

The American University of Nigeria (AUN), Yola, Adamawa State, said it is offering tuition scholarships to young students in Nigeria and other African countries in celebration of its 20th anniversary.

The university is also launching a Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) initiative for senior secondary schools in Adamawa State, aiming at fostering greater interest among students in science, technology, and the health sciences.

PlayUnmute  
Fullscreen

This is contained in a statement by the university's Interim Registrar and Vice President, Administration, Daniel Okereke.

### Scholarships

Under the scholarship terms,

incoming students will receive tuition fee discounts ranging from 10 to 50 per cent, depending on the programme they enrol in.

Mr Okereke said the institution is offering the most substantial discounts in Nursing, Public Health, and Engineering—Chemical Engineering, Civil Engineering, Computer Engineering, Electrical/Electronics Engineering, and Telecommunications Engineering.

“The scholarship awards reaffirm the institution’s commitment to offering quality education to



AUN President Dr Frazier and New Student

deserving students, regardless of their economic or social background,” he said.

He added that entering graduate students will enjoy a 50 per cent tuition fee remission from the fall 2024 semester as part of the 20th anniversary scholarship offers.

He added that the graduate scholarships are available to candidates enrolled in the AUN/ UNICEF M.Sc. in Communication for Social and Behavior Change, Masters of Business Administration, and Professional Masters in Information and Communication Science, and Masters in Telecommunication and Wireless Technologies, “all of which are offered in hybrid modes, and well as the regular Masters and doctoral degrees in Software Engineering, Information Systems, Computer Science, Business Administration, and Entrepreneurship.”

According to the statement, President of the university, DeWayne Frazier, described the scholarships as a development that aims at motivating young Nigerians to choose to earn their

first degree in their home country before seeking to further their education abroad, adding that AUN offers the same quality global education as obtained overseas at a fraction of the cost.

He said the scholarships will also alleviate some of the hardships AUN parents face, some of whom have many members of their family attending the university.

He said the fields of Nursing, Public Health, and Engineering have been highlighted to boost enrollment by students in the local communities and address the shortage of skilled professionals in these areas in the North-east region, which he noted faces numerous socioeconomic challenges as it emerges from the aftermath of a decade-long insurgency.

Mr Frazier added that it is a further gesture of appreciation to the many AUN parents and alumni “whose faith and belief in the university’s philosophy have become its most valuable assets.”

He said: “We are thrilled to offer the new 20th Anniversary Tuition

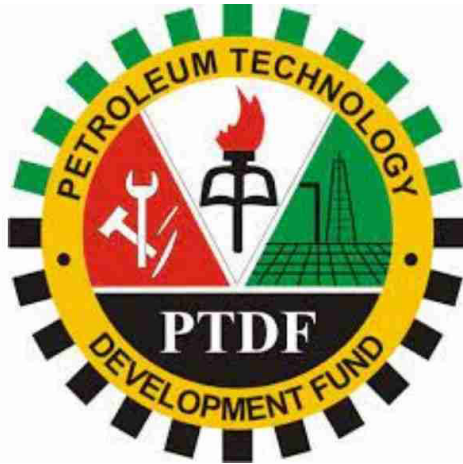
Scholarships in celebration of the two decades of the American University of Nigeria. These scholarships aim at recognising the outstanding achievements of our students as well as bolstering opportunities for more enrollment across the nation and the African continent. We are urging students to take advantage of this new programme as there will never be a time that the university fees are this competitively priced. Help us celebrate our 20th anniversary at AUN.”

#### About AUN

The private university, established by former Nigerian Vice President, Atiku Abubakar, in 2003, commenced academic activities in 2004.

The institution currently offers 33 majors and 14 minors in academic programmes under seven Schools – Arts & Sciences, Business & Entrepreneurship, Information Technology & Computing, Law, Engineering, Basic Medical & Allied Health Sciences, and the Graduate School.

“AUN’s distinctive American-style liberal arts education focuses on community impact, aiming at learning and research outcomes to address the diverse socioeconomic challenges prevalent in the North-east region, Nigeria and the African continent,” Mr Okereke said..



## PTDF Scholarship 2024 (Petroleum Technology Development Fund) | Step-by-Step Process

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)

The Petroleum Technology Development Fund is inviting applications for the PTDF Scholarships from undergraduate and postgraduate students for the 2023/24 academic session.

