

**GOODWILL MESSAGE BY THE DEPUTY VICE – CHANCELLOR RESEARCH, INNOVATION AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS (PROF. OLUYEMISI BAMGBOSE, SAN) AT THE WELCOME/ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ON TUESDAY, 30<sup>TH</sup> November, 2021**

**ALL PROTOCOLS DULY OBSERVED!**

On behalf of the Vice – Chancellor of the University of Ibadan, Professor Oyeboade Adebowale, I welcome all our international students to the University of Ibadan.

The University of Ibadan being the oldest university in Nigeria with various faculties, academic departments, institutes and units is always ready to receive international students from all over the world.

Our institution continues to grow and set commendable benchmark within the Nigeria community and across international borders. It is noted for its dedication and provision of cutting - edge international education for both Nigerian and international students. The academic successes of our students and alumni both home and abroad, are evidence of the University's efforts to provide the best international education experience possible.

The University of Ibadan keeps extending its activities to other parts of the country in fulfilment of its constitution and as the premier centre for the advancement of higher learning in Nigeria. As a university with a long history of internationalization since its inception, it has always made internationalization a top priority. In this regard, the University remains committed to establishing, sustaining, deepening and expanding its collaboration with higher education institutions, governments, non-governmental organizations and industries globally.

To accomplish the above, most especially in the areas of teaching, research and community service, the Office of International Programmes (OIP) was established in May 2009 with the support of John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation with four core missions, which include:

- enriching global awareness among staff and students;
- expanding the internationalization posture of the University;
- promoting a reputable international presence; and
- showcasing the University of Ibadan's role as a leading institution in Africa.

Since its establishment, the OIP has been the window of the University to the world, effectively coordinating, sustaining and expanding the University's linkages with institutions and agencies around the world.

I am sure majority of you here before or during your application would have gathered some information about the University of Ibadan and Nigeria at large. I am also sure not all were encouraging. Stories like the poor state of electricity, roads, and even lack of some basic amenities. I would like to ask, since your arrival at the University of Ibadan, to what extent would you say these are true?

Amidst all these, for you to be here today, it shows you have certain aspirations and expectations in the university. Truth be told, there is much to explore. Ranging from the various delicacies, the dressing styles, the various local languages, cultural differences, and many more.

As you explore, you will come across some fascinating things that might be both shocking and surprising. Like seeing young people prostrate or kneel for elders when greeting, seeing a fellow student eat one of Nigeria's delicacies called "Amala" with bare hands, and even students living their normal lives and studying with no electricity for days.

I want to believe you all are prepared to adapt and enjoy the fantastic experiences this university can give. I would want you to have an open mind, relate with one another and the friendly members of the university community. Maybe you might even have a change of heart and stay back to settle with us in our dear University of Ibadan.

I can say with confidence and boldness that you are all in safe hands and at the right place. To the members of staff of the Office of International Programmes, I say well done and I hope you will continue to maintain the good reputation of quality and high standard for which University of Ibadan is already known for in the academic world.

Once again, I welcome all our international students and I wish you success in your studies.

Thank you.