

NEWSLETTER

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AUST Inducts Ph.D Candidates In School of Public Policy and Public Administration

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AUST Alumnus Engr. Dr. Yetunde Aladeitan Inaugurated as NIPetE National Chair

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Upcoming Events:

✓ **AUST Commences 2026/2027
Academic Year on October 12, 2026**

✓ **Certification Course in Mental Health
Counseling (1st - 27th September, 2026)**

✓ **Academic Writing & Publishing Skills
Master Class (Sept. 5th - 26th, 2026)**

✓ **Certification Course in Applied
Generative AI (26th Sept. - 17th Oct. 2026)**



AUST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



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How to Start Your Own Business While Studying: A Practical Guide for Students

**FROM THE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

Prince Obioha Sampson Atulomah

Continued from the July Edition

Step 4: Manage Your Time Without Burning Out

Balancing studies and a business is one of the biggest challenges students face. Without proper time management, it is easy to feel overwhelmed.

The key is structure. Plan your week in advance and allocate specific time blocks for studying and working on your business.

It is important to be realistic. You do not need to work on your business every day for hours. Even consistent effort over a few hours per week can lead to meaningful progress.

Avoid burnout by maintaining balance. Your academic performance and well-being should not be compromised.

Step 5: Use Your Academic Environment to Your Advantage

Being a student gives you access to resources that many entrepreneurs do not have.

Your professors can offer guidance and insights based on real industry experience. Your classmates can become collaborators, partners, or even your first customers.

Many schools also provide access to entrepreneurship programs, mentorship, and networking events. These opportunities can accelerate your growth significantly.

Engaging with this environment allows

you to learn faster and make better decisions.

Step 6: Build an Online Presence Early

In today's digital world, your online presence is one of your most valuable assets.

Whether you are offering a service, selling a product, or building a brand, having visibility online is essential.

Start with the basics. Create a simple website or landing page that explains your offer clearly. Use social media platforms to share content, connect with your audience, and build trust.

Consistency matters more than perfection. Over time, your presence will grow, and so will your opportunities.

Step 7: Start Small and Scale Gradually

Many students believe they need significant funding to start a business. In reality, most successful student businesses begin with very little.

Starting small allows you to test your idea without taking unnecessary risks. As you begin to generate revenue, you can reinvest and expand.

Scaling gradually gives you control and stability. It also ensures that your growth is based on real demand rather than assumptions.

Common Challenges and How to Overcome Them

Every student entrepreneur faces obstacles. Time limitations, uncertainty,

and lack of experience are all part of the journey.

The most effective way to overcome these challenges is through consistency and learning. Seek feedback, stay adaptable, and focus on progress rather than perfection.

It is also important to stay patient. Building a business takes time, and results may not come immediately.

How Business Education Supports Entrepreneurship

A strong business education can provide the foundation you need to succeed.

Through structured learning, you gain knowledge in areas such as marketing, finance, and management. More importantly, you learn how to apply this knowledge in real-world situations.

This combination of theory and practice is particularly valuable for students who want to start their own ventures.

Final Thoughts

Starting a business while studying is one of the most powerful ways to accelerate your career. It allows you to gain experience, build confidence, and create opportunities that extend far beyond the classroom.

With the right mindset, a clear strategy, and consistent effort, you can successfully launch and grow a business—even before you graduate.

MEET THE EDITORIAL BOARD TEAM

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST, 2026



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Prospective candidates with JAMB scores who did not choose AUST as first choice, are advised to visit a JAMB CBT center for change of courses and institution into AUST.

Candidates can also visit JAMB E-facility portal;
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From the drop-down menu, select the one you need to change i.e. Course/Institution (AUST).

For More Inquiries on Admissions

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AUST, Globus Bank Explore Opportunities for Strategic Collaboration



- **Group photograph of AUST and Globus Bank management teams shortly after a courtesy visit to the AUST President recently.**

The African University of Science and Technology (AUST) and Globus Bank have explored potential areas of collaboration, with discussions focusing on digital transformation, institutional management, and financing solutions.

The engagement took place at the President's Boardroom during a courtesy visit by representatives of Globus Bank, who presented the bank's school management platform and other banking solutions tailored to the needs of educational institutions.

Speaking during the meeting, Ms. Ijeoma Ezenduka, Branch Manager, Globus Bank, explained that the bank offers integrated services covering payments, financial management, human resources, data management, hostel administration, revenue collection, training, and e-learning. According to her, the solutions are designed to improve operational efficiency, reduce collection costs and address institutional challenges.

The President of AUST, Prof. Azikiwe

Peter Onwualu, FAS, responded by highlighting some of the challenges associated with the University's rapid growth, including difficulties in identifying bank transfers, failed digital payments, and limited integration between admissions, finance, and human resources systems. He expressed interest in solutions that could improve payment reconciliation and streamline the University's operations.

The meeting also explored potential financing opportunities, including working-capital facilities, education-related lending, and financing for a proposed computer-based testing (CBT) centre. Both parties agreed on the need for further engagement, including a technical meeting between their respective IT teams, to assess the proposed platform and identify opportunities for integration and collaboration.

In her vote of thanks, Ms. Ifunanya Ibenegbu, Relationship Manager, Globus Bank, expressed appreciation to the President and staff of AUST, as well as

the Globus Bank team, for the engagement. She expressed optimism about the possibility of the bank supporting the University's continued growth and development.

The visit concluded with both parties expressing interest in building a mutually beneficial relationship that will support AUST's growth and institutional development. Representing AUST were Prof. Abdulhakeem Bello, Director Academic Planning/Vice-President (DAP/VP); Mr. Ben Okonkwo, Bursar; Mrs. Gloria Ebere Ajaegbu, Head, Multilateral; Mr. Obioha Atulomah, Head, Media Services and Public Relations Unit; Mr. Kingsley Ogwudu, Senior Manager, AUSTInspire Hub; Ms. Lizzy Asomugha, Ag. Head of Department, General Studies; and Ms. Blessing Iweha, Administrative Assistant, Media Services and Public Relations Unit.