The 2024 PTDF Scholarships worth N700,000/Yr plus a laptop computer is available to students pursuing bachelor's, master's, and PhD programs at accredited Nigerian universities.

This post is a detailed insight into the federal government-funded scholarship. It also covers the eligibility requirements, benefits, duration, and the step-by-step application procedure for interested and qualified applicants.

### PTDF Scholarship Summary

- Host Country: Nigeria
- Category: Undergraduate Scholarships | Postgraduate Scholarships | Masters Scholarships | PhD Scholarships
- Eligible Country: Nigeria

- Reward: Full Scholarship | N700,000/yr | Laptop
- Deadline: July 8, 2024

**PTDF Scholarship Details:**  
The PTDF Scholarship is offered by the Federal Government agency with the mandate of developing indigenous human capacity and petroleum technology, to meet the needs of the oil and gas industry.

The organization invites applications from suitably qualified candidates for the 2023/24 Bachelor's, MSc and PhD scholarships to specific programmes.

The scheme was developed to offer candidates the opportunity to benefit from a diversified pool of knowledge and the facilities offered by world-class institutions across the globe.

Under it, candidates are invited to apply through PTDF to specific programmes at the partner institutions.

### PTDF Scholarship Requirements:

To apply for the PTDF Scholarship Programme, interested and qualified applicants should follow the following criteria;

### Postgraduate Applicants

- Applicants must possess a full-time admission letter into any of the Federal Universities in Nigeria.
- A minimum of Second-Class lower (2.2) in an Oil and Gas/ Management related field.
- A minimum of merit in a second-degree certificate in an Oil and Gas-related discipline.
- Possess at least 5 credits in WAEC/SSCE/NECO results (not more than 2 sittings and the two results must precede the first degree).
- National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) certificate or Letter of exemption
- Certificate of indigeneship (evidence of state of origin and Local Government).
- Personal statement of at least 1000 words stating reasons

for undertaking the course of study (Master's Applicants).

- PhD research proposal of not more than 6 pages. The research area must be relevant to the Oil and Gas industry.

### Undergraduate Applicants

- Applicants must be full-time students in any of the Federal Universities in Nigeria.
- Applicants must be presently in the 200 level of study.
- The course of study should be related to the Oil & Gas industry.
- Possess 5 credits in WAEC/SSCE/NECO including English Language and Mathematics.
- Possession of a valid admission letter into the University is mandatory for all undergraduate applicants.
- Possess a minimum Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA) of 3.0 on scale of 5 or 3.0 on a scale of 4 which is equivalent to 2.2 in the first year.
- Applicants must provide transcripts for the first year of study (transcripts must be signed and stamped by HOD/Exams Officer or any authorized personnel in the University).

### PTDF Scholarship Duration and Reward

The scholarships are offered to both undergraduates and postgraduates to support their education in Nigerian-based institutions;

- Undergraduates Reward: N500,000/Yr + Laptop (625,000 first year)
- Postgraduates (N700,000/Yr) + Laptop.

### Required Documents for PTDF Scholarship 2024

Applicants are advised to scan copies of the following documents and attach them to their online application forms:

- Evidence of statement of WAEC/SSCE/NECO results with at least 5 credits, including English Language and Mathematics (not more than 2 sittings and the first sitting result must be uploaded).
- Letter of admission into the University.
- First year academic transcript(s) duly signed and stamped by HOD/Exams Officer or any authorized personnel.
- Certificate of indigeneship (evidence of state of origin and Local Government)
- Personal statement of at least 300 words stating reasons for undertaking the course of study.

### Postgraduate Applicants

- First Degree Certificate or Statement of Result.
- NYSC Certificate or letter of exemption.
- WAEC/GCE/SSCE/NECO Result(s).
- Admission Letter.
- Personal Statement (only MSc applicants).
- Certificate of indigeneship (evidence of state of origin and Local Government).

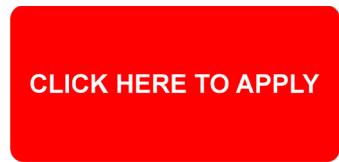
### Additional scanned documents required from PhD applicants:

- Second Degree Certificate or Statement of Result.
- PhD research proposal.

