

UNIVERSITY OF LAGOS

UniLag Mission

To provide a conducive teaching, learning, research, and development environment where staff and students can interact and compete effectively with their counterparts both nationally and internationally in terms of competence and zeal to add value to the world.

UniLag Vision

To be a top-class institution for the pursuit of excellence in knowledge through learning and research, as well as in character and service to humanity

From <http://www.unilag.edu>.

Knowledge through Learning and Research

Founded in 1962 by an Act of the Federal Parliament, the University of Lagos, (UNILAG) began with 131 students. Today, the University has more than 39,000 students; a total staff of 3,365; and offers degrees programs ranging from Social Sciences, Pharmacy, Business Administration, and Medicine.

LOCATION

UNILAG has 2 campuses: the main campus at Akoka, Yaba; and the College of Medicine in Idi-Araba, Surulere. Both sites are located in the Mainland of Lagos; with the main campus located on 802 acres of land in Akoka, North Eastern part of Yaba, Lagos.

HOUSING ACCOMMODATIONS

Due to factors such as high rent, cost of transportation, and traffic, housing accommodations are made for over 6,000 students on the University's 13 halls of Residence. Allocation of student housing is as follows: final year students, Students' Union Executives, foreign students, sportsmen and women, and first year students. Of the 6,000 students living in university housing, many are foreign students.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Various forms of awards and scholarship are offered at the University to assist students in their financial obligations. Scholarships available to undergraduate can be awarded through the African American Institute, Association of African University, Commonwealth Scholar, Nigerian Army and Navy Scholarship, Standard Bank of Nigeria Limited. Scholarships available to postgraduate students are awarded through the Senate, and designed to encourage graduate students of exceptional merit to undertake studies for higher degrees.

The Work-Study Programme (WSP), wholly operated



Above, dawn from the shore on the Akoka campus. The bridge is filled with cars and trucks travelling across Lagos State. Below middle, engineering building on Akoka campus (donated by Julius Berger PLC) 500 yards from the waterfront. Below bottom, building construction on Aloka campus.



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UniLag Idi-Araba campus in the city of Surulere which is part of greater Lagos. Top, the Faculty of Pharmacy at dusk on the day before final exams; middle and bottom, pictures taken from the Faculty of Pharmacy.

Sources

<http://www.unilag.edu.ng/>

UNILAG gets digital centers for USAID, Zinox, others. The Guardian. 12 Mar 2008

by the University, was designed to help reduce financial burdens that many students face. Under the WSP, students are placed in part-time work situations provided by the University of Lagos Central Administration and other arms of the UNILAG. The WSP also provided temporary full-time work for students during vacations. Some of the objectives of the WSP are as follows:

- Alleviate financial burden of students through part-time and vacation employment;
- Enable students to acquire work-experience while pursuing their courses of study;
- Prepare students for gainful employment after graduation.

Faculties and Colleges

UNILAG has 9 Faculties and the College of Medicine. The Faculties comprise 117 programs ranging from the Arts to Environmental Sciences; with Master and Doctorate programs available for most of the undergraduate programs. Programs in Accounting, Business Administration, Science Education, and Library/Information Sciences are also offered through the Distance Learning Institute (DLI).

In 1962, through the bill to establish the University, the College of Medicine was created as an "autonomous unit of the UNILAG." The College of Medicine includes the Institute of Child Health and Primary Care; the School of Basic Medical Sciences; the School of Clinical Sciences; and the School of Dental Sciences. The educational goal of the College of Medicine is as follows:

Educational Goal of Medical School

To produce Doctors and Dentists of high quality and in such numbers as are required to meet the health delivery need of the nation at Community and Hospital levels.

Academic Research

The faculty and staff at UNILAG comprise highly qualified academics and professionals. Members of faculty have won national and international awards; held prominent government and organizational positions; and are actively engaged in research.

In 2005, at the annual Research Conference and Fair, the University awarded 19 of its researchers for

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their outstanding research efforts. The University research efforts were one of the deciding factors when the National Universities Commission (NUC) judged the University of Lagos as the "Best University in Nigeria" at the 2008 Nigerian System Annual Merit Award (NUSAMA).

Challenges at the Univ of Lagos

Dr Susanna Dodgson recently spent 2 weeks at the University of Lagos Akoka and Idi-Araba campuses. During her visit to the University, Dr Dodgson took all photographs on these pages, and reported: "The biggest challenges in Lagos are the lack of power and water." Throughout Dr Dodgson's 2-week visit to the University of Lagos, a power outage occurred daily; and at times lasted the entire day.

Internet access is also a challenge at the University of Lagos. Although high-speed internet is available to faculty and staff, Dr Dodgson reported: "On average, faculty have about 2 hours of internet access a day; as high-speed internet is turned on in the morning and shut off by 5pm."

In spite of the extraordinary challenges the students and faculty face at the University of Lagos, research and teaching and administrative work continues. Dr Dodgson reported during a power outage: "Lab work such as extracting active ingredients from plant parts, writing observations in note-books, dialysis of proteins, and grinding plants parts are done without electricity."

The Future of UNILAG

In March 2008, with the shared interest of curriculum development, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), British American Tobacco (BAT), Microsoft Nigeria, Ocean Energy, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) and Zinox Technologies came together in partnership with UNILAG and brought into the University 362 personal computers for the faculty of Business Administration, and another 362 personal computers for the computer science department. Vice Chancellor, Professor Tolu Olukayode Odugbemi remarked: "This is a milestone in capacity building...this is indeed a huge accomplishment because no government can find education alone."

United States Ambassador to Nigeria, Ms Robin Sanders, addressed the newly formed partnership as follows: "This partnership will enable the students to play a major role in Nigeria's development. Universities in developing countries face a common challenge of accessing the tremendous resources necessary to provide modern technology to their students. Without this technology, students move on

to face greater challenges: finding employment without the skills necessary to perform the jobs for which the companies are hiring."

According to *The Guardian*, USAID Nigeria will begin to work with private sector partners, UNILAG students, workers and the Nigerian private sector to:

- Align key curriculum with the skills required by the Nigerian private sector;

- Foster a sense of obligation in tomorrow's leaders to play active role in Nigeria's development;

- Provide valuable and challenging internships to high performing students and increase employment, incomes and productivity of UNILAG graduates through strengthened technology skills.

Vice Chancellor, Professor Tolu Olukayode Odugbemi says that UNILAG is an institution where possibilities are created and dreams are fulfilled. From 131 students in 1962, to 39,000 students in 2008; UNILAG is now an institution that will continue to be recognized for its excellence in education and research.

By J Walters BSN, RN

The campus of the medical school is filled with trees and bushes, below.

