

DAY 1: TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 2025

ADDRESS BY THE VICE CHANCELLOR, PROFESSOR KAYODE OYEBODE ADEBOWALE, *mni*, FAS AT THE CONGREGATION FOR THE AWARD OF CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS AND ADMISSION INTO FIRST DEGREE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF IBADAN ON TUESDAY, 11 NOVEMBER, 2025

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Administration)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic)

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research, Innovation, and Strategic Partnerships)

Registrar

Bursar

University Librarian

Provost of the College of Medicine

Provost of the Postgraduate College

Deans of Faculties

Dean of Students

Directors of Institutes and Centres

Heads of Departments

Members of Senate

Members of Congregation

President and Members of the University of Ibadan Alumni Association

Members of the Students' Representative Council

Our Honoured Graduands

Proud Parents and Guardians

Gentlemen of the Press

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

It is with profound joy and a deep sense of gratitude that I stand before you today on this momentous occasion in the illustrious history of our great University. We have been sustained and preserved to witness yet another Convocation by the Almighty God. It is thus right to be of grateful hearts as we reflect on the challenges that dotted the terrains from last Convocation

till this time, and from all, the Almighty delivered us. Indeed, we have waded through by His help.

I thus exultantly welcome you to the first day of the 2025 graduation ceremonies of Nigeria's premier university. It is significant to note that the University of Ibadan continues to deepen its commitment to scholarship, nurture young talents, and render invaluable service to our community. Many of our recent accomplishments, as you will soon hear, are unprecedented in the annals of University education in Nigeria and across Africa. The 77th Convocation Ceremony is more than a celebration of academic achievement; it is a powerful testament to the enduring legacy of excellence that has defined this institution for over seven decades. This year's Convocation has a total of 5,900 graduands from all the Faculties including the Distance Learning Centre and Affiliated Institutions. Significantly, today marks the graduation of students from the Faculties of Arts, Science, Basic Medical Sciences, Clinical Sciences, Public Health, Dentistry and Pharmacy with 68 students graduating with First Class (Honours) from the Faculty of Arts, 50 from Science, 3 from Basic Medical Sciences, 9 from Clinical Sciences, 3 from Public Health and 36 from programs of our Distance Learning Centre and 68 from our Affiliated Institutions.

I extend my warmest congratulations to you, our esteemed graduands. This day signifies the culmination of years of hard work, discipline, and perseverance. You have successfully completed your first degrees, a feat that speaks volumes about your resilience and determination. By graduating from the University of Ibadan, you have not only earned a degree; but also, you have gained a decisive head start in life. You have been shaped, sharpened, and prepared to seize future opportunities with confidence, competence, and character.

The certificate you receive today embodies your potential for impactful work, innovative problem-solving, and lifelong excellence. Remember, the world has little room for those who make excuses, but it reserves a hallowed place in the hall of honour for smart thinkers and dynamic problem-solvers. There is no limit to what you can achieve if you set your heart and mind to it.

THE LEGACY OF A PREMIER INSTITUTION

The University of Ibadan holds a unique and cherished place in the heart of our nation. Founded in 1948 as University College Ibadan and initially affiliated with the University of London, we became a full-fledged independent University in 1962, establishing ourselves as Nigeria's first

degree-awarding Institution. From these modest beginnings, we have grown into one of the most prestigious Universities in Africa.

Our alumni network has made indelible contributions to Nigeria's academic, political, industrial, economic, and cultural development. Our graduates have served as Presidents, Governors, Ministers, Captains of Industry, Renowned Academics, Religious Leaders and Cultural Icons. The history and influence of the University of Ibadan have made it a beacon of intellectual leadership and a symbol of national pride.

EXPANDING FRONTIERS OF KNOWLEDGE AND ACCESS

From our early days of offering programs only in Arts, Science, and Medicine, we have evolved into a comprehensive citadel of learning with over 130 academic departments organized into 23 Faculties and Institutes and two (2) Colleges. Our recent establishment of the Faculty of Computing, positions us at the forefront of digital innovation, preparing our students for the demands of the 21st-century economy, also, our Department of Nursing has metamorphosed into a full-ledged Faculty. In addition, Senate has given approval for the take-off of the Department of Aeronautics and Aerospace in the Faculty of Technology.