### How To Apply for the PTDF Scholarship 2024 (Step-by-Step Process)

To apply for the PTDF Scholarship 2024, interested and qualified applicants should follow the steps below;

- Click on the button below to visit the scholarship portal
- Create an Applicant Account or Login to an existing account
- Verify your email address and proceed to Verify your NIN before you start a new application.
- Fill all your personal details and upload the required documents
- Please take note of all file formats and uploads, if the file uploaded does not meet the requirement you will experience an error.
- Preview application and ensure that there are no mistakes before submission. Once application is submitted, you can no longer edit.
- Successful applicants will be shortlisted for interview
- Candidates who successfully scale through the first round of screening will be requested to submit their transcripts.
- All applicants are therefore advised to prepare their transcripts for submission in anticipation of such a request..



# 2024 Access Bank Womenpreneur Program | How To Apply

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)



**A**ccess Bank Womenpreneur Program is the first women-in-business support initiative of its kind in the industry offered by Access Bank's Initiative.

The Access Bank Womenpreneur Pitch-a-ton program seeks to provide mini-MBA certification to another 120 women entrepreneurs in Nigeria as well as grants worth over N17Million Naira.

In this post, we will provide with the details of the opportunity, its requirements, benefits, and the step by step application procedure for interested applicants.

## Access Bank Womenpreneur Summary

- Host: Access Bank
- Eligible Countries: All African Countries
- Reward: N17 Million Grant | MBA Scholarship | Free Website
- Deadline: August 2, 2024

## Access Bank Womenpreneur Details:

The Access Bank Womenpreneur Pitch-a-ton Program in its maiden edition provided a free mini-MBA certification for 50 women entrepreneurs in Nigeria as well as financial grants worth N9Million to the top 5 applicants.

This it did in conjunction with the International Finance Corporation (IFC, a member of the World Bank Group).

Subsequently, the program was extended to 10 other African countries where Access Bank's W initiative has its presence. The program has since provided Mini-MBA to over 300 women entrepreneurs across Africa.

This year hosts the 5th season of the program and seeks to provide mini-MBA certification to another 120 women entrepreneurs in Nigeria as well as grants worth over N17Million Naira to WSMEs

## Access Bank Womenpreneur Pitch-a-ton Program Requirements:

To be considered for this competition, your answer to the questions below must be YES:

- Are you a woman who owns and runs her business?
- Is your business innovative?
- What about some expert training to help grow your business?
- How about a grant to expand your business?

## Access Bank Womenpreneur Reward

Prizes:

- First prize is N5 million naira
- Second prize is N4 million naira
- Third prize is N3 million naira
- Fourth prize is N2 million naira
- Fifth prize is N1 million naira
- Sixth Prize is N750,000 naira
- Seventh Prize is N500,000

20 applicants will also receive consolation prizes such as free online advertisement and free website development

## How To Apply for Access Bank Womenpreneur Program 2024 (Step by Step)

Interested and qualified applicants should apply using the link below.

Application is in the following order;

- Visit the website and Sign Up
- Pitch your business
- Get selected
- Get rewarded

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



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**MEDICAL  
DIAGNOSIS**

**Millennium Health Focus (MHF), trading as MHF Medical Concierge is a private healthcare company in the UK, delivering private healthcare for well over a decade.**

The company combined forces in a joint venture with one of the largest private laboratory providers in the UK, Medical Diagnosis. Both organisations operate in London with the laboratory facility in north London and the clinic facility in central London. This joint venture allows us to provide an end-to-end service for our clients with in-house pathology testing, imaging and specialist medical consultations all under one roof. Our laboratory processes pathology tests for over 50 private clinics in the UK and more than 100 clinicians.

**MHF is the only healthcare provider in the UK providing bespoke healthcare services to individuals visiting the UK from Africa.** We have developed a reputation for offering solution-based care that cuts across medicine, lifestyle and fitness. Our clinic has a wealth of multi-specialty experience, allowing us to provide a comprehensive range of medical services that are grounded in a deep understanding of our client base. Our multi-purpose built facility offers general medical, laboratory and imaging services



### Our Mission

Our mission is to improve the experience of Africans seeking healthcare abroad by delivering exceptional concierge medical services that prioritise value, convenience, and comprehensive care, thereby enhancing the overall experience of accessing healthcare in the UK.