Representing Globus Bank were Ms. Ijeoma Ezenduka, Branch Manager; Ms. Ifunanya Ibenegbu, Relationship Manager; and Mr. Collins Adebayo, Relationship Manager.



7 Marketing Strategies to Increase Student Enrollment in Higher Education

By Dike Chibuzo Emmanuel



Student enrollment dynamics in the higher education system are shifting rapidly. In the US, we're witnessing a steady decline in college enrollment rates. This is in stark contrast to rising educational attainments in other nations. Countries like China and India are on track to eclipse the US in the overall number of college-educated adults. This is happening at a time when American institutions are faced with a dual challenge – a shrinking enrollment pipeline at home and intensified global competition.

The role of marketing in higher education has never been more critical given these realities. The right strategies can reverse current downward trends by injecting new vitality into student enrollment efforts. Thoughtful and targeted marketing approaches can empower institutions to adapt to changing tides and ensure they continue to attract and engage prospective students effectively.

1. Understanding Student Choices

Selecting an institution is a pivotal moment in a

student's journey and is often influenced by various key factors. According to the Salesforce Connected Student Report, nearly half of all students point to future job opportunities as the guiding criterion in selecting educational institutions. It is incumbent upon these Institutions, therefore, to craft marketing messages that spotlight clear career pathways and alumni success.

Email remains a preferred communication channel for over half of the student population, which emphasizes the need for institutions to leverage personalized and informative email marketing. The shift towards flexible learning options is also significant, with 40% of academic staff noting a pivot in this direction.

2. SEO-Driven Strategies

An effective SEO approach begins with crafting quality educational content that can elevate a website's ranking on search engines. The content should be informative and engaging, addressing key concerns and interests of potential students and their parents.

The use of long-tail keywords, such as 'affordable MBA programs in New York' instead of a generic 'MBA programs', for instance, can make a lot of difference. These keywords cater to high-intent search queries used by prospective students who are further along in their decision-making process.

Comprehensive optimization requires detailed keyword research. It's essential to pinpoint terms that match an institution's programs and what students are looking for. Integrating relevant keywords throughout the website, including internal links and image descriptions, helps boost visibility on search engines.

Local SEO is another important element, as many students search for institutions in particular geographic locations. A current and complete Google Business Profile can significantly boost an institution's visibility in local search results and on Google Maps. This is especially helpful for students who consider location a key factor in their college search....**Contd. on Pg. 9**



Contd. from Pg. 8 7 Marketing Strategies to Increase Student Enrollment in Higher Education

3. Social Media and Branding

Social media is a powerful platform for higher education institutions seeking to expand their reach. It's where a majority of 18 to 29-year-olds spend their online hours, making it a prime channel for audience building. An overwhelming 95.52% of institutions now harness social media to connect with students, a significant increase from less than 60% just five years ago. This surge underlines the importance of a strategic online presence, where active engagement through resonant content can attract key demographics.

Consistency in branding across all online and offline channels is non-negotiable. A unified brand, marked by a distinctive voice and visual identity as per the institution's guidelines, builds familiarity and trust. This distinguishes it from competitors and appeals to students who are the right fit.

Leveraging influencers and advocates is also pivotal to shaping the appeal of higher education institutions. Student ambassadors acting as brand advocates have become integral to this process. With 95% of respondents affirming the importance of student-to-student contact, the value of testimonials and shared experiences from current students and alumni is clear.

Experiential marketing strategies in higher education can provide prospective students with a tangible sense of what awaits them beyond the digital interface. For instance, arranging for prospective students to shadow alumni in internships and workplaces allows them to witness the practical application of your institution's programs firsthand.

Job fairs open to potential students can also offer a window into the career opportunities that may be available post-graduation. Immersive experiences like overnight stays in dorms, access to campus amenities, and participation in social activities are other ways of giving access to an authentic taste of student life.

4. Targeted Outreach

An effective enrollment marketing strategy to attract students requires a keen understanding of one's audience.

Personalized follow-up emails that reflect prospective student interests and interactions can significantly boost engagement and move them further along the enrollment funnel.

A key component of this targeted communication is the inclusion of financial aid information. Transparent messaging about scholarships, grants, and financial aid options addresses a major concern for many students and can be a deciding factor in their college selection process.

Equally important is winning the support of a student's wider circle of influence—parents and family members. Crafting content that resonates with families and provides them with the information they need can turn them into advocates for your institution. It plays a critical role in the student's decision-making journey.

5. Live Chat and Direct Engagement

Live chat features are a standout tool for real-time engagement. They facilitate instant communication, giving students immediate access to information and support. This immediacy enhances the student experience by enabling direct engagement with the authentic voices of those already immersed in the campus culture — current students and faculty.

Live chat also serves as a rich data source, capturing the nuances of prospective student inquiries and concerns. This data is a goldmine for institutions, as it can inform more personalized and effective engagement strategies. By analyzing these interactions, universities can tailor their communication to align more closely with student interests and create customized experiences that are personal and relevant.

Unibuddy is a leading solution that helps to bridge the gap between potential students and university representatives through a user-friendly interface. It streamlines the process of connecting prospective students with the right ambassadors and staff by provides advanced analytics so you can transform conversations into actionable insights. These insights empower institutions to continuously refine their outreach and

ensure every prospective student feels seen, heard, and valued.

6. Innovative Approaches

Harnessing the power of innovation can significantly enhance a higher education institution's marketing strategies to increase student enrollment. Starting a podcast, for example, can captivate the 18 to 29-year-old age group that is increasingly turning to this medium for insights and entertainment. It's an opportunity to discuss topics ranging from course details to student life and provide a platform for deeper engagement with potential students.

