



National Universities Commission



Federal Republic of Nigeria

Licensing, Accreditation and Quality Assurance in Nigerian Universities: Achievements and Challenges

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*Paper presented at
the 2008 CHEA Summer Workshop*

26-27 June, 2008



INTRODUCTION

Statements of fact

- The demand for university education is on the increase all over the world.
- A forward looking government, no matter what it costs, will ensure that its citizenry is educated; not just any kind of education but a focused and qualitative one.
- For nations with very high rates of illiteracy levels there could be advocacy for basic education;
- Nevertheless, there is a level a nation cannot go beyond with basic education only
- Higher education combined with high levels of commitment of the citizenry to national development is therefore the key to technological advancement of any nation.



INTRODUCTION II

Statements of fact

- The developed countries of the world have proved it to be true as most of them have a long history of higher education. Developing nations must take a cue from them.
- It is not enough to license a higher education institution to operate; there must be a constant evaluation to ensure that set standards and operational guides are not violated.
- A system that grows is such that sets standards and disciplines itself to attain them. Accreditation of universities be it institutional or programme is a way of examining the state of the institution in relation to where it ought to be.
- Prior to the licensing of a university, some quality indices are taken into consideration to ensure that it takes off effectively. Consequently, licensing, accreditation and quality assurance are related in a wider context.



NIGERIA



Area	- 923,768 km ²
Population	- 140 million.
States	- 36 and 1 FCT
Location	- West Africa
Capital city	- Abuja.
Borders	- Republic of Benin (west) - Chad and Cameroon (East), - Niger (north).
Coast	Gulf of Guinea, part of the Atlantic Ocean (south)



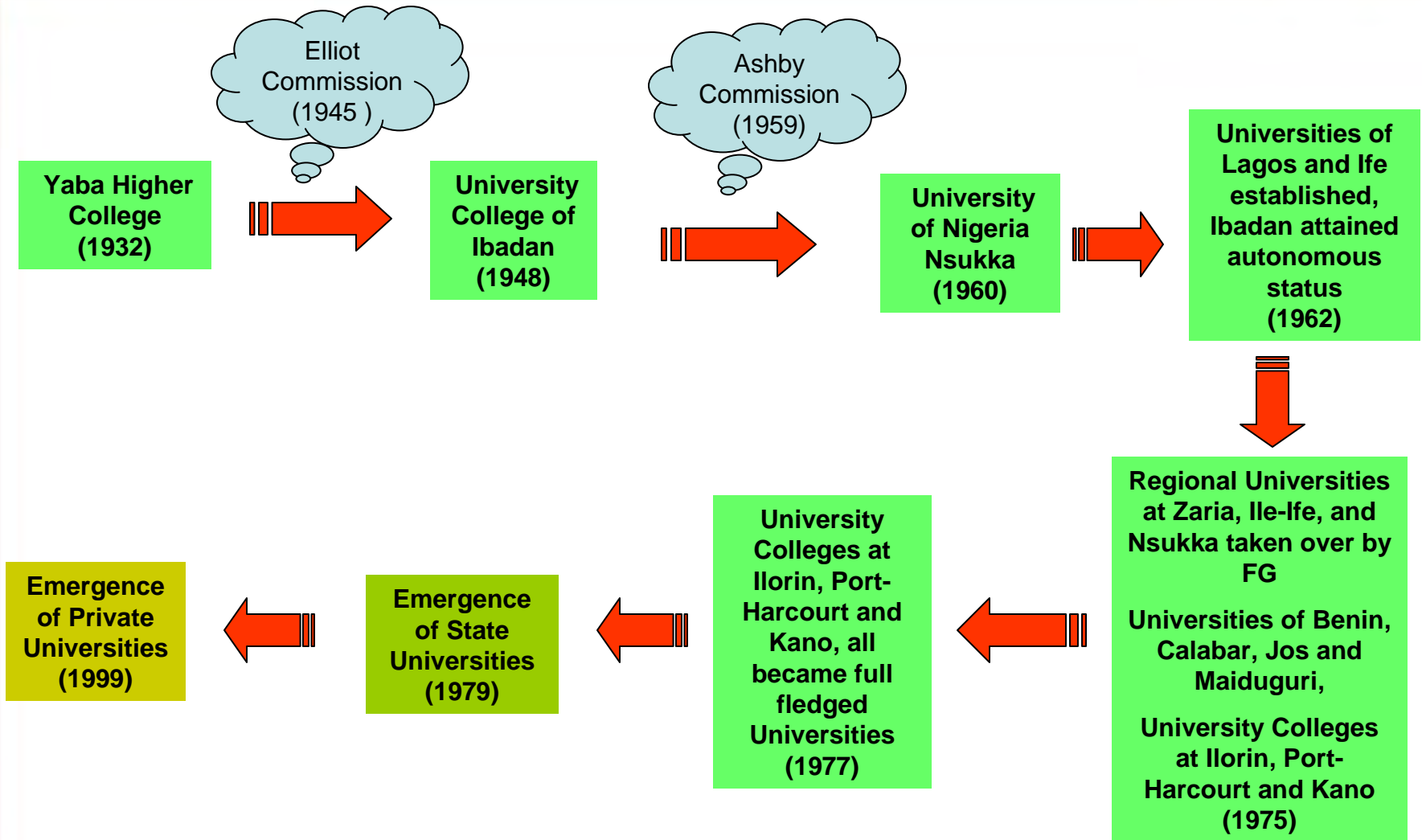
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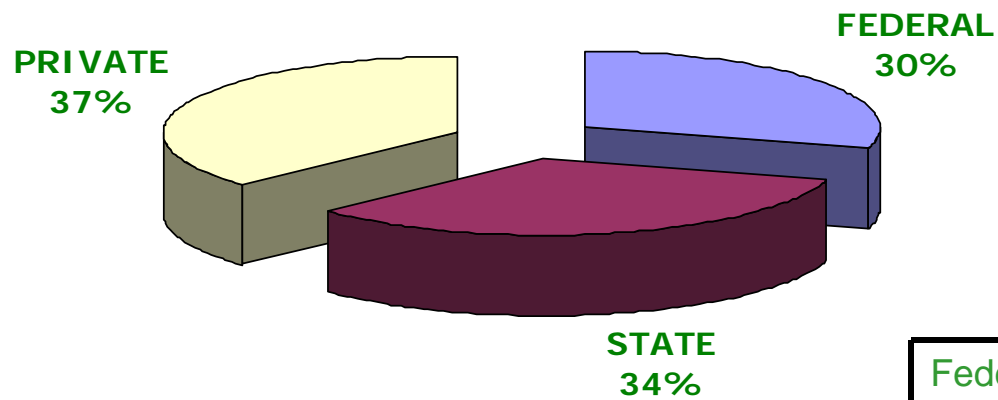
HISTORY OF THE NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