### Our Vision

We aspire to become the leading concierge medical healthcare provider for Africans who seek healthcare in the UK, renowned for our excellence in patient care, medical expertise, and dedication to fostering long-lasting relationships with our clients.

## Our Services

### Medical Concierge

Our medical concierge service gives clients **24/7 access to the best doctors, hospitals, and healthcare facilities worldwide**. We provide comprehensive medical support, including consultations, second opinions, diagnostic tests, and treatment recommendations. Our team of experienced medical professionals work closely with clients to ensure that they receive the highest standard of care and attention.

**Our proactive medical services surpass typical insurance by providing regular check-ups, health screenings, and lifestyle advice for early issue detection and prevention.** With the help of technology and predictive AI, our concierge service can anticipate cardiac disease, cancers, and inheritable condition risks.

### Bespoke Healthcare for International Students (BHIS)

We provide private healthcare for students studying in the UK, providing not only physical and mental health support but also pastoral care.

Run by Nigerian doctors in the UK, this service advocates for students and offers parents peace of mind. It effectively bypasses NHS delays, allowing instant access to medical consultations, tests, treatments, and mental health support. **An innovative e-health system enables students and parents to interact with staff via instant messaging and review medical records remotely, delivering more comprehensive support than a UK-based guardian or family member could.**

### Wellness Checks

We offer four pre-pay health packages that are suitable for every pocket. These are redeemable within 12 months of purchase at our facility in London. These health assessments cover essential tests like blood health, fertility checks, immunity screening, organ function, cancer screening, mental health assessment, allergy testing and more.

#### BUPA Wellness checks

We also offer annual wellness checks for Bupa international clients. **This health check is free to each Bupa enrollee (depending on the level of coverage)**. We are able to carry out comprehensive annual checks on behalf of Bupa as an accredited healthcare provider. In addition to the above well-being checks, we provide as part of our service to health insurance holders, lifestyle coaching, diet and nutrition and psycho-sexual counselling.

## Management Team



### Dr Taiwo Olatunji

Co-Founder & Chief Medical Officer

A UK-trained GP, serial entrepreneur and business leader. Worked in cancer research, pharmaceutical sales and marketing before medical training. Interest in Digital technology and AI use in healthcare.

Dr Olatunji is an experienced British trained General Physician with experience in Acute Medicine, Emergency Medicine, and General Surgery including ENT. He brings a wealth of experience from previous roles in Business and NHS practice. He founded the first Afro-centric bespoke private healthcare service providing unrivalled client experience and solution-driven medical practice.



### Dr George Xynopoulos

Co-Founder & Chief Executive Officer

Consultant Cardiologist and Founder of Medical diagnosis in 2006. Lead for Clinical excellence and member of several medical bodies including the American Heart Association.



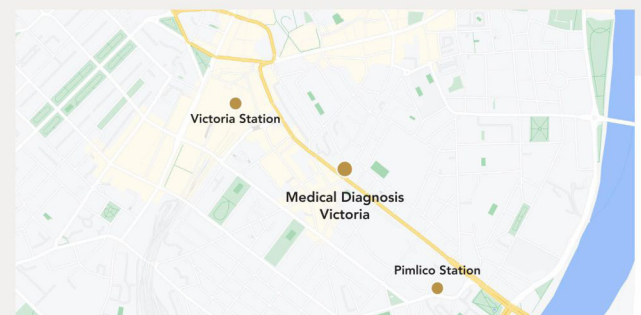
### Dr Luqman Idris

Head of Operations

Dr Idris is dedicated to advancing healthcare solutions. His expertise in optimising processes ensure seamless operations for improved patient care and outcomes.



## Get in touch



#### Contact Us

+44 (0)20 3096 0019  
admin@mhf.healthcare

#### Address

170 Vauxhall Bridge Road,  
London Victoria  
SW1V 1DX





## 2024 University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship | Fully Funded

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)

Applications are now invited for the 2024 University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship for international students willing to study in the USA.