Creating engaging campus videos for platforms like YouTube and TikTok can also play a significant role. These platforms are ideal for showcasing the vibrancy of campus life and allow students to virtually experience the social and academic environment they may soon join.

Taking a mobile-first approach is another key aspect in today's market, where a majority of content is consumed on mobile devices. Ensuring websites are mobile-friendly and utilizing chatbots to streamline the navigation experience for the prospective student is paramount.

7. User Generated Content

User Generated Content is significantly impactful on decision-making and brand recognition.

Check out these stats from Trend.io:

- 86% of millennials say that User Generated Content is a good indicator of the quality of a brand.
- 70% of consumers trust online peer reviews and recommendations more than professional content and copy.
- Using the authenticity that comes from user generated content is a great way to boost brand trust, and also engage your prospective students.

Universities across the world are effectively utilizing their students as content creators. They're digital natives who are more than happy to create impressive and creative content in a range of mediums.



AUST, Iron Ore Mining Ltd Sign MoU to Advance Sustainable Mining and Research



• L-R:- Dr. Attah Benjamin, Faculty; Mrs. Dawodu Abimbola, Administrative/Research Assistant ACMED; Prince Obioha Atulomah, Head, Media Services /PR Unit; Barr. Amina Sijuwade, representative of IOML; Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST; Dr. Vitalis Anye, Dean, School of Engineering; Dr. Morgan Leo Akpan, Centre Leader, ACMED; Dr. David Afolayan, Acting Head, Mechanical Engineering Department, during the IOML MoU signing at AUST.

A new partnership aimed at strengthening Nigeria's solid-minerals sector has been established between the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, and Iron Ore Mining Ltd (IOML).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) focuses on collaboration in mineral exploration, research, data analysis, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM) formalisation, capacity building, community development, and sustainable mining practices.

The partnership will leverage AUST's research expertise, particularly through the African Centre for Mineral Exploration and Development (ACMED), and IOML's industry experience to support responsible mining and stronger collaboration among industry, academia, government, host communities, and miners.

Under the agreement, both parties will

undertake joint research and proposal development, develop training and capacity-building programmes, facilitate student internships and field studies, and promote innovation and knowledge exchange within the mining sector.

The partnership will also establish a Joint Steering Committee to provide strategic oversight, coordinate activities, monitor progress, and facilitate engagement between both organisations.

Speaking during the signing, the Dean School of Engineering, Dr. Vitalis Anye, reaffirmed the University's commitment to using research and innovation to address challenges in Nigeria's mining sector. The collaboration is expected to contribute to sustainable mining practices, community development and improved compliance within the sector.

The MoU will provide a framework for developing subsequent definitive

agreements detailing specific projects, responsibilities, financial commitments and other aspects of the partnership.

Present at the signing were Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President of AUST, Dr. Vitalis Anye, Dean, School of Engineering, Dr. David Afolayan, Head of Department, Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Morgan Leo Akpan, Centre Leader, ACMED; Dr. Attah Benjamin; Prince Obioha Atulomah, Head, Media Services and PR Unit; Mrs. Dawodu Abimbola, Administrative/Research Assistant, ACMED; Ms. Blessing Iweha; Administrative Assistant, Media Services and PR Unit and Barr. Amina Sijuwade, representative of IOML.

The partnership marks another step towards strengthening the links between research, industry and sustainable mineral development in Nigeria.



AUST, Blockchain Ltd Partner on Advanced Tech Education



- **Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST (3rd from right) in a group photograph with BAI and AUST management teams shortly after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), held at AUST recently.**

The African University of Science and Technology (AUST) has partnered with the Blockchain Adoption Initiative Limited (BAI) in a three-year programme aimed at closing the gap between classroom learning and real-world tech skills across Africa.

Running from 2026 to 2029, the partnership will introduce professional certificate programs, support joint research, and establish innovation hubs in AUST, Abuja.

The program also encourages local innovation, with a focus on helping young Africans build their own tech solutions and explore robotics. Industry experts will visit campus regularly for talks, demos, and informal discussions.

The President of AUST, Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, in his welcome address at the signing of the Memorandum

of Understanding (MoU), noted that the partnership was timely as the university has recorded about 80% of its undergraduate applications in IT fields like cybersecurity, data science, and AI. He enthused that through this partnership, students will get training in blockchain, AI policy, and fintech, which are areas that match what today's job market actually needs.

“This is not just about theory,”

Prof. Onwualu said. Students will work on practical blockchain projects involving mineral tracking, commodity trading, carbon credits, and digital certificate verification.

This partnership reflects a shared commitment to preparing African students for the future, equipping them not only with degrees but also with relevant practical skills. It is a practical, forward-looking move that promises to make tech education

more relevant and accessible across the region.

The President was joined at the MoU signing by Dr. Abdulhakeem Bello, Deputy President/Vice President Academics, AUST; Mr. Ben Okonkwo, Bursar, AUST; Dr. Ugonna Obi-Emeruwa, Head, Department of Public Policy, AUST; Prince Obioha Atulomah, Head, Media Services/Public Relations, AUST; Dr. Prisca Onuoha, Coordinator, CPD, AUST; Ms. Okoi-Oboli W. Ade, Administrative Assistant, CPD, AUST; Mr. Dike Chibuzo, Administrative Assistant, Media Services/Public Relations, AUST. The BAI delegation, led by Mrs. Janet Temitope-Oyelade, included Mr. Abubakar Muh'd Badu; Dr. Chisomaga Ezeocha; Mr. Ugoji Harrison; Mr. Babajide Agbaje; Mr. Uzor Peters; Mr. Eze Uchechi; Barr. Eseoghene Keila Awaritoma; Mr. Kayode Emmanuel Faluyi.



