

DAY 1: MONDAY, 13 NOVEMBER, 2017

ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR ABEL IDOWU OLAYINKA, FAS, AT THE CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS AND ADMISSION INTO FIRST DEGREES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN.

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)
Deputy Vice-Chancellor, (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships)
Registrar
Bursar
University Librarian
Provost, College of Medicine
Deans of Faculties, the Postgraduate School and of Students
Directors of Institutes
Heads of Departments
Members of Senate
Members of Congregation
President and Members of the University of Ibadan Alumni Association
Representatives of the Students
Honoured Graduands
Parents, Guardians and Sponsors of Our Graduands
Gentlemen of the Press
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the first of the five-day graduation ceremonies of the University of Ibadan for 2017. I seize this opportunity to welcome parents, guardians, guests and well-wishers to this great occasion. I warmly wish to congratulate the parents and guardians of the graduands, who have come to share the joy of this occasion with their beloved children and wards. It is my prayer that the joy, which this day has ushered in, will endure forever.

I especially welcome the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic), Professor Adeyinka A. Aderinto and the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation and Strategic Partnerships), Professor Olanike K. Adeyemo, both of whom are attending this ceremony for the first time in their respective capacities. I am sure you all will join me in wishing the two eminent, dutiful, diligent and distinguished scholars a successful tenure of office.

I also wish to commend and congratulate the graduands of today on the successful completion of their programmes after passing through rigorous academic challenges, in view of the fact that, it is not everyone who started this race that is here to witness this great occasion. Your success, therefore, calls for celebration as some of those who started the journey with you three, four, five, six or seven years ago, depending on your course of study, had dropped out on account of either inadequacies in their academic performances, ill-health or even death. You have, like gold, passed the fire test and have invariably been found to be worthy in character and learning, hence your graduation today.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, due to the strike action embarked upon by the four staff unions, namely the Academic Staff Union of Universities (ASUU), the Senior Staff Association of Universities (SSANU), the National Association of Academic Technologists (NAAT) and the Non-Academic Staff Union (NASU) and students' demonstration during the 2016/2017 academic session which caused multiple revisions to the academic calendar, our final year students could not complete their programmes early enough for the convocation ceremonies.

As a result, we are having convocation for graduands of the 2015/2016 academic session. A total of 5,629 candidates will be receiving their First Degrees, today as well as tomorrow. A summary is given in Table 1 as well as on Page 424 of the Order of Proceedings. This morning, candidates are graduating from the Faculties of Arts, Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Dentistry, Public Health and Law. The First Degree graduands from the other Faculties, the Distance Learning Centre and the Affiliated Institutions will have their turn tomorrow.

Table 1. Summary of First Degree Graduands for 2017 Convocation (2015/2016 Session)

Faculties	1 st Class	2 nd Class Upper	2 nd Class Lower	3 rd Class	Pass	Unclassified	Total
Arts	16	173	229	24	6	-	448
Science	25	116	226	62	19	-	448
Basic Medical Science	1	23	58	7	1	-	90
Clinical Sciences	6	18	10	1	1	85	121
Dentistry	-	-	-	-	-	6	6
Public Health	-	7	18	-	-	-	25
Agriculture and Forestry	29	112	109	19	8		277
The Social Sciences	10	137	160	13	6		326
Education	8	153	240	12	4		417
Distance Learning Centre (DLC)	9	190	988	202	21	-	1410
Affiliated Institutions	43	411	941	78	8	-	1481
Veterinary Medicine						77	
Technology	28	123	113	14	1		279
Law	11	75	41	2	6	-	135
Pharmacy						89	89
GRAND TOTAL	186	1,538	3,133	434	81	257	5,629

A further breakdown of the graduating list shows that 3.5% and 28.6% of our students finished with First Class and Second Class (Upper) Honours, respectively (Table 2).

Table 2. Analysis of Class of Degree of the 2015/2016 First Degree Graduands from the University of Ibadan and Comparison with the United Kingdom Average

Class of Degree	Number of Candidates	Proportion of the Total (%)	Comparison with U.K. (2015/2016 Session)
First Class	186	3.5	23.6
Second Class Upper	1,538	28.6	49.6
Second Class Lower	3,133	58.3	21.7
Third Class	434	8.1	5.1
Pass	81	1.5	
Grand Total	5,372	100	100

Sources : University of Ibadan 2017 Order of Proceedings, page 424):

<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/qualifications> (Accessed 11 November 2017)

I am aware that there have been, of recent, strident public criticisms of the large number of First Class graduates from our Universities. I hasten to add that we are exceedingly proud of all Ibadan graduates. We see this phenomenon from the strategic point of view of Input-Process-Output. In specific terms, the University of Ibadan has arguably the most competitive mechanism for undergraduate admission in the country. Only one out of 16 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examinations (UTME) candidates who made the University of Ibadan their First choice can secure admission here. Our admission process is transparent and merit driven while our Faculty rank among the best in the country in terms of research productivity. Ibadan is for the best and the brightest. This has been attested to consistently by the Times Higher Education World University rankings in which Ibadan is the only University in the country ranked among the topmost 801-1,000 universities in the world.