Interest in Higher Education in Nigeria dates back to the 19th century when, propelled by the ideals of liberal education as introduced by the early missionaries, Nigerians sought opportunities to acquire this new and exciting vision of life, which was then only available overseas.





NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY SYSTEM STATISTICS



Federal	State	Private
27	32	34

93 universities



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NUMBER OF PROGRAMMES IN THE MINIMUM ACADEMIC STANDARD (MAS)

S/N	DISCIPLINES	NO OF PROGRAMMES	
		1989	2006
1.	Administration/Management	10	13
2.	Agriculture	4	6
3.	Arts	13	13
4.	Basic Medical and Health Sciences	1	10
5.	Education	10	37
6.	Engineering/Technology	30	33
7.	Environmental Sciences	7	12
8.	Law	1	1
9.	Medicine and Dentistry	6	2
10.	Pharmaceutical Sciences	1	2
11.	Science	11	17
12.	Social Science	6	13
13.	Veterinary Medicine	1	1
	TOTAL	101	160



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ACADEMIC STAFF 2006	TOTAL
PROFESSOR/READER	5483 (20%)
SENIOR LECTURER	6475 (23.6%)
LECTURER I AND BELOW	15436 (56.4%)
TOTAL	27,394
NON-TEACHING STAFF	
SENIOR NON-ACADEMIC	30275 (42%)
JUNIOR	41795 (58%)
TOTAL	72,070
GRAND TOTAL ALL STAFF	99464



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STUDENTS ENROLMENT FOR 2006/2007

	SUB DEGREE	UNDER GRADUATE	POST GRADUATE	TOTAL	%
PROPRIETORSHIP					
FEDERAL	49999	503154	57300	610453	55.7
STATE	8734	419901	19459	448094	40.9
PRIVATE	357	36641	767	37765	3.4
TOTAL	59090	959,696	77526	1096312	
%	5.4	87.5	7.1		100
GRAND TOTAL			1,096,312		