Engr. Dr. Yetunde Aladeitan, AUST Alumnus Inagurated as NIPetE National Chair



• **Engr. Dr. Yetunde Aladeitan, FNSE**
National Chair, NIPetE

the field through more than 15 published research articles published in high-impact journals, focusing on reservoir engineering, waterflood optimization, and carbon capture and storage. She has played critical roles in the Association of Professional Women Engineers of Nigeria (APWEN), serving as Technical Secretary of the Abuja Chapter from 2015 to 2017 and currently holding the position of National Technical Secretary. Her commitment to engineering education and sustainable development has earned her fellowships in both the Nigerian Society of Chemical Engineers (NSChE) and the Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE).

In a congratulatory message, the President of AUST, Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, commended Dr. Aladeitan on her elevation

He noted that her emergence as National Chair of NIPetE is a testament to her dedication, technical excellence, and contributions to the engineering profession. Prof. Onwualu expressed confidence that under her leadership, the institution would continue to advance best practices in the oil and gas sector and foster greater industry collaboration.

Engr. Dr. Yetunde Aladeitan, FNSE, a distinguished alumna of the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, Class of 2020, has been officially inaugurated as the National Chair of the Nigerian Institution of Petroleum Engineers (NIPetE), which serves as a professional body dedicated to advancing petroleum engineering practice

and fostering collaboration within Nigeria's oil and gas industry, alongside her newly elected executive team.

The inauguration marks a significant milestone in the petroleum engineering profession, with Dr. Aladeitan bringing extensive experience to the role.

She holds a Ph.D. in Petroleum Engineering from AUST and has made impactful contributions to



AUST Inducts Ph.D Candidates In School of Public Policy and Public Administration



● **Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST, (M) poses for a group photograph with the first-ever cohort of PhD candidates in Leadership and Governance, as well as Policy and Strategic Studies, shortly after the induction ceremony held recently in AUST**

In a ceremony marked by both pomp and profound significance, the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, on Friday, 31st July 2026, formally inducted its inaugural cohort of Doctoral candidates in Leadership and Governance, as well as Policy and Strategic Studies. It was a significant milestone for the university, marking the beginning of a new academic chapter.

Professor Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, the AUST's President, told the inductees that the moment was not just about launching new programmes but also about creating a platform to reshape leadership across Africa. According to him, "The university is not simply welcoming students into doctoral programmes in leadership and Public Policy, but launching a new platform for scholarship that seeks to shape leadership, strengthen institutions and contribute meaningfully to national development and Africa's transformation."

While AUST is well known for its strength in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, Professor Onwualu explained that innovation alone is not enough. He stressed that for scientific progress to truly benefit society, it must be guided by strong leadership and sound policies.

"Innovations need to be supported by visionary leadership, sound governance, evidence-based public policy and innovative business decisions," he said. "Nations are transformed not only by innovation, but also by the quality of leadership that guides institutions and the policies that shape societies."

The President outlined the University's broader vision for these doctoral programmes, which, in his words were to produce scholars whose researches would extend beyond academic papers and actually influence governments, organisations, and communities. "Our vision is to develop graduates who will not only generate knowledge, but also apply that knowledge to solve complex societal challenges," he said. To the inductees, Professor Onwualu called them pioneers with a heavy but honourable responsibility. He reminded them that a PhD is not just a degree; it is a lifelong commitment to learning, discipline, and service. "As the first cohort, you are pioneers; your achievements will establish the standards upon which these courses will

be judged for many years to come," he told them. "Future students will look back at your contributions as the foundation upon which this academic community was built. That is both an honour and a responsibility."

He urged them to stay curious, resilient, and honest in their work, and to never shy away from questioning old ideas in order to find better ones. He also pointed out that today's world is filled with complex challenges, from governance and security to economic development and social justice, and that these require leaders who can think deeply and act wisely. "Build strong relationships with your supervisors, engage actively with your colleagues, remain open to new perspectives and let your research be driven by relevance, excellence and impact," he encouraged them.

The ceremony also featured a lecture by former House of Representatives Speaker, Rt. Hon. Oladimeji Bankole, who shared personal insights on strategic leadership under the theme "Strategic Leadership: My Personal Experience."

With this historic induction, AUST is sending a clear message: that the future of Africa depends not only on what we invent, but on how we lead. And these pioneer doctoral candidates are now part of that vision.



AUST to Host 25th Annual Nigerian International Materials Congress (NIMACON) 2026

**MATERIALS SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
SOCIETY OF NIGERIA**



**ANNUAL
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Nigerian International Materials Congress
(NIMACON 2026) &
Special Materials Lecture (SML 2026)/
Materials Innovation Pitch**

Theme:

**MATERIALS FOR ENERGY, SECURITY AND
SUSTAINABLE NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT**

Conference Hall in Abuja.

This year's congress is centred on the theme, "Materials for Energy, Security and Sustainable National Industrial Development," and the event serves as a critical gathering for researchers, industry professionals, and students to present advancements aimed at addressing national security and energy challenges through materials innovation. Key sub-themes guiding the submissions include chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) protection materials, circular economy solutions, energy materials for defence resilience, and emerging future security technologies.

Prominent figures slated for the event include Congress Chairman, Chief Kunle Ogunade; AUST President, Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS; and MSN President, Prof. Alafara A. Baba, alongside keynote speaker Prof. Jonathan M. Nwaedozie from the Nigerian Defense Academy.

Registration for the congress is open, with early bird discounts currently available until October 23, 2026, across various participant categories, including fellows, professional members, students, and foreign delegates. Interested individuals are encouraged to complete their registration and submit abstracts through the official platform at <https://nimacon.msn.ng>.