The University of Alabama Presidential Scholarships are offered as elite scholarships covering the full tuition fees, accommodation and a stipend of \$8,000 for fresh undergraduate applicants of the university.

In this post, we have discussed the details, requirements, benefits, and the procedures to successfully submit an application for all interested applicants..

### University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship Summary

- Host Country: USA
- Study Abroad: Study in USA
- Category: Undergraduate Scholarships
- Eligible Countries: All Countries
- Reward: Full Scholarship | Accommodation | \$8,000 Stipends
- Deadline: November 1, 2024.

### University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship Details:

The University of Alabama offers some of the most generous scholarship opportunities in the country for qualifying students.

The University of Alabama is home to a magnificent campus that blends natural beauty with state-of-the-art student-centered facilities, and it has inspired

generations of students that have called the Capstone home.

Eligible candidates are considered for a presidential elite scholarship for the full period of study.

### University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship Requirements:

To be considered for the scholarship, you must:

- Be overseas students.
- Have a 4.0+ GPA and 36 ACT OR 1600 SAT
- Demonstrate English Language proficiency.

### University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship Duration and Reward

- Value of tuition for up to four

years or eight semesters for degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate or law studies

- First year of on-campus housing at regular room rate (based on assignment by Housing and Residential Communities)
- \$1,000 per year supplemental scholarship for four years
- \$2,000 one-time allowance for use in summer research or international study (after completing one year of study at UA)
- \$2,000 Supe Store book scholarship (\$500 per year for four years).

### Required Documents for University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship

To apply, candidates must be ready to submit the following documents;

- Application Form
- SAT/ACT Scores
- English Proficiency Certificate.

### How To Apply for University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship (Step by Step Guide)

To apply for the University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship, interested and qualified applicants should follow the procedures below;

- Click on the button below to visit the scholarship application page
- Apply for an undergraduate admission at the University of Alabama
- All students who have submitted an application and all supporting documents by the listed deadline are evaluated holistically.
- Academic components considered include high school GPA and academic honors.
- Non-academic items include leadership experience, volunteer experience, extracurricular activities, employment and non-academic honors..

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



## University of Hamburg Merit Scholarship 2024 | How To Apply

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)

The University of Hamburg Merit Scholarship is offered annually as a support to international students pursuing degrees and research at the German-based university.

The University of Hamburg Merit Scholarship is a €14,400 reward that allows recipients to concentrate fully on their studies and gives them the opportunity to develop their skills.

In this post, we will highlight the details of the scholarship, its requirements, and the step by step process involved in the application procedure.

### University of Hamburg merit Scholarship Summary

- Host Country: Germany
- Study Abroad: Study in Europe
- Category: Undergraduate Scholarships | Postgraduate Scholarships | Masters Scholarships | PhD Scholarships
- Eligible Countries: All Countries
- Reward: Full Scholarship | €14,400 Stipends/Yr
- No IELTS Required
- Deadline: October 15, 2024

### University of Merit Hamburg Scholarship Details:

With its merit scholarship program, the University of Hamburg supports outstanding international students and doctoral researchers in all subjects

and degree levels who have been socially committed and actively involved in an international context.

The awarding of a merit scholarship allows recipients to concentrate fully on their studies and gives them the opportunity to develop their skills.

### Eligibility Requirements for University of Hamburg Merit Scholarship 2024

To be considered for the University of Merit Hamburg Scholarship, you should meet the following criteria:

You are entitled to funding if you.

- have been enrolled in your subject at Universität Hamburg for at least 2 semesters and are pursuing a degree (students in 2-year master's degree programs and doctoral researchers can apply after 1 completed semester);
- do not hold German citizenship;
- are not eligible for the federal student loan scheme.

### Benefits of University of Hamburg Merit Scholarship 2024

- The maximum monthly funding sum is €930. Depending on the availability of funding, individual doctoral researchers may be awarded a merit scholarship totaling

€1,200 per month.

- Merit scholarships are awarded for 2 semesters (total of 12 months). You can reapply for a scholarship. In well-founded exceptional cases, the maximum funding period is 3 years.