Our Postgraduate College remains the flagship of postgraduate education in Nigeria and one of the largest in Africa, producing the highly skilled human resources required not only for the Nigerian University System but for the world. With a current student enrolment ratio of 60% postgraduate to 40% undergraduate, we are steadily advancing towards our vision of becoming a fully postgraduate-focused institution.

Our robust Open and Distance Learning Centre (ODLC), with a population of over ten thousand learners per level, increases access to quality education and human capacity building. It currently runs sixteen programs across six Faculties. We are also proud to host the Pan African University Life and Earth Sciences Institute on behalf of the West African sub-region. This African Union initiative attracts students from across the continent, reinforcing our role as a hub for continental collaboration and academic excellence.

Our vision is clear: to be a world-class institution for academic excellence geared towards meeting societal needs. In fulfillment of this mandate, the University of Ibadan is consistently ranked among the most prestigious universities globally and, very recently, as the best in Nigeria according to Times Higher Education World University Rankings for 2025/2026. Significantly, sixty-five of our scientists have been recognized among the top 2% globally by

the prestigious Stanford/Elsevier Ranking, underscoring our unwavering commitment to research and scholarship.

Permit me to reaffirm our University's commitment to academic excellence, inclusivity and relevance. We remain steadfast in our commitment to strengthening our curriculum, expanding our research capacity and improving our facilities so that our graduates can remain competitive on the global stage. We will also continue to intensify our efforts to deepen partnerships with industry and civil society to ensure that learning leads to meaningful careers, innovative entrepreneurship and lasting social impact. Above all, we shall continue to safeguard our campus culture where diversity is respected, merit is rewarded and every student and staff member can thrive.

REFLECTIONS ON OUR NATION IN 2025

The year 2025 has been one of both trials and triumphs for our dear nation, Nigeria. We have faced economic uncertainties, infrastructural challenges, and social tensions. Yet, through it all, Nigerians have demonstrated remarkable resilience, drawing strength from unity and an unyielding hope for a better tomorrow. The education sector has not been spared. Universities across the nation have grappled with funding constraints, infrastructural decay, brain drain, and the need to adapt rapidly to technological disruptions. These challenges have tested our resolve but have also inspired innovation and a renewed commitment to our mission. I must acknowledge the interventions of the Government and the immense support from our dedicated alumni, whose charitable donations and meaningful support have been instrumental to our progress.

A SHOWCASE OF MILESTONES: SOARING ON EAGLES' WINGS

Despite these headwinds, the University of Ibadan has continued to soar. I am proud to highlight just a few of the many exploits achieved by our staff and students since our last convocation:

IN STUDENT EXCELLENCE

- Ten undergraduate students from the Faculty of Nursing came first in the Golden Lamp Leadership Initiative African Research Challenge held in September, 2025.
- 2024/2025 EOOI Scholarship in the US for Oluwafemi Olajumoke Mercy, a 400-level student of the Department of Biochemistry.

- Abigail O. Oyedokun, a 600-Level MBBS student, won the best oral presentation at the Advancing Medical Education Conference held on 30 March, 2025 in Kigali, Rwanda.
- Miss Temidayo M. Adebisi from our Faculty of Nursing was the recipient of the Data Science Africa fellowship award to Advance Women's Health (DSAWH) for 2025 Cohort.
- Fajemiyo Ayomide, Folaju Favour, and Oluwasayo Jesulolufemi (all 400-Level students in the Department of European Studies) won scholarships for the 'Summer with Pushkin for Russian Language Students in CIS States and Africa' program in Moscow, which ran from 24 August to 6 September 2025.
- The student body of the Department of English under the aegis of NASELS (NATURAL DONATION OF STUDENTS OF ENGLISH) UI Chapter, held a programme tagged TED-Style Talk Session where they hosted professionals in Journalism, Broadcasting, Tourism, Music to expand students' awareness.
- The University was represented at the Western Conference of students English and Literary Studies (WESTCOSELS '25) and our students came first in a quiz competition and second in the Spelling Bee competition organised by the regional body. Also, two of our students were appointed into the South West NASELS Regional Executive Council. They are Kolawole Munisola (200 Level) – Assistant Secretary-General and Oluwapelumi Oni Oluwadamilola (100 Level) – Financial Secretary.
- Several other students won prestigious fellowships and scholarships from institutions like Harvard, King's College London, and Data Science Africa all within the year 2025.
- Our contingent clinched third place at the 2025 FASU 3x3 Basketball Championship in held at Mekerere University, Kampala, Uganda.