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FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES



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S/N	INSTITUTION	YEAR FOUNDED	TYPE OF UNIVERSITY
1	University of Ibadan, Ibadan	1948	Conventional
2	University of Nigeria, Nsukka	1960	Conventional
3	Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife	1962	Conventional
4	Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria	1962	Conventional
5	University of Lagos, Lagos	1962	Conventional
6	University of Benin, Benin City	1970	Conventional
7	Bayero University, Kano	1975	Conventional
8	University of Calabar, Calabar	1975	Conventional
9	University of Ilorin, Ilorin	1975	Conventional
10	University of Jos, Jos	1975	Conventional
11	University of Maiduguri, Maiduguri	1975	Conventional
12	Usman Danfodio University, Sokoto	1975	Conventional
13	University of Port-Harcourt, Port-Harcourt	1975	Conventional
14	Federal University of Technology, Owerri	1980	Technology
15	Federal University of Technology, Akure	1981	Technology
16	Federal University of Technology, Yola	1981	Technology



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FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES CONTD.



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17	Federal University of Technology, Minna	1982	Technology
18	Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna	1985	Military
19	University of Abuja,	1988	Conventional
20	Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University, Bauchi	1988	Specialized
21	University of Agriculture, Makurdi	1988	Agriculture
22	University of Agriculture, Abeokuta	1988	Agriculture
23	Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka	1992	Conventional
24	University of Uyo, Uyo	1991	Conventional
25	Michael Okpara University of Agriculture, Umudike	1992	Agriculture
26	National Open University, Abuja	2002	Conventional
27	Fed. Univ. of Petroleum Resources, Effurun	2007	Specialized



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STATE UNIVERSITIES



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S/N	INSTITUTION	YEAR FOUNDED	TYPE OF UNIVERSITY
1	Rivers State University of Science & Technology, Port-Harcourt	1979	Technology
2	Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma	1980	Conventional
3	Abia State University, Uturu	1981	Conventional
4	Enugu State University of Science & Tech, Enugu	1982	Technology
5	Olabisi Anabanjo University, Ago-Iwoye	1982	Conventional
6	Lagos State University, Ojo, Lagos	1983	Conventional
7	University of Ado-Ekiti, Ado-Ekiti	1982	Conventional
8	Ladoke Akintola University of Technology, Ogbomoso	1990	Technology
9	Imo State University, Owerri	1992	Conventional
10	Benue State University, Makurdi	1988	Conventional
11	Delta State University, Abraka	1992	Conventional
12	Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko	1999	Conventional



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13	Kogi State University, Anyigba	1999	Conventional
14	Niger-Delta University, Yenagoa	2000	Conventional
15	Anambra State University of Science & Technology	2000	Technology
16	Kano State University of Technology, Wudil	2000	Technology
17	Ebonyi State University, Abakaliki	2000	Conventional
18	Nasarawa State University, Keffi	2002	Conventional
19	Adamawa State University, Mubi	2002	Conventional
20	Gombe State University, Gombe	2004	Conventional
21	Kaduna State University, Kaduna	2004	Conventional
22	Cross River University of Science & Tech.	2004	Technology
23	Plateau State University, Bokkos	2005	Conventional
24	Akwa Ibom State University of Technology	2005	Technology
25	Ibrahim Babangida University, Lapai Niger State	2005	Conventional
26	Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun	2005	Specialized



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27	Katsina State University	2006	Conventional
28	Bukar Abba Ibrahim University, Damaturu Yobe State	2006	Conventional
29	Kebbi State University of Science and Technology, Aliero	2006	Technology
30	Osun State University, Osogbo	2006	Conventional
31	University of Education, Ikere-Ekiti	2007	Education
32	Ondo State University of Science & Tech. Okiti Pupa	2008	Technology



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PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES



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S/N	INSTITUTION	YEAR FOUNDED	TYPE OF UNIVERSITY
1	Babcock University, Ilishan Remo	1999	Conventional
2	Madonna University, Okija	1999	Conventional
3	Igbinedion University, Okada	1999	Conventional
4	Bowen University, Iwo	2001	Conventional
5	Covenant University, Ota	2002	Conventional
6	Pan-African University, Lagos	2002	Specialized (PG Only)
7	Benson Idahosa University, Benin City	2002	Conventional
8	ABTI-American University, Yola	2003	Conventional
9	Redeemers University	2005	Conventional
10	Ajayi Crowther University, Ibadan	2005	Conventional
11	Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin	2005	Conventional
12	Caritas University, Amorji-Nke, Enugu	2005	Conventional
13	CETEP City University, Lagos	2005	Conventional
14	Bingham University, Jos	2005	Conventional