### How to Apply for University of Hamburg Merit Scholarship 2024 (Step by Step)

To apply for the University of Hamburg Merit Scholarship, interested applicants should follow the procedures below;

- Click on the button below to visit the scholarship application webpage.
- Download the application form and submit it before the deadline.
- Attach the required documents
- Only applications completed in full and submitted by the application deadline can be considered.
- The selection committee will email you a notification 8–11 weeks after the application deadline.
- For an update on the current status of your application, check the online portal..

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



## University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship Program 2024 | Fully Funded

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)

**E**llison Institute of Technology, alongside the University of Oxford, is offering the Ellison Scholarship Program 2024 to intending undergraduate students from all over the world.

The University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship offers full academic scholarships that funds all course fees at the University of Oxford, with a generous stipend to cover things such as travel, programming, accommodation and living expenses.

In this post, the details, requirements, benefits, and the method of applying for the scholarship opportunity will be provided.

### University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship Summary

- Host Country: United Kingdom (UK)
- Study Abroad: Study in UK

- Category: Undergraduate Scholarships | Postgraduate Scholarships | Masters Scholarships
- Eligible Countries: All Countries
- Reward: Full Scholarship | Living Stipends | Travel Costs | Accommodation | Networking
- No IELTS Required
- Deadline: August 1, 2024.

### University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship Details:

Through the Ellison Scholarship Program, EIT, alongside the University of Oxford, is committed to developing the global technology innovators and leaders of the future.

In addition to the project-based learning with EIT and mentorship from world experts in the EIT Faculty, the Ellison Scholars programme fully funds course fees for undergraduate or graduate study at the University of Oxford, and includes a generous stipend to cover all living expenses, plus the equivalent of paid internships.

Ellison Scholars will be active contributors to these projects, innovating to solve global problems across EIT's four humane endeavours through technological advancements across the Institute's ongoing projects.

### Eligibility Requirements for University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship 2024

To be considered for the University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship 2024, interested candidates should note the following:

- The Ellison Scholars programme is looking for candidates from around the world each year, who are passionate about solving humanity's most serious problems.
- Scholars will fully commit to both their study at the University of Oxford and their ongoing project work with EIT.
- Applicants will need to meet the University of Oxford's entry requirements for their chosen course. Applicants must:
- Have met, or be on track to meet, the University's English Language requirements for their chosen undergraduate degree
- Have, or be on track to have, a secondary education/high school leaving qualification, diploma or certificate accepted by the University of Oxford
- Have met, or be on track to meet, the entry

requirements for their chosen undergraduate degree (including minimum grade requirements)

### Benefits of Ellison Scholarship 2024

- An academic scholarship that funds all course fees at the University of Oxford, with a generous stipend to cover things such as travel, programming, accommodation and living expenses.
- The multi-year programme includes the equivalent of paid internships, with continued work on a project within EIT's humane endeavours.
- Join a team with other Scholars and the EIT Faculty of Fellows to work on important projects during the academic year and summers.
- Scholars will have ongoing access to EIT technology and human assets as they continue working toward profound change in their home country and around the world.

### How to Apply for University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship (Step by Step)

To apply for the University of Oxford Ellison Scholarship, interested applicants should;

- Click on the button below to visit the scholarship application website
- Click on the APPLY NOW button for Ellison Scholars
- In your application, you will need to prove you meet the eligibility requirements and describe how you meet the selection criteria for the Ellison Scholars programme..

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



## Stanford University Knight Hennessy Scholarship 2025 | Fully Funded

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)

**D**on't miss your chance to study at the prestigious Stanford University! Apply for the 2025 Knight Hennessy Scholarship.

The prestigious Stanford University Knight Hennessy Scholarship is specifically designed for international students who have the ambition to pursue their graduate programs in the USA.

It offers a remarkable opportunity by providing financial support for up to three years, encompassing not only the tuition fees and associated expenses but also living stipends, and flight costs to ensure a comfortable and focused academic journey.

This holistic approach ensures that recipients can fully immerse themselves in their studies, explore diverse opportunities, and actively engage in the Stanford community without worrying about financial constraints.

### University of Birmingham DeepMind Scholarship

- Stanford University Knight Hennessy Scholarship Summary
- Host Country: USA
- Eligible Countries: All Countries
- No IELTS Required

- Reward: Full Scholarship | Monthly Stipend | Airfare Ticket
- Deadline: October 9, 2024

### Stanford University Knight Hennessy Scholarship Details:

Knight Hennessy Scholarship at Stanford University gives opportunity for students to gain expertise in their chosen graduate program while also engaging with diverse disciplines and cultures within the Knight-Hennessy Scholars community.