IN RESEARCH AND GLOBAL HEALTH

- The Polio Laboratory of the Department of Virology, under Dr. Adedayo O. Faneye, received a national commendation for its exceptional work between September and December, 2024 when it handled samples from the entire country following the flooding of the Maiduguri Laboratory.
- Professor Iruka N. Okeke won substantial individual and collaborative awards, including a \$6.9 million NIHR Global Health Research Unit consortium award as well as the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation grants for the year 2024-2025.

- Dr. Chizoma M. Ndikom was appointed as a Low-and-Middle Income Countries Site Mentor for the Fogarty Global Health Fellow Award for the year 2024-2025.
- The HIV Laboratory in our Department of Virology became the first in the country to successfully transit to the stringent ISO 15189:2022 standard.
- Mr P. O. Olubanke, a Senior Technologist who was on sabbatical, undertook a training on plastination at the University of Brazil. from April 01 2024 to March 30, 2025.
- Dr. Olubunmi A. Balogun attended a training on Hands-On Confocal Microscopy Course at the University of York, UK, between 1st – 4th April, 2025.

IN NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ACCOLADES

- Professors O. Gureje, M. O. Owolabi, R. O. Akinyemi, T. A. Lawal and 62 others were listed among the world's top 2% of scientists for the year 2024-2025.
- Professor M. O. Owolabi was elected Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (FTWAS) effective 1 January, 2025.
- Professor A.A. Odukogbe was conferred with the Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (FRCOG), United Kingdom.
- Professor Omonike O. Ogbole, Dr. Osisanwo A. Adekinle and Dr. Akinsete A. Tolulope won the prestigious Georg Forster Fellowship from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, Germany for the year 2024.
- Dr. Iyanuoluwa O. Ojo from our Faculty Nursing was a recipient of several Research Fellowship Awards including; International Clinical Research Scholars Program in Ethiopia, Addis Abba 2025 Cohort, Fellowship Award by King's College Residential Program in the United Kingdom, 2024 and the 2025 Change Challenge Grant, United State of America.
- Professor Olatunji Alabi Oyeshile, former Dean of the Faculty of Arts and a Professor of Philosophy was nominated to present the 2025 annual public lecture on UNESCO World Philosophy Day. Prof. Oyeshile's public Lecture is entitled "Human and Cultural Diversities and the Reconciliation of the Self with the Other"

CONFERENCES AND ACADEMIC GATHERINGS

- The Department of Health Policy and Management, in collaboration with the West African College of Physicians (WACP) and the Faculty of Community Health, hosted

a virtual Management and Leadership Course for Health Workers from 9 to 13 December 2024.