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15	Katsina University, Katsina	2005	Conventional
16	Renaissance University, Enugu	2005	Conventional
17	Bells University of Technology, Badagary	2005	Conventional
18	Lead City University of Ibadan, Oyo State	2005	Conventional
19	Crawford University, Igbesa, Ogun State	2005	Conventional
20	Wukari Jubilee University	2005	Conventional
21	Crescent University, Abeokuta	2005	Conventional
22	Novena University, Ogume, Delta State	2005	Conventional
23	University of Mkar	2005	Conventional
24	Joseph Ayo Babalola University, Ikeji-Arakeji	2006	Conventional
25	Caleb University, Lagos	2007	Conventional
26	Fountain Unveristy, Oshogbo	2007	Conventional
27	Obong University, Obong Ntak	2007	Conventional
28	Salem University, Lokoja	2007	Conventional
29	Tansian University, Umunya	2007	Conventional
30	Veritas University, Abuja	2007	Conventional
31	Wesley Univ. of Science & Tech., Ondo	2007	Science & Technology
32	Western Delta Univ., Oghara, Delta State	2007	Conventional



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33	African University of Science & Tech. Abuja	2007	Science & Technology
34	Achievers University, Owo	2007	Conventional



LICENSING OF UNIVERSITIES

There are three different proprietors of university education in Nigeria.

Federal
Government

State
Government

Private or
Corporate bodies

Irrespective of proprietorship, government is responsible for the licensing of universities in Nigeria but the procedures are different.



FEDERAL UNIVERSITIES

- ❑ The old regional governments in Nigeria licensed the first set of universities.
- ❑ These universities were eventually taken over by the federal government.
- ❑ Subsequently, the federal government established universities in the country based on need and the necessity to have a balanced spread across the regions and States of the Federation.
- ❑ Whenever such needs are identified, government through the National Universities Commission carries out the necessary assessments and resource verification for the establishment of such federal universities. The financial implication for the smooth take-off of such universities are worked out following which the government releases take-off grants to the university to begin its operations.



STATE UNIVERSITIES

- ❑ Education is on the concurrent list in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Consequently, State governments have the constitutional backing to establish their own universities.
- ❑ Once the State House of Assembly promulgates the Act for establishing the university and the Governor assents to the bill, the law is passed for the establishment of the state university.
- ❑ Although the National Universities Commission does not have to approve the establishment of State Universities, it is responsible for ensuring that laid down standards are adhered to; thus ensuring the delivery of quality education in the universities.



PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES

Act No.9 of 1993 provided the legal backing for the establishment of private universities in Nigeria