The Materials Science and Technology Society of Nigeria (MSN) has announced its 25th Nigerian International Conference known as the Nigerian International Materials Congress (NIMACON 2026), scheduled to take place from November 16 to 20, 2026.

Organised in partnership with the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), the Raw Materials Research and Development Council (RMRDC), and the National Agency for Science and Engineering Infrastructure (NASENI), the flagship event will be held at the AUST



NAPE Abuja Chapter Holds Technical Workshop at AUST, Promotes Sustainable Subsurface Evaluation



- *A cross-section of participants at the NAPE workshop held at the African University of Science and Technology, Abuja recently.*

More than 220 participants, comprising petroleum industry professionals, academics, and students, gathered in Abuja for a technical workshop focused on advancing knowledge in subsurface evaluation and environmental sustainability.

The NAPE Abuja Chapter (North Central Cluster A) Technical Workshop, themed “Discovery to Sustainability: Integrating Subsurface Evaluation and Environmental Stewardship,” was held on Saturday, 8 August 2026, at the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja.

The workshop, the first of the planned NAPE Abuja Chapter cluster programmes was organised to bring technical and capacity-building initiatives closer to members, particularly those in the Northern region.

The technical sessions featured four breakout sessions led by industry experts, covering post-oil-spill impact

assessment, well-log and seismic interpretation, estimating hydrocarbon volume, and geological modelling workflow.

The programme attracted professionals and representatives from organisations including NNPC Energy Services, NNPC-RTI, NUPRC, NOSDRA, NGSA, Juvicle and SEEPCO, alongside representatives of sponsoring organisations.

Academic participation was also strong, with Heads of Department, senior lecturers and students from about ten universities, including NSUK, IBBU Lapai, FUT Minna, FULAFIA, University of Abuja, Federal University Lokoja, Bingham University, ABU Zaria and AUST.

The President of the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, and Management of AUST were present at the event. Prof. Onwualu reaffirmed the

university’s commitment to its partnership with NAPE, including completing the registration of its student chapter and supporting students who emerged winners of the monthly quiz while the NAPE President and other national leadership participated virtually. Juvicle Energy Resources limited pledged support for student membership and conference participation, reinforcing the workshop’s focus on nurturing the next generation of professionals.

The workshop provided participants with opportunities for technical learning, mentorship, industry exposure, and networking. It concluded with positive feedback from attendees.

The NAPE Abuja Chapter expressed appreciation to AUST Management, NAPE leadership, sponsors, speakers, participating institutions, industry professionals, and all stakeholders whose contributions made the programme a success.



ALUMNI CORNER

Showcasing our Great Achievers

Joy Olayiwola: Assistant Director at NASRDA | First Nigerian Woman to Discover an Asteroid | Scientist Bridging Technology, Policy, and Public Service



● Joy Olayiwola

Joy Olayiwola is an Assistant Director at Nigeria's National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), with over 16 years of experience in public service and technology. She currently leads the Smart Geospatial and ICT Division of GeoApps Plus Limited, the commercial arm of NASRDA, where she provides leadership in information and communication technology, geospatial intelligence, digital systems and technology-enabled solutions for public-sector development.

A computer scientist by training, Joy holds a Master's degree in Computer Science from the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), where her academic

foundation in computing helped shape her interest in applying technology to real-world development challenges. She is also a PhD candidate in Computer Science at Nile University, where her research interests include artificial intelligence and resource-aware machine learning. In September, she will commence the Master of Public Policy (MPP) at the University of Oxford, United Kingdom, as an AIG-Imoukhuede Foundation Scholar, further strengthening her work at the intersection of technology, governance and public policy.

Beyond her professional work, Joy is a passionate citizen scientist and amateur astronomer with a particular interest in astronomy outreach and scientific

engagement. In 2021, she became the first Nigerian woman to discover an asteroid, an achievement that reflects her longstanding commitment to making science accessible beyond traditional academic and institutional settings. She has also contributed to double-star research and other citizen-science activities, with her scientific work including publications in international astronomy research platforms. Joy played a leading role in coordinating Nigeria's first physical Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact event, bringing together Nigerian school students for a live educational interaction with an astronaut aboard the International Space Station. The initiative provided an opportunity for young people to engage directly with space science and technology and demonstrated her interest in using innovative platforms to inspire the next generation of STEM learners.

Her professional and leadership interests lie at the intersection of artificial intelligence, digital government, geospatial intelligence, public policy and institutional transformation. She is particularly interested in how technology, data and effective public institutions can be combined to improve decision-making, strengthen public-sector capacity and create lasting public value. Joy is also a graduate of the AIG Public Leaders Programme, where, for her capstone project, she developed the Digital Professional Growth Hub, an initiative (though still in the works) focused on strengthening professional development, staff engagement and accountability within public institutions.

Through her career, scientific outreach and continued academic development, Joy is building a multidisciplinary path that connects science, technology, policy and public service, with a broader aspiration to contribute to more effective, responsive and innovative institutions in Nigeria and across Africa.



Segun Ogunwale: Co-Founder of Bridgia| EdTech Innovator Reaching 45,000+ Learners Across Africa| 2025 Mandela Washington Fellow

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Showcasing our Great Achievers

Segun Ogunwale is the co-founder and a Team Lead at Bridgia, an EdTech company that provides guides, assessments, and programmes for the capacity development of students and professionals. His expertise spans instructional design, the deployment of learning management systems, and workforce learning and development. Through his work at Bridgia, more than 40,000 students and almost 5,000 professionals have been reached across Africa. His insights on higher education and the future of work have been featured in the World Economic Forum, University World News, and The Africa Report. He has received \$28,000 in grants funding for his projects.