- The Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences held its 9th Biannual Conference between 8 and 12 September 2025 on the theme, '**AI in Translational Biomedical Research, Teaching, and Clinical Practice: Opportunities and Challenges**'.
- The Department of Religious Studies held its 1st Distinguished Alumni Lecture on 5 February 2025. The lecture, titled '**The Faith Once Delivered to the Saints in the Context of Contemporary Socio-Economic Challenges**,' was delivered by The Most Reverend Dr. Williams Oluwarotimi Aladekugbe, Bishop of the Ibadan North Diocese and Archbishop of the Ibadan Ecclesiastical Province.
- The Department of Religious Studies held its 2025 Conference in honour of The Most Reverend N.D. Okoh, Former Primate, Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) and an Alumnus of the Department From 31 March to 03 April, 2025 with the theme: **Religion, Artificial intelligence and Migration**
- The Department of Religious Studies held its 2nd Distinguished Alumni Lecture on 28 May, 2025. The lecture, titled '**Religion and the Murky Water of Nigerian Politics**,' was delivered by the Bishop, Ikeja Diocese, Methodist Church and Executive Secretary, Nigeria Christian Pilgrim Commission, The Right Reverend Dr. Stephen Tunde Victor Adegbite.
- The Faculty of Arts similarly held its First Distinguished Alumnus Lecture on 2 September 2025. Titled '**Ancient History for the Present: The Challenges of Ancestral Yoruba Cosmopolitanism to Postcolonial Nigeria**,' the lecture was delivered by a distinguished Alumnus, Professor Akin Ogundiran, the Cardiss Collins Professor of Arts and Sciences at NorthWestern University, Evanston, USA.
- The Department of Classics, in collaboration with the Classical Association of Nigeria, held a one-day seminar on the theme '**Africa in Aristotle and the Aristotelian Tradition**.' The seminar was delivered by Professor Hendrik Lorenz, a Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University, USA
- Professor AbdulRahmon of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies received Distinguished Alumnus Award by the Faculty of Arts, University of Ibadan.
- Professor AbdulRahmon of the Department of Arabic and Islamic Studies received Excellence Award by ASSOSSER.
- Publication of two editions of the Journal of Arabic and Islamic Studies, Vol. 33, 2021 and Vol. 34, 2022

- The Department of Physics achieved full accreditation status, affirming its academic and infrastructural standards.

RECOGNITIONS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

- Dr. H. O. Aisagbonhi of the Department of Health Policy and Management won the Golden Pen Award for the Academic Writer Academy (Cohort 5), organized by the Academic and Grant Writing Enclave (AGE) on 19 April 2025.
- Dr. V. F. Edem was appointed a Researcher Co-Lead for the Childhood Tuberculosis Biosignature Validation (CORRAL) Study at the MRC Unit in The Gambia.
- Professor Adesola C. Odole from the Department of Physiotherapy was awarded a TETFund grant, enabling her to speak as the only Physiotherapist from Nigeria at a Focused Symposium during the World Physiotherapy Congress in Tokyo, Japan (29–31 May 2025). The symposium was titled ‘Centering Global Perspectives Through Storytelling: How Disability Informs Physiotherapy’.
- Dr. Adeyinka G. Ishola was awarded a prestigious Visiting Scholar Grant valued at \$15,000 CAD by the Faculty of Nursing, Global Nursing Office, University of Alberta. This grant is part of an initiative to strengthen research partnerships between Canada and Low-and-Middle-Income Countries.
- Olabode I. Olalekan, a doctoral student in the Department of History, was a beneficiary of an Erasmus+ Fellowship in Leipzig, Germany, in 2025.
- Chinwe Ofudi from the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences won the Guadalupe Fellowship Coimbra Group Scholarship for Young Researchers for the 2024-2025 academic year.
- Dr. Kola Adekola was elected Vice President of the World Archaeological Congress. He is the third academic from the Department to hold an executive position in this global body.
- Professor Agouru A. Adedoyin of the Department of English was a recipient of the U.S. Department of State's Study of the United States Institutes (SUSI) 2024 Program Award for Contemporary American Literature, hosted by the University of Montana.
- Professor Aina O. Adeogun FAS – was appointed Head, Department of Zoology effective August 01, 2025
- Professor Henrietta O. Awobode – was appointed Director, University of Ibadan Zoological Garden, effective August 01, 2024