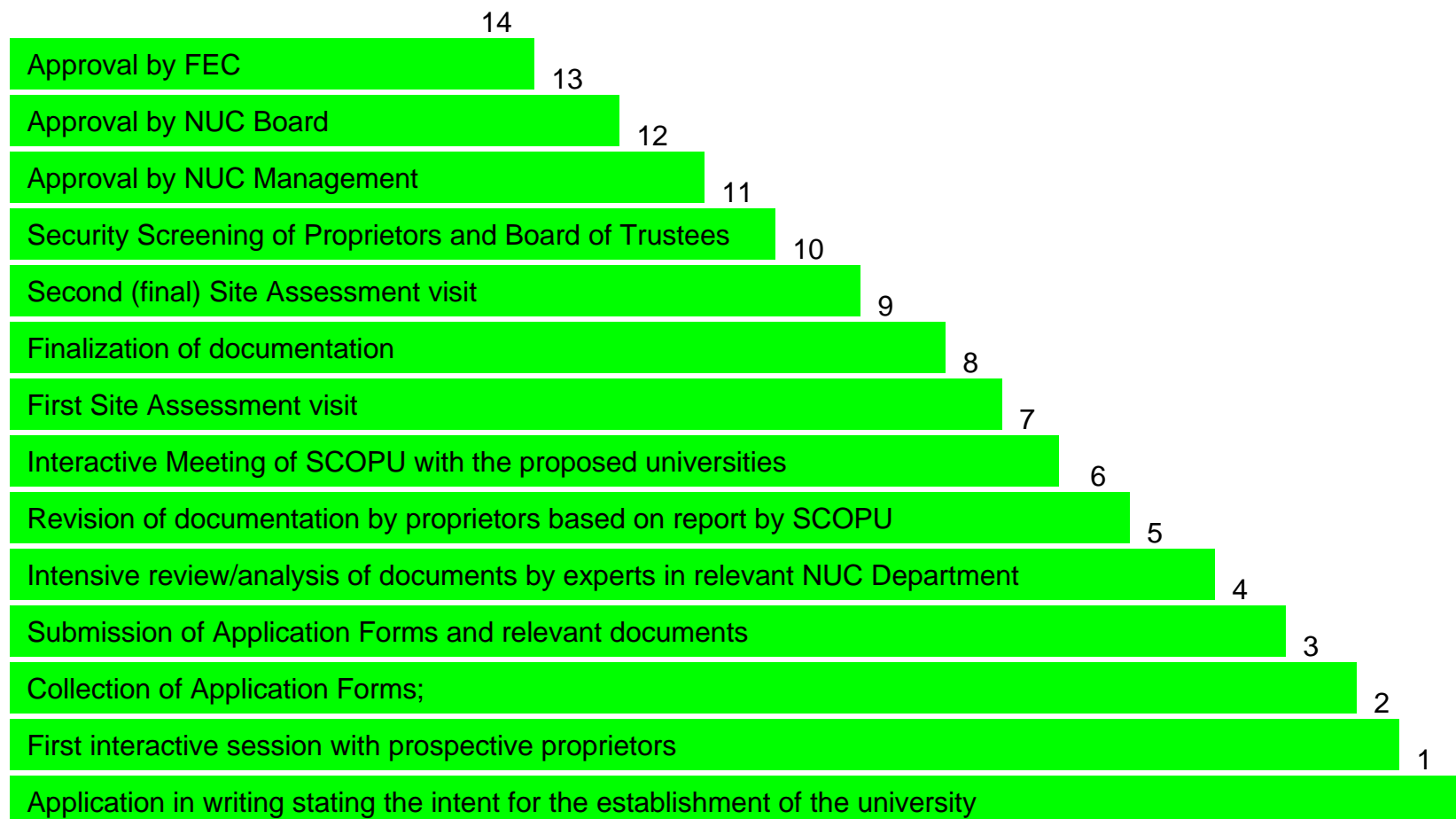
The Standing Committee on (the establishment of) Private Universities (SCOPU) constituted on 27th May 1993 ensures a fair, effective, thorough and prompt evaluation of all application forms received by the Commission from individuals, organizations as well as corporate bodies wishing to establish private universities.

SCOPU terms of reference are:

- ❖ To consider applications received by the National Universities Commission from individuals and organizations wishing to establish private universities;
- ❖ To assess the applications received; and
- ❖ To prepare a report of its assessment of each application to Management Committee of the Commission, which will consider and make recommendations to the University Development Committee (UDC) for onward submission to the NUC Board and eventually to Government for consideration and appropriate decision.



14-stage process in the Establishment of Private Universities





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ACCREDITATION

Legal Framework For NUC Accreditation

Section 10 of Act No. 16 of 1985,
Section 4(m) NUC amended Act No. 49 of 1988

Empowered the NUC to lay down MAS for universities in Nigeria and to accredit their degrees and other academic awards.



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FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA



NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION

APPROVED MINIMUM
ACADEMIC STANDARDS

IN

SCIENCES

FOR ALL
NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES

NUC
P.M.B. 12694
LAGOS

JULY, 1989

MINIMUM ACADEMIC STANDARD

- Administration,
- Agriculture,
- Arts,
- Education,
- Engineering and Technology,
- Environmental Sciences,
- Law,
- Medicine and Dentistry,
- Management Sciences,
- Pharmaceutical Sciences,
- Sciences,
- Social Sciences and
- Veterinary Medicine

2004



BMAS



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MANUAL OF
ACCREDITATION PROCEDURES
FOR
ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES
IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES



NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION
JANUARY 1999

Contains:

- ✓ procedure for accreditation exercise
- ✓ Self Study Form (SSF)
- ✓ Program Evaluation Form (PEF)
- ✓ Accreditation Panel Report Form (APRF)
- ✓ Accreditation Re-Visitation Form (ARVF)



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NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION

*Programme
Evaluation
Form*

NUC/PEF

February 2005

**Score Form for each of the
Panel members**



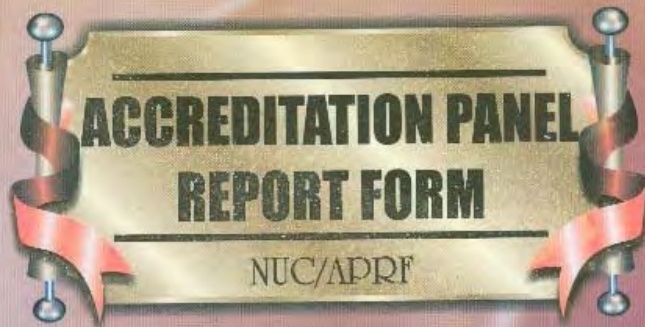
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NATIONAL UNIVERSITIES COMMISSION



February 2005

Form to be completed by
accreditation panel for
each programme

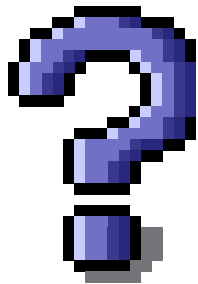


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History of NUC Accreditation



Accreditation of degree and other academic programmes by the NUC is a system of evaluating academic programmes in Nigerian universities to determine whenever they have met the conditions in the Minimum Academic Standard documents.



Objectives of accreditation:

- Ensure that at least the provisions of the MAS documents are attained, maintained and enhanced;
- Assure employers and other members of the community that Nigerian graduates from all academic programmes have attained an acceptable level of competency in their areas of specialization;
- Certify to the international community that the programmes offered in Nigerian Universities are of high standards and their graduates have sufficient intellect for employment and for further studies.



History

First accreditation of programmes	1990
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="checkbox"/> First of its kind in that part of the globe.<input type="checkbox"/> 100% indigenous resource persons.<input type="checkbox"/> Provided information on the state of education delivery in Nigerian universities.	
The second comprehensive accreditation exercise	1999/2000
Programmes that earned denied accreditation status in 1999/2000	2002.
First generation private universities	2004,



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History

Newly matured programmes

2005.

1,343 academic programmes in 48 universities were accredited

November, 2005

Open and Distance Learning (ODL) and MBA programmes

2006.

942 programmes in 53 universities

November, 2007



Accreditation Procedure

- ❖ Three months notice is given to the concerned university of an accreditation visit to the particular programme, discipline or sub-discipline.
- ❖ Self-Study form is sent to the university for completion.
- ❖ The university is expected to complete and return twelve copies of the form in respect of each programme, discipline or sub-discipline to be accredited.
- ❖ NUC constitutes an Ad-Hoc Accreditation Panel of professors
- ❖ Coordination meeting is held to induct new members and refresh former ones



The evaluation of Programmes

The panel:

- ✓ Meets with the Vice-Chancellor,
- ✓ Meets with the Dean of faculty, Head of Department and staff of programme to be evaluated.
- ✓ Settles down to assess programme content, facilities, delivery and evaluation modes.
- ✓ Interviews students and sample lectures and practicals are observed.
- ✓ Each member of the panel scores the performance of the programme during the exercise.
- ✓ Writes its report, which is discussed with the programme staff and the Vice-Chancellor.
- ✓ Sends report with a quantitative assessment of the programme and recommendations regarding accreditation status achieved to the NUC.



Components of Accreditation

S/N	Components	Sub-component
a)	Academic Matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. The programme philosophy and objectivesii. The curriculumiii. Admission requirementsiv. Academic regulationsv. Course evaluation (examination and continuous assessment)vi. Student course evaluationvii. External examination system
b)	Staffing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Academic staffii. Non-academic staffiii. Head of department/discipline/sub-disciplineiv. Staff development
c)	Physical Facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Laboratory/clinic/studio facility (area per student) and equipmentii. Classroom facilities and equipmentiii. Laboratory size (area per student) and equipmentiv. Safety and environment
d)	Financing of programme by the university	
e)	Books, journals and other resource materials for the programme	
f)	Employer's rating of graduates, if any	



Accreditation status and their implications

Full accreditation

- Granted to programmes that satisfy the provisions of the MAS for a period of five academic sessions
- The programme must attain a minimum of 70% aggregate score as well as 70% in each of the four core areas of academic content, staffing, physical facilities and library.