It may be worthwhile to mention in passing here that, as shown in Table 2, in the United Kingdom, comparative figures from the Higher Education Statistical Agency indicated an average of 23.6% of their students earning First Class and 49.6% obtaining Second Class Upper degrees at the end of the 2015/2016 Session.

Among the main highlights of today's event is that the University of Ibadan is producing the pioneering set of B.A Music graduates, comprising 12 students one of whom earned a First Class Honours. It is gratifying to note that the Department of Music had earlier secured Full Accreditation from the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, our academic staff and students continue to make commendable strides, and it is my pleasure to report some of them.

- The Department of History was projected as a veritable Centre of Excellence with its hosting an International Conference under a theme “the Humanities and Development in Africa” from 6th to 9th July, 2017 and attended by over 200 scholars from twenty countries of the World.
- The Faculty of Science reactivated Memoranda of Understanding with three foreign Universities namely: The Walter Sisulu University, Umthata and The University of Johannesburg, Gauteng, South Africa and The University of Portsmouth, England.
- From the Department of European Studies, 20 Teachers of French were trained by Alliance Francaise for the teaching of French as a General Studies course in the University of Ibadan.
- The Faculty of Science established an E-Library which was commissioned in July, 2017 for the use of staff.
- The Department of Mathematics organized a public Lecture on 13 July, 2017 to showcase applications of algebraic geometry for members of staff. Ten students each from five secondary schools in Ibadan metropolis attended and took active part in the discussion that followed.
 - Four of our 400 level students of the Department of Mathematics: Arinze Folarin,; Deborah O. Salami; Joseph O. Ojo, and Ramon O. Azeez, participated in the National Mathematical competition for University students (NAMCUS 2017) which held at the National Mathematical Centre, Kwali, Abuja from 2-8 April, 2017 and the University came 6th out of the 33 Universities that participated in the competition.

- As part of the effort at students exchange programme the Faculty of Public Health provided opportunities for two international students and one student in a Nigerian University to participate in their Internship programmes. They are Julia Stoevelaap, a female student from the Delft University Technology, The Netherlands; Rasha Crosby, a male undergraduate student of Public Health Policy from the University of Chicago, USA and Okuwoga Oluwapelumi, a female Master of Public Health student from Babcock University, Ilishan Remo.
- In a recent accreditation exercise conducted by the National Universities Commission on the Department of Physiology, the B.Sc programme recorded full accreditation status.
- A 300 level student of the Department of Physiology, Ikechukwu Nwachukwu participated at the Nigeria Higher Education Foundation (NHEF) for annual scholarship essay competition and won the second position.
- A 300 level student of the Department of Human Nutrition, Sadik Oluwagbenga was part of the team that represented the University of Ibadan at the Hult Prize Regional Finals in Boston, USA. U.I was the only Nigerian University that was represented at the World's largest students' competition
- As part of its efforts at continuous relevance to the society and other related Professional community, the Faculty of Dentistry has designed and developed new academic and professional programmes for interested candidates in medical and medicine related fields at Diploma, Degree and post graduate levels as follows: Teaching Laboratory Demonstration to 400- 600 level BDS, MB, BS undergraduate students and Masters in Dental Surgery. Others are: Ph.D programmes (Dentistry), Masters in Dental Public Health (MDPH); Masters in Forensic Odontology; Diploma in Dental Public Health (DDPH) and Diploma in Forensic Odontology.
- The Student Work Study Scheme is a programme which provides indigent students with opportunities to work for their upkeep and continue with their education. Three hundred and thirty students registered under scheme and 100 of them have been engaged at one time or the other during the session.

Four students were given financial aids for payment of their tuition fees while six foreign students registered under the scheme.

The under listed bodies made scholarships available to a number of our students under the scholarship Board of the University as follows.

S/N	Scholarship Board	Session	Total number of beneficiaries
1	BOVAS Scholarship	2016/17	10 Students
2	Grace Leadership Foundation	2016/17	21 students
3	Delta State Bursary and Scholarship Board	2016/17	26 students
4	Gani Fawehinmi Scholarship Board	2016/17	2 students
5	Unilever Campus Ambassador Programme	2016/17	3 students
6	UBA Campus Ambassador	2016/17	2 students
7	Egbe Omo Oduduwa Scholarship	2016/17	18 students
8	Lateef Ajibade Salami Scholarship	2016/17	10 students
9	Jim Ovia Foundation	2016/17	11 Students
10	Etisalat Scholar's Innovation Challenge	2016/17	10 students

- Two of our students, namely Amida Tella and Oluyemi Ajiboye, graduated with First Class Honours at the recently released Final Bar qualification examinations 2017 of the Nigerian Law School.
- Four students from the Faculty of Law: Jimoh, Mujib Akanni, 500 level; Oyekan, Oluwaseun, 500 level; Nwarueze, Chinenyenwa, 400 level and Olalere, Yusuf Asamu, 400 level participated in the Price Medal International Moot Competition, West African Regional Round at the University of Lagos from 6 to 8 February, 2017. They came 4th and emerged the best oralist in the competition.
- Six senior undergraduate students of Law also participated in the First Bowen Moot competition between 24 and 26 April, 2017 where they emerged second runners-up.