Segun holds a first degree with honours in Computer Science and a Master's degree with distinction in Management of Information Technology at African University of Science and Technology, finishing top of his class. He has several professional certifications in the IT industry and has received awards and recognitions from the British Council, Tony Elumelu Foundation, and Peter Drucker Society. His work experience span across the public and private sector, working with several organisations to develop and roll out e-learning platforms for staff capacity development. He also worked as a consultant to the Lagos State Government for the development of the state's



● **Segun Ogunwale**

e-procurement system and a health information interoperability platform. Segun is a 2025 US Mandela Washington Fellow, participating in the Business Leadership track at the Zimbleman College of Business, Drake University. He is a regularly featured as a facilitator in many capacity building programmes such as the Young Innovation Leaders fellowship, which has been

recognised by the African Union Development Agency – Partnership for Africa's Development (AU-NEPAD) as a model youth development programme. He also served as a Youth Advisor to the European Union's delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS' as the pioneer secretary of the Digital and Green Economy of the Youth Sounding Board (YSB).



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PHOTO PANORAMA



R:L:- Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, AUST President, exchanging a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Barr. Amina Sijuwade, a representative of the Iron Ore Mining Limited (IOML).



Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST (on red cap) exchanging pleasantries with Prof. Saleh Abdullahi of Nile University, during the NUC resource verification exercise held at AUST recently.



Teenage participant demonstrating his coding project during a practical session organised by AUST Continuing Professional Development (CPD) at AUSTInspire Innovation Hub, AUST, Abuja.



Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, AUST President, (in red cap) with representatives of Globus Bank during their courtesy visit to the University's Campus in Galadimawa, Abuja recently.



Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST, awarding a certificate of participation to a teenage participant at the just concluded CPD Coding & Robotics Training Course, held at AUST.



NUC resource-verification team on Architecture, during a tour at the University's Architecture building.



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PHOTO PANORAMA



L:R:- Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, AUST President welcoming Prof. Barnabas Ikya Achakpa during a courtesy visit of the Solar Energy Society of Nigeria to AUST.



R:L:- NUC representative, Prof. Abdulrahman Sani Mohammed (Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto), Dr. Vitalis Anye, Dean, School of Engineering and Ms. Lizzy Asomugha, Head, Department of General Studies during the NUC resource verification exercise at AUST recently.



NUC team inspecting some Economics textbooks in the university's library, during the resource verification exercise held recently at AUST.



Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President AUST, addressing the NUC resource verification team during the evaluation exercise held at AUST recently.



AUST and NASRDA management teams during a brief ceremony marking the promotion of the DG NASRDA as a full Professor.



Dr. Auta Jonathan giving a lecture to participants of the CPD Coding & Robotics Training course held recently at the AUSTInspire Innovation Hub, AUST, Abuja.



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PHOTO PANORAMA



Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, AUST President, clad in blue kaftan and red cap (right), flanked by members of the University Management and the NUC resource verification team after a productive evaluation exercise at AUST, Abuja, recently.



AUST President, Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, welcoming Prof. Matthew Olumide Adepoju, DG, NASRDA, on his Professorial promotion ceremony held at the AUST President's boardroom recently.



NUC resource verification team on Nursing Sciences touring the AfDB Lab led by Mr. Cyril Onyekachi Okoye, Manager of the AUST-AfDB Laboratory, during the evaluation exercise at AUST recently.



L:R:- Prof. Azikwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President AUST, exchanging pleasantries with Prof. Ibrahim Abubakar Alkali of Bayero University, Kano, during the NUC resource verification exercise at AUST recently.



Mrs Buchi Ekpolomo, Head, Library Services, AUST, showcasing the university's digital library to Prof. Saleh Abdullahi of Nile University, during the NUC resource verification exercise of Information Systems, held recently in AUST.



NUC resource verification team on Industrial Chemistry, touring the Chemistry library led by Dr. Abdulmalik Usman Bello, Dean, School of Science and Science Education, AUST (2nd from right) and Dr. Odette Fayen Ngasoh, Head, Department of Chemistry (left) during the evaluation exercise held at AUST recently.



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PHOTO PANORAMA



R:L:- Dr. Vitalis Anye, Dean, School of Engineering, AUST, illustrating some engineering fabrications to the NUC resource verification team on Architecture led by Prof. Ibrahim Abubakar Alkali of the Bayero University, Kano



Prof. Abdulrahman Sani Mohammed, lead panelist, NUC resource verification on Nursing Sciences, observing a displayed specimen in the Nursing laboratory, during the evaluation exercise held at AUST recently.



Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, AUST President, clad in white kaftan and red cap (left), flanked by members of the university management, discussing a topical issue with Dr. Esther Mmeka, NUC representative (right) during the resource verification exercise at AUST, Abuja.



NUC team inspecting some Nursing Sciences textbooks displayed at the university's library, during the resource verification exercise held recently at AUST.



Prof Oforghor Frankline Dinero, lead panelist, NUC resource verification on Industrial Chemistry, inspecting some displayed chemical samples at the Chemistry laboratory, during the evaluation exercise held at AUST recently.



Prof. Abdulhakeem Bello, Vice-President, Academic and Director, Academic Planning, AUST, addressing the NUC resource verification team at the NNPC Hall during the evaluation exercise held at AUST recently.



Empowering Africa's Next Generation: Teenagers Present Tech Solutions at CPD Coding Graduation



- **Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST on red cap (M) in a group photograph with facilitators, parents and students shortly after the graduation ceremony of the Coding, Basic Computer Awareness and Robotics Training organised by CPD, AUST.**

The Continuing Professional Development (CPD) coding programme held its graduation ceremony on August 31, 2026, celebrating the innovative achievements of teenage participants who developed a range of software applications addressing practical challenges. What began as a small initiative involving five students has evolved into a significant platform that cultivates independent thinking, creativity, and technical proficiency, while positioning coding as an essential tool for tackling Africa's socio-economic issues.

