

VICE-CHANCELLOR’S ADDRESS AT THE PRESS BRIEFING TO MARK THE 34TH CONVOCATION CEREMONIES

It is with pleasurable warm heart and feelings that I welcome you gentlemen of the Press to this Convocation Press Briefing marking the 34th Convocation Ceremonies of our University. I also welcome you into the New Year 2025 and pray for God’s protection over everybody here present, our families and the University.

Let me quickly acknowledge the unflinching support the University has been enjoying from the media since my assumption of duty as the Vice-Chancellor in October, 2022. Your co-operation and positive publicity have added more value to our collective efforts in building a favorable public image and enviable goodwill for our institution.

As earlier said, this Press Briefing is in respect of the 34th Convocation Ceremonies for the award of Bachelor Degrees, Postgraduate Diplomas, Higher Degrees and Conferment of Honorary Degree. The ceremonies are scheduled to start tomorrow, Friday, 24th January, 2025 as highlighted below:

DATE	EVENTS	TIME
Thursday, 23 rd January, 2025	Press Briefing Venue: Vice-Chancellor’s Committee Room	11.00am
Friday, 24 th January, 2025	i. Health Walk (Staff & Students) ii. Agric and Engineering Show iii. Special Jumat Service	7.00am 10.00a.m 1.30pm
Sunday, 26 th January, 2025	Convocation Service Venue: Chapel of Abundant Life, Main Campus	10.00am
Monday, 27 th January, 2025	Convocation Play: TITLE: “Who is Afraid of Solarin” by Femi Osofisan	4.00pm
Tuesday, 28 th January, 2025	Novelty Match (Female vs Male Staff) ✓	3.30pm- 4.00pm
Wednesday, 29 th January, 2025	Admission to First Degrees for the 2023/2024 Session as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Arts • Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences • Faculty of Education • Faculty of Law • Faculty of Pharmacy • Faculty of Social Sciences 	10.00am

Thursday, 30 th January, 2025	Admission to First Degrees for the 2023/2024 Sessions as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Faculty of Administration & Management Science • Faculty of Agricultural Management & Rural Development • Faculty of Agricultural Production and Renewable Resources • Faculty of Clinical Sciences • Faculty of Engineering • Faculty of Environmental Studies Faculty of Science 	10.00am
Friday, 31 st January, 2025	i. Commissioning of Projects ii. Convocation Lecture: Title: “TETFund and Educational Development in Nigeria: The History, the Treasures and the Future” Guest Speaker: Arch. Sunday Sylva Togo Echono, OON, Ag. Executive Secretary (TETFUND) iii. Conferment of Honorary Degree iv. Conferment of Postgraduate Degrees and Award of Prizes	10.00am 11.00am

Distinguished audience, I will like to note at this juncture that this event wouldn't have been possible without the cooperation of the students, unrelenting efforts and dedication of the staff, commitment of the leadership of the institution and the support of the State Government, under the leadership of the Visitor and Governor of Ogun State, His Excellency, Prince Dapo Abiodun, CON.

Therefore, I am so pleased to inform you that a total number of **6,209 undergraduates** [including **5,793 (regular)** and **416 (part-time)**] will convoke for the 2023/2024 Academic Session. In addition, a total of **741 postgraduates** would be conferred diplomas and degrees, comprising **571 PGD/Masters** and **170 PhD**.

The breakdown of the regular students category shows that **115** earned First Class (representing a **16.16%** increase on the total of 99 recorded for the 2022/2023 session), **1,845** were in the Second Class Upper Division, **3044** were in the Second Class Lower Division and **688** had Third Class Degree, **35** had a Pass Grade, while **66** (unclassified) graduated from our medical programme. The breakdown on faculty basis, is as given below.