Interim accreditation

- Granted to programmes that have minor deficiencies that must be rectified within a stipulated period.
- The programme must attain an aggregate score of not less than 60%. Programmes with a total score above 70% but less than 70% in any of the indicated 4 core areas is awarded Interim status.
- Valid for a period of not more than two academic sessions.



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Accreditation status and their implications

Denied accreditation

- Applies to any academic programme which has failed to satisfy the Minimum Academic Standards.
- Applies to programmes with less than 60% aggregate score. The re-visitation of the programme is at the request of the university concerned.
- University ceases to admit students into such a programme with effect from the next admission exercise.



Post accreditation

- The panel reports are processed at the NUC by its Management Committee and Board
- Accreditation decisions on each programme are informally discussed with Vice-Chancellors,
- Results are officially released to the universities and the general public after approval by the Board.
- The universities are notified of the strengths and weaknesses of each programme.

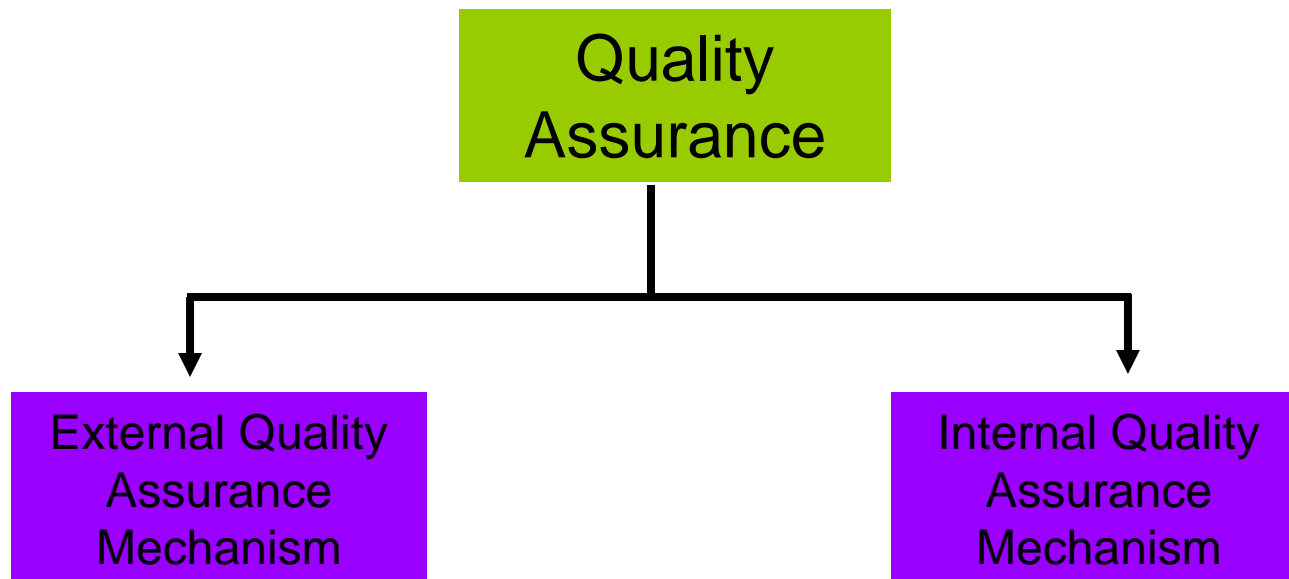


Post accreditation

- ❑ The universities in turn use the information to remedy identified deficiencies.
- ❑ In cases where Vice-Chancellors contest the panel's decisions, an appellate system is in place to look into such queries. However, the original decision remains in force until overturned by an appeal.
- ❑ The NUC also takes steps to calculate the cost of remedying the deficiencies of those programmes denied accreditation. The information is conveyed to the proprietor and management of the university so that further necessary action may be taken.



QUALITY ASSURANCE IN NIGERIAN UNIVERSITIES





External Quality Assurance

Bodies involved in external Q.A of Nigerian Universities

- Federal government,
- National Universities Commission
- Professional bodies/Associations

External Q.A Activities

- Activities leading to the establishment of universities and their programmes;
- Accreditation of programmes;
- Admission of qualified candidates into Nigerian universities;
- Institutional audit by the visitor to universities;
- Monitoring and evaluation of the state of universities from time to time and
- Collaboration with professional bodies for effective university education quality assurance.