Delivering the keynote address, Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President

of the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), lauded the graduates as emerging innovators and programmers. He emphasised that, with continued mentorship and collaboration, the graduates are well equipped to develop solutions capable of addressing pressing continental challenges.

The students presented a diverse array of applications built using Python, Gradio, Java, and JavaScript. Notable projects included a study-abroad platform for evaluating university admissions criteria, a household expense tracker with budgeting and overspending-prevention features, a weather-responsive clothing recommendation system, and an energy

conservation tool, among others.

In addition to their technical expertise, the graduates demonstrated strong professional communication skills, delivering PowerPoint presentations that clearly articulated the functionality and purpose of their applications to both the audience and a panel of judges.

In his closing remarks, Dr. Vitalis Anye, Dean of the School of Engineering at AUST, commended the facilitators for their instructional excellence and expressed appreciation to the parents for their steadfast support in fostering the holistic development of the participants.



AUST Promotes NASRDA Director-General to Full Professor



● **L-R:- Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST, handing the letter of promotion to Prof. Matthew Olumide Adepoju, Director-General, NASRDA.**

The African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, has formally promoted the Director-General and Chief Executive of the National Space Research and Development Agency (NASRDA), Prof. Matthew Olumide Adepoju, to the rank of Professor of Geoinformatics and GIS Applications in recognition of his outstanding contributions to geoinformatics, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS) and space science.



The brief ceremony, held at AUST, brought together members of the university management, NASRDA officials, family members, and distinguished guests to mark the occasion.

Welcoming guests, the AUST President, Professor Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, explained that the ceremony was organised to formally present the promotion letter, while noting that Professor Adepoju's inaugural lecture would be held at a later date.

He highlighted the longstanding partnership between AUST and NASRDA, particularly through the Institute of Space Science and Engineering (ISSE), which supports postgraduate programmes in Space Physics, Systems Engineering, Aerospace Engineering, GIS and Geoinformatics.

Professor Onwualu also outlined AUST's rigorous promotion process, noting that candidates undergo internal assessment and external evaluation by full professors in their respective fields before recommendations are presented to the University Appointments and Promotions Committee and ultimately approved by the Board of Trustees.

He commended Professor Matthew for combining his responsibilities as NASRDA Director-General with teaching, research, postgraduate supervision and mentorship of young scholars in geoinformatics and GIS.

Presenting the citation, Mr. Ita Okon, Special Assistant to the NASRDA Director-General on Strategic Communications, highlighted Professor Matthew's academic and professional journey, extensive research in

remote sensing and geospatial information science with over 40 scholarly publications, and his contributions to environmental monitoring, agriculture, flood assessment and land-use studies.

The Provost of ISSE, Dr. John Momoh, described Professor Matthew as a scholar of high standing who played an important role in the development and affiliation of the Institute with AUST. He congratulated him on attaining the rank of professor.

Similarly, the Head of Geoinformatics and GIS, Dr. G.K. James, expressed the department's support for the promotion, noting that Professor Matthew had contributed significantly to the growth of the department and had provided academic and administrative leadership over the years.

Presenting the promotion letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Professor Onwualu congratulated the new professor while reminding him that the professorial rank comes with increased academic responsibilities. He stressed that continued teaching at the PhD level requires at least one Scopus-indexed journal publication annually, alongside postgraduate supervision.

In his acceptance remarks, Professor Matthew Olumide Adepoju expressed gratitude to the AUST Board, President, management, colleagues, mentors, family and collaborators for their support. He reaffirmed his commitment to teaching, research, postgraduate supervision and mentoring young scholars, adding that he would continue to serve as a good ambassador of AUST.

He also acknowledged the role of his family in his academic journey and appreciated the support of his mentors and colleagues at AUST and NASRDA.

The ceremony concluded with presentations to family members and guests, followed by press and group photographs.

Also present at the ceremony were members of AUST Management, including Professor Abdulhakeem Bello, Vice-President Academic and Director of Academic Planning; Professor A.Y. Badmos; Mr. Ben Okonkwo, Bursar; Dr. Usman A. Bello, Dean, School of Science and Engineering; Mr. Inegbensse Osoba, Registrar; Mrs. Bolade Igbagbo, Head of Human Resources; Prince Obioha Atulomah, Head, Media Services and PR Unit; and Ms. Blessing Iweha, Admin Assistant, Media and PR Unit.

NASRDA was represented by Dr. G.K. James, Head of Geoinformatics and GIS; Dr. Alaga A.T., Director, Mission Planning and Satellite Data Management; Dr. John Momoh, Provost, ISSE; Mrs. Lami Ali Fadiora, Director of Human Resource Management; Dr. Idris Jega, Ag. Director, Space Enterprise; Mrs. Olufisayo M.O., Special Adviser; Dr. Dade Usuewa, Deputy Director; Dr./Engr. Yusuf O. Tafa, Senior Special Assistant on Engineering Matters; and Mr. Ita Okon, Special Assistant on Strategic Communications, among others.



● **Group photograph of AUST & NASRDA management teams, taken shortly after the Professorial promotion ceremony held at the President's boardroom, AUST, Abuja.**