Three of our scholars have emerged as joint winners of the Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) \$100,000 Prize for Science for 2017. Dr IkeOluwapo Oyeneye Ajayi an Epidemiologist and Family Physician and former Head, Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics, Professor Ayodele

S. Jegede, a Medical Sociologist/Bioethicist and the Dean Faculty of The Social Sciences and Dr Bidemi Yusuf, a Biostatistician and Head, Department of Epidemiology and Medical Statistics were recognised for their research work titled, '*Improving Home and Community Management of Malaria: Providing the Evidence Base*'. The common factor among the three researchers is a strong bias for malaria research as it pertains to its Epidemiology, management and control. The current target to eliminate malaria in Nigeria is an added impetus for the group so that they can contribute in a meaningful way to this laudable target in Nigeria in particular and the world at large.

CURRICULUM MATTERS

The National Universities Commission (NUC) has approved a new grading system for undergraduate programmes in the Nigerian University System. The University of Ibadan has conformed to this outlined Benchmark Minimum Accreditation Standard (BMAS) which is the basic document for accreditation of Programmes, starting with the new intakes, 100 Level, of the 2016/2017 Session. The implications of this include 45% as the pass mark for all courses in the Faculties operating the Course System, the abolition of Pass degree, and a transition from a 7-point grading system to a 4-point grading system.

The Senate of the University has approved the following:

A. NEW/REVISED CURRICULA

1. B.Sc Urban and Regional Planning
2. Bachelor of Architecture
3. Bachelor of Estate Management
4. Bachelor of Pharmacy (B. PHARM)
5. PharmD (Doctor of Pharmacy)
6. Department of Marketing (Faculty of Economics) (PROPOSED)
7. B. Ed Business Education, Department of Educational Management (PROPOSED)
8. **GES 108: COMMUNICATION IN FRENCH** (As an integral part of the global village, it is imperative for Nigeria to enhance multilingualism in all her institutions. This is a sine-qua-non for development, considering the significant role that the country has played and continues to play in international politics and diplomacy. Given Nigeria's population, natural resources, economic resilience and political relevance, one would definitely agree that a European language such as French cannot be relegated to the background. Its inclusion in the curriculum of University of Ibadan is pertinent in order to prepare and

provide the much needed manpower for the development of our country and also for the sustenance of its administrative machinery.)

B. MODIFIED CURRICULA

1. Change in the course title and contents of GES 106: (PREVIOUSLY PHILOSOPHY AND LOGIC). (NOW: PHILOSOPHY, LOGIC AND CRITICAL THINKING). The justification for this is to allow for a proper reflection of the full contents of the course and to imbue the students with pertinent skills for better reasoning cum sound judgement. To improve further the creative and analytical skills of students.
2. Change in the course title and contents of GES 107: PREVIOUSLY: (REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs) AND HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)). NOW: (REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STIs), DRUGS AND MANKIND). The justification for this is to capture the total interest of a contemporary health course and to enhance the pharmaceutical components of the course.

Special Recognitions

For the first time since this university was established 69 years ago, a student has broken the jinx by earning a First Class Honours from our world-acclaimed Ibadan School of History (Department of History). We warmly congratulate **Ozibo Ozibo Ekele** who is graduating today with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 6.6 out of a maximum of 7.0. We also congratulate the Head of the Department of History and all the staff both from within and outside the Faculty of Arts, who made this feat possible.

The best graduating student for the 2015/2016 session is **Daniel Kenechukwu Nkemelu** from the Department of Computer Science. He returned a perfect Cumulative Grade Point Average of 7.0 out of a maximum of 7.0. Daniel is currently on a MasterCard Scholarship to Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA for a Masters in Electrical and Computer Engineering..

CLOSING REMARKS

I commend to our graduates the much cherished values of your *alma mata*, namely a commitment to excellence encapsulated in our set of core values. These include Excellence in Learning; Upright in Character; Sound in Judgment and Incomparable in Service. You should make integrity your watchword. For as long as you keep these at the back of your minds, you will excel in spite of all the odds in this world. You will not only be successful in life but you will attain greatness. I, therefore, commend to you a line in the second stanza of our University Anthem which talks of ‘*Greatness won with honest toil*’. I do not know of any other route to greatness apart from honest hard work.

I am certain that many of you are inclined to pursue higher degrees; you should try to return to school immediately after your National Youth Service Corps Scheme, or soon after. Others who will also look for job are bound to succeed while those of you who have strong entrepreneurial instincts may wish to start a business and employ others. With the very solid foundation laid at the University of Ibadan, we look forward to seeing you all at the top. Our charge to you and fervent prayers to God is that you will achieve far more than those of us who have had the privilege to be your teachers, parents and guardians all have.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, all I have left is to once more, extend hearty felicitations to all our graduands for their academic attainments in this university. My clarion call to you is to be good ambassadors of this University wherever you find yourselves. The joy of today shall be permanent.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Professor A. Idowu Olayinka, FAS
Vice-Chancellor