Scholars benefit from the King Global Leadership Program (KGLP), which enhances their transformational leadership skills through workshops, lectures, projects, and immersive experiences.

By receiving the Knight-Hennessy Scholarship, you will have the privilege of joining a community of exceptional scholars from around the world who share a common drive for academic excellence, leadership, and making a positive impact.

### Stanford University Knight Hennessy Scholarship Requirements:

Knight-Hennessy Scholars welcomes applicants from all backgrounds, regardless of age, college, field of study, or career goals. Applicants must meet two essential criteria:

- Must have applied, been accepted, and/or enrolled in a full-time Stanford graduate degree program.
- You must meet at least one of the following four conditions:
- You are applying separately but concurrently to KHS and a full-time Stanford graduate degree program such that you will start both in the same year.
- You have already been offered and deferred admission to a full-time Stanford graduate degree program, and will apply to KHS such that you will start both in the same year.
- You are a current Stanford graduate student who will apply to add a second full-time Stanford graduate degree program, such that you will start both KHS and the new program in the same year.
- You are a current Stanford PhD student in your first year of enrollment, and will apply to KHS such that you will start KHS in your second year of PhD enrollment.
- Must have obtained an undergraduate degree from January 2018 onwards.

### Knight Hennessy Scholarship

**Duration and Reward**

Successful applicants for Stanford University Knight Hennessy Scholarship will receive the following benefits:

- Funding for tuition and associated fees
- A stipend for living and academic expenses
- A travel stipend intended to cover an economy-class ticket for one annual trip to and from Stanford

**How To Apply for Stanford University Knight Hennessy Scholarship (Step by Step)**

To apply for the Knight Hennessy Scholarship at Stanford University, interested applicants should;

- Click on the button below to visit the scholarship application page
- Apply for a Stanford University graduate degree.
- Apply for the Knight Hennessy Scholarship simultaneously
- Applications end on October 9, 2024
- Gaining admission is the beginning of a new journey to greater leadership as a Knight-Hennessy scholar, you will be contacted if your application is successful.

[CLICK HERE TO APPLY](#)



## 2025 UMY University Scholarship | Fully Funded

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)

The 2025 UMY University Scholarship is open for international students interested in pursuing bachelor's and graduate studies.

Selected international students offered the UMY University Scholarship will be free from Paying Tuition fees and living costs.

This post will explain the details, requirements, benefits, and the steps to follow to successfully apply for the scholarship opportunity.

**2025 UMY University Scholarship Summary**

- Host Country: Indonesia
- Study Abroad: Study in Asia
- Category: Undergraduate Scholarships | Postgraduate Scholarships | Masters Scholarships | PhD Scholarships
- Eligible Countries: All Countries
- Reward: Full Scholarship | IDR2,600,000 Monthly Stipends
- No IELTS Required
- Deadline: November 8, 2024

**2025 UMY University Scholarship Details:**

Applications are open for the UMY



University Scholarship 2025 in Indonesia. UMY stands for the Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta.

The scholarship is open to international students to pursue undergraduate and graduate degree programs at the Universitas Muhammadiyah Yogyakarta. The scholarship is towards the Tuition fee and the living allowance.

The University offers a wide range of study programs for Undergrads and Grads. You can apply for the scholarship without the IELTS Test. IELTS is not required.

**Eligibility Requirements for 2025 UMY University Scholarship**

To be considered for the UMY University Scholarship, you must:

- Be an international student
- Have graduated from high

school (for undergraduate applicants)

- Posses a bachelors degree in a relevant field (postgraduate applicants)
- Demonstrate English Language proficiency
- The University accepts these English Language Tests: IELTS/TOEFL/Duolingo/TOEIC.
- English Language Proficiency Waiver: If you have completed your previous education at an English Medium institution then you can apply without IELTS.

**Benefits of UMY University Scholarship 2025**

- The international students will be free from Paying Tuition fees and living costs for (1) year. For the second year, they have to meet the GPA criteria.