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NUC's Innovations in External Q.A

- ✓ Strategic planning and management,
- ✓ Curriculum reform and review,
- ✓ Nigerian Universities System Annual Review Meetings (USARM),
- ✓ Facilitating linkages and collaboration with national and international development partners,
- ✓ Development of physical structures and facilities,
- ✓ Nigerian Universities Research and Development Fair (NURESDEF),
- ✓ Linkage with Experts and Academics in the Diaspora (LEAD)
-



Internal Quality Assurance

These are the processes of evaluation, maintenance and promotion of quality within the university by the university. Some of these include:

Admission of students

Employment of the right caliber of staff (Academic and non-academic)

Establishment of programmes

Maintenance of carrying capacity of institution

Monitoring and periodic review of programmes.

External examination system,
staff and student feedback,

Reports from any professional body that accredits the programme,

Feedback from former students and their employers.



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Achievements

Impact of NUC Accreditation

Improvement in university performance in accreditation

Year of accreditation	Number of programmes accredited	Accreditation Status		
		Full	Interim	Denied
1990/91	837	185 (22.1%)	572 (68.4%)	79 (9.5%)
1999/2000	1,119	128 (11.4%)	801 (71.6%)	190 (17%)
2005/2006	1,670	748 (44.8%)	810 (48.5%)	112 (6.7%)
2007	872	599 (68.7%)	247 (28.3%)	26 (3.0%)



Impact on the Public

NUC has an obligation to inform the public on the performance of universities

- ❖ Prospective Students
- ❖ Parents
- ❖ Government agencies,
- ❖ Corporate bodies and
- ❖ International organizations

Licensing of universities has improved access to university education to a very large extent



Impact on Universities

- Opportunity for some Departments to acquire equipment and appropriate facilities for teaching and research. (For the NUC, this is not desirable)
- Proprietors injecting funds into their universities in order to remedy the deficiencies identified during accreditation exercises.

Examples:

- ✓Kogi State University, Anyigba
- ✓Ebonyi State University
- ✓Ahmadu Bello University (Accountancy Programme),
- ✓Ondo State University denied programmes



Impact on NUC

The NUC accreditation is recognized both nationally and internationally

The success recorded with in the accreditation of undergraduate programmes serves as an impetus for preparations towards:

- Accreditation of postgraduate programmes
- Institutional accreditation in the system



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CHALLENGES

Accreditation

While it could be said that the NUC accreditation system has impacted on the system positively, there is still room for improvement.

Introduction of Institutional Accreditation – Modalities for achieving this is currently being worked on.

Inclusion of accreditation budget in the annual national budget to reduce cost sharing of the exercise's expenditure with the universities. This has been achieved as the government now provides for the exercise in the national annual budget



CHALLENGES

Licensing

The challenges of licensing of universities will be discussed from the private universities perspective. This is because the public universities have been around for sometime and have overcome some of the challenges of the private universities

A number of these challenges are already being tackled by the NUC through its various monitoring and advisory related activities with the licensed private universities in Nigeria. It is believed that if the tempo is sustained and the private universities adhere to the measures that have been proposed to handle the challenges, the challenges will soon be a thing of the past.



CHALLENGES

Licensing

- Staffing
- Condition of Service
- Infrastructure
- Implementation of Academic Brief
- Influence of the Proprietors
- Mounting of academic programmes
- Legal and Constitutional issues



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PROSPECTS OF PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES IN NIGERIA

- National drive towards private sector participation
- Recorded success of private participation at the lower levels
- Stability of academic calendar
- Minimal incidences of anti-social activities



Conclusion

I have attempted to examine:

- Overview of the development of higher education in Nigeria
- Licensing of public (Federal and State) and private universities.
- The university accreditation system in Nigeria
- Outlook of quality assurance in Nigerian universities
- Achievements and challenges of the focal areas of the paper.



From the history of university education in Nigeria, we can easily know where we are coming from, where we have passed through and where we are today.

A number of scholars in Nigeria had the privilege of passing through the system when:

- Universities in the country rubbed shoulders with the best in the world;
- High quality expatriates academics desired to be in the scholarly environment made possible by our ivory towers;
- Foreign university were eager to forge collaborative links with lecturers in Nigerian universities and
- Our students had no problem getting placements abroad for graduate studies.

The goal of the National Universities Commission is to get Nigerian Universities to levels that are comparable to if not surpass the enviable level of the past. We believe that as we keep forging on with result oriented quality assurance and strengthen our cooperation with the international community, our dream for the desired Nigerian University System will soon be realized.



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**Thank you for
your attention**