Breakdown of Regular Graduating Students in 2023/2024 Academic Session

Faculty	No of Graduates	Class of Degrees					Total
		First Class (Honours)	Second Class (Honours) Upper Division	Second Class (Honours) Lower Division	Third Class (Honours)	Pass	
ADMINISTRATION & MGT. SCI.	713	8	221	397	84	3	713
AGRIC. MGT. & RURAL DEV.	195	4	85	88	18	0	195
AGRIC. PDT. & RENEWABLE RES.	233	7	105	102	19	0	233
ARTS	800	4	224	441	126	5	800
BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES	434	22	236	160	16	0	434
MEDICINE	66	Unclassified					66
EDUCATION	1340	5	287	868	173	7	1340
ENGINEERING	412	22	130	194	66	0	412
ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES	73	2	30	28	13	0	73
LAW	158	4	88	56	7	3	158
PHARMACY	49	21	24	4	0	0	49
SCIENCE	741	11	211	400	107	12	741
SOCIAL SCIENCES	579	5	204	306	59	5	579
Total	5793	115	1845	3044	688	35	5793

The University has added twenty new programmes to its pool of academic disciplines, thereby increasing the options available to prospective undergraduates and postgraduates. We have also maintained Full Accreditation status in all our programmes.

The highpoints of this programme will be the Convocation Lecture titled: “TETFund and Educational Development in Nigeria: The History, the Treasures and the Future” to be delivered by the Executive Secretary, TETFund – Architect Sunny S.T. Echono, and the conferment of Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science on a globally acclaimed Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon and the Chief Medical Director, Eye Foundation Hospital Group, in person of Dr. Adekunle Olubola Hassan on Friday, 31st January, 2025.

This great institution is poised to give our students the best experience, while molding them to be outstanding both in learning and character. As encapsulated in our 3Es Concept, we have made it a point of duty that our graduates should be able to further their education; skillful enough to be gainfully employed in both public and private sectors; and also greatly knowledgeable to become employers of labour through entrepreneurship. We also inculcate in them the virtues of ‘a gentleman’ as enshrined in our Logo boldly depicted with the Navy Blue colour.

We have also continued to demonstrate the shining star that we are by keying into evolving trends in teaching and research technologies. Just recently, Olabisi Onabanjo University was crowned the “**AI School of the Year**” at the 2024 Data Science Nigeria (DSN) annual boot camp event, including a star prize of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000) worth of books. Two of our Lecturers also emerged as joint winners of the inaugural **Google Academic Research Awards (GARA)** for 2024. The award included a research grant of Sixty Thousand Dollars (**\$60,000**).

We have equally improved on the engagement of our **Alumni**, which has really paid off. Some have singlehandedly donated structures to the University, including Bar Segun Asekun Law Resource Centre; Alhaji Lawal Fagbo Saheed 750-Seater Lecture Theatre, FAMS; and Otunba Olufemi Okenla Entrepreneurship Centre that is nearing completion. A good number of the Alumini Chapters and Sets have also supported us in diverse areas, including the Remodeling of the University Main Gate, Ago-Iwoye by the UK Chapter; renovation of the Glass House, OACHS, Sagamu by the 1999 Set of Graduating Doctors; Donation of Public Address Systems by Abeokuta Chapter, to mention but a few.

Also noteworthy are the invaluable support the University has continued to receive from the Awujale of Ijebu Land, HRM Oba Sikiru Kayode Adetona, GCON and other renown philanthropists, including Alhaji (Dr.) Sulaiman Adebola Adegunwa, OFR and many others, who have sustainably identified with the University in the pursuit of its Mission and Vision.

Distinguished Gentlemen of the Press, may I also inform you that His Excellency, the Governor of Ogun State, Prince Dapo Abiodun, CON, will be Special Guest of Honour at this occasion which is expected to attract dignitaries including Scholars, Vice-Chancellors from sister Universities and eminent Nigerians from all walks of life.

On behalf of Senate and the entire students of the University, I say thank you all for coming.

Professor Ayodeji Agboola
Vice-Chancellor