- Fellow, Academy of Science, May 2025. Awardee: Prof. Aina O. Adeogun, FAS of the Department of Zoology
- Fellow, African Academy of Science, 2023 (inducted in July 23, 2025). Awardee: Prof. A. A. Bakare, FZSN, FAS, FAAS of the Department of Zoology
- Organisation for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), Ibadan Branch, Life Member Award, May 2025. Awardee: Prof. Adesola A. Hassan of the Department of Zoology
- Prof. Modupe Onadeko (Nee Onabamiro) on behalf of the Onabamiro family, announced “Prof. Sanya Dojo Onabamiro Annual Awards” for the best graduating student (final year) Parasitology Course and the best M.Sc. Student in Parasitology, Zoology Department”, during the 40 years Remembrance Memorial Lecture. 27 May 2025
- Dr. A. O. Adeyi from the Department of Zoology - Visiting Faculty, Centre for Ecological Sciences, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India.
- Prof. Aina O. Adeogun, FAS: TETFund National Research Fund (NRF) intervention Grant, 2019-date
- Dr Adeola A. Oni (from the Department of Zoology) Under the UNESCO-IHE DELFT Water and Development Partnership DUPC3 program (2022-2027). Project title: GWS-SCIENCE: Groundwater Sustainable and Equitable Development under Constraints of Ecosystem Conservation and saltwater intrusion prevention in large deltas.
- Dr. A. O. Adeyi: TETFUND National Research Fund (NRF) Grant, 2024-2026. Project title: Development of drug-based, multi potent antivenom against Nigerian Snakes.
- Dr. A. O. Adeyi: TETFUND Institution-Based Research (IBR) Fund, 2025-2026. Project title: Repurposing FDA-approved drugs with multi-target-pathways for treatment of diabetic nephropathy.

IN GLOBAL ICT AND DIGITAL INNOVATION:

Our University emerged as the First Prize Winner in the Cloud Computing Category of the 2024/2025 Huawei ICT Competition Global Final, placing us at the pinnacle of technological innovation on the world stage.

These achievements are not isolated events; they are a resounding proof of the remarkable potential our University possesses and the global impact we are making. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I commend the faculty, staff, and students who have distinguished themselves. You have upheld the prestigious status of our dear University. I also convey our deepest gratitude to all our benefactors; your kindness and benevolence are the bedrock upon which we build our success. Thank you, immensely.

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

A profound thanks to the Commencement Speaker, Dr. Abel Kehinde Adegoke, Principal & Senior Executive Partner, Primary Care Cardiovascular Physician, Hamilton Medical Centre, Birkenhead, Wirral, United Kingdom and an alumna of this great Institutions. We are grateful to you for accepting to be our Speaker at this auspicious occasion.

A CHARGE TO THE CLASS OF 2025

In closing this speech, it behoves me to give a charge to you, our dear graduands: as you step into the world, you carry the name and reputation of the University of Ibadan with you. I charge you to be our worthy ambassadors. Let your conduct, your work ethics, and your contributions to society reflect the values of excellence, integrity, and service instilled in you at this Institution. You have a duty to project this University in a positive light. Let your achievements speak not only for you but for the generations of students who will follow. In a world facing complex challenges, the values of integrity, empathy and service are as essential as technical competence. Always endeavour to carry these values with you. Every graduate of the University of Ibadan is a prime asset for national development. The world is watching, and I have no doubt that you will rise to the occasion.

As you leave this hall, remember that your degree is not the end of your learning journey, but the beginning of a lifelong pursuit of knowledge, wisdom, and impact. The road ahead may be challenging, but you have been equipped to navigate it with courage and creativity. So, go forth and be the light in dark places. Be the voice of reason in times of confusion. Be the hands that build, the minds that innovate, and the hearts that inspire. May the Almighty guide your steps, crown your efforts with success, and make you instruments of positive change in Nigeria and beyond. To all parents and families gathered here today, I extend my deepest gratitude for entrusting us with your loved ones and for standing steadfastly by them on this journey. It is my sincere prayer that you will richly enjoy the fruits of your sacrifice.

Congratulations once again, Class of 2025! The future is yours - claim it with boldness!

Thank you, and God bless you all.

Professor K. O. Adebowale, *mni*, FAS
Vice-Chancellor