**Undergraduate Programs:**

**GPA || Scholarship**

- ≥ 3.00 || Free tuition fee and living cost
- 2.75 ≤ GPA < 3.00 || Discount 75% of tuition fee
- < 2.75 || Scholarship Revoked

**Master, and Doctoral Programs**

- GPA || Scholarship
- ≥ 3.50 || Free tuition fee and living cost
- 3.25 ≤ GPA < 3.50 || Discount 75% of tuition fee
- 3.00 ≤ GPA < 3.25 || Discount 50 of tuition fee
- < 2.75 || Scholarship Revoked

**Living Allowance**

**Program Monthly || Allowance**

- Undergraduate || IDR 1,850,000

- Master || IDR 2,350,000
- Doctoral || IDR2,600,000

**Required Documents for UMY University Scholarship**

To apply, candidates must be ready to submit the following documents;

- High school Certificate and Academic Transcript (for Undergraduate Students)
- Undergraduate Transcripts, degrees (for Master Student)
- Master’s degree and Academic Transcript (for Doctoral Students)
- Passport
- Motivation Letter
- English language proficiency
- Two reference (recommendation) letters (for master’s and doctoral students)
- Brief research proposal (for master and doctoral students)

**How to Apply for UMY University Scholarship 2025 (Step by Step)**

To apply for the 2025 UMY University Scholarship, interested and qualified applicants should;

- Click on the button below to visit the scholarship webpage
- Register and apply online. Verify your email. Log in complete the basic information and upload the documents.
- Interviews: December 2024
- Visa Application: May 2025
- Commencement Date: June 2025





Youthrive Program 2024, you must note the following:

- **Startup:** A new business with less than 12 months in operation.
- **Business Owner:** An established business with more than 1 year in operation.
- **Graduate:** Tertiary institution degree holders seeking active employment or venturing into a new business.
- **Non-Graduate:** Young individuals with a minimum of a school leaving certificate seeking skill acquisition or starting a business venture.

**Benefits of Access Bank Youthrive Program 2024**

- **Capacity Development:** Empowering the youth with skills for entrepreneurship and employability.
- **Business Exchange:** Exceptional entrepreneurs will be sponsored on Business Exchange Programs to prominent global destinations like The Netherlands, China, or India.
- **Access to Funding:** Gain access to finance through business grants and loans, facilitating the scaling of your business upon completion of the capacity development programs.
- **Employment Opportunities:** Unlock potential employment opportunities after successfully completing our comprehensive capacity development programs.

**How to Apply for Access Bank Youthrive Program (Step by Step)**

To apply for the 2024 Access Bank Youthrive Program, interested and qualified applicants should;

- Visit the official website: Access Bank Youthrive Program Application by clicking on the button below.
- Explore the details and requirements for a seamless application process.

**CLICK HERE TO APPLY**

## Access Bank Youthrive Program 2024 | How To Apply

By SR Team || [www.scholarshipregion.com](http://www.scholarshipregion.com)

The Access Bank Youthrive Program is designed to empower, uplift, and accelerate the next generation of young entrepreneurs.

The program is poised to make a significant impact by reaching over 4 million individuals, providing enhanced capacity, financial empowerment, and fostering invaluable business exchange programs.

This post will delve deep into the details of the Access Bank Youthrive Program including the step-by-step procedure of how to successfully apply for it.

- Advertisement -

### Access Bank Youthrive Program Summary

- **Host:** Access Bank
- **Category:** Internships | Training
- **Eligible Countries:** Nigeria
- **Reward:** Full Sponsorship | Business Funding | Empowerment
- **Deadline:** Not Specified

### Access Bank Youthrive Program Details:

Access Bank is committed to equipping individuals and MSMEs with a tailored suite of products and services aimed at addressing these challenges effectively.

Access Bank’s commitment to fostering the growth of MSMEs through the Youthrive Program reflects its dedication to empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs.

A transformative initiative by Access Bank designed to empower, uplift, and accelerate the next generation of MSMEs.

The program is set to impact over 4 million individuals by enhancing capacity, providing financial empowerment, and fostering invaluable business exchange programs.

### Eligibility Requirements for Access Bank Youthrive Program 2024

To be considered for the Access Bank



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