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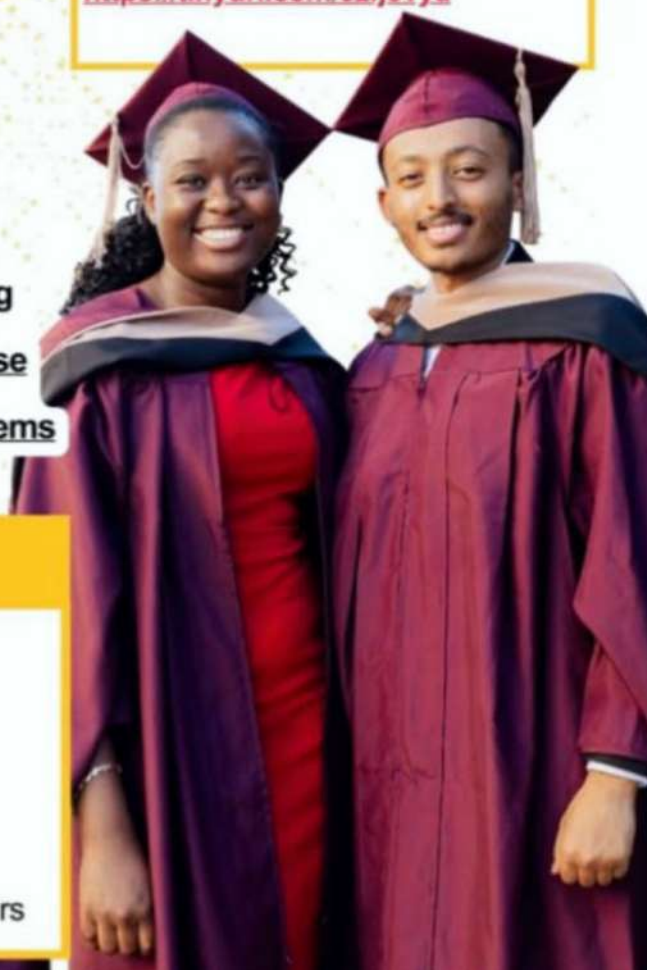
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SESN, AUST Explore Partnership for 43rd National Solar Energy Forum



● *Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, President, AUST on red cap (M), pose for a group photograph with management teams of AUST and SESN shortly after the partnership visit by the leadership of SESN to the University.*

Strengthening Nigeria's transition to sustainable energy took centre stage as the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, welcomed the Solar Energy Society of Nigeria (SESN) to discuss plans for the 43rd National Solar Energy Forum, scheduled for 21–23 October 2026 in Abuja.

The forum, themed “Bridging Nigeria’s Energy Gap and Accelerating Solar Energy Adoption for Sustainable Development,” will focus on key issues including renewable-energy financing, policy, local manufacturing, climate action, artificial intelligence, youth and women’s participation, green modernisation and rural electrification.



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AUST, SESN Explore Partnership for 43rd National Solar Energy Forum

The meeting, led by AUST President, Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, and the SESN President, Dr. Sunny Akpoyibo, centred on AUST's proposed role as co-host of the national forum. SESN requested the University's support with conference facilities, breakout rooms, security, catering, logistics and the formation of a joint Local Organising Committee.

Prof. Onwualu welcomed the proposed partnership, noting that the forum aligns with AUST's strong foundation in engineering, energy research and innovation. He highlighted the University's work in solar cells, batteries and energy technologies, as well as the role of AUSTInspire in supporting innovation, research commercialisation, start-ups and entrepreneurship.

AUST also highlighted its planned five-megawatt solar installation, which is being developed through an African

Development Bank programme implemented by the Rural Electrification Agency. The project is expected to support the University's energy needs, provide opportunities for practical student training and potentially supply excess power to neighbouring communities.

The forum is expected to provide a platform for researchers, industry professionals, investors, development partners and policymakers to exchange knowledge, showcase innovations and strengthen university-industry collaboration in the renewable energy sector.

AUST management representatives at the meeting included Dr. Vitalis Anye, Dean, School of Engineering; Prof. Eli Jidere Bala, Head of Department, Petroleum and Energy Resources Engineering; Dr. Anthony Anyakora, Head, Consultancy Services; Mr. Kingsley Ogwudu, Senior

Manager, AUST Inspire; Mrs. Gloria Ajaegbu, Head, Multilateral Relations; Prince Obioha Atulomah, Head, Media Services and PR Unit; Mrs. Mozie Chidi, Administrative Assistant, School of Engineering; and Ms. Blessing Iweha, Administrative Assistant, Media Services and PR Unit.

The SESN delegation included Dr. Zarma Ismaila Haliru, Secretary-General; Amina A. Ibikunle; Engr. Shittu Suraj; Mr. Nafiu Tijjani, Public Relations Officer; Prof. Barnabas Ikoy Achakpa, NASENI Representative and NOC Member; Engr. Shurag Shittu Bamidele, Chairman, Youth Network Sub-Committee; and Engr. Mrs. Toyin Alozie, Energy Commission of Nigeria representative and NOC Member.

Both parties expressed optimism about the collaboration and agreed to continue discussions towards successful delivery of the 43rd National Solar Energy Forum.



- **AUST & SESN Management teams discussing a topical issue during the partnership visit of the leadership of SESN to the AUST President in his office in Abuja recently.**



AUST Explores Research and Innovation Partnership with German Institutions



• **Group photograph of AUST representatives and the German delegation following a partnership exploration meeting held recently at AUST.**

As part of the drive for stronger international collaboration in research, innovation and entrepreneurship the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, hosted a delegation of German academic and innovation institutions. The meeting, hosted by AUST's Consultancy Services Unit, focused on strengthening AUSTInspire Incubation Hub, the University's innovation and incubation centre, through joint research, entrepreneurship development, capacity building, startup incubation and access to international funding opportunities.

The German delegation comprised representatives from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the University of Koblenz, Germany, and the Zentral Institute for Entrepreneurship and International Transfer.

During the meeting, AUST presented its mandate and research strengths in science, engineering and technology, as well as the activities of AUSTInspire in supporting student and faculty innovations, startup development and commercialisation.

Discussions centred on joint research and development projects, innovation management, entrepreneurship programmes, start-up mentorship and incubation, institutional networking and knowledge exchange.

The delegation expressed interest in AUST's growing innovation ecosystem, particularly its potential for research commercialisation and start-up development.

Both parties agreed to maintain direct communication, share information on AUSTInspire, identify priority areas for

collaboration and work towards developing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

The AUST delegation at the meeting included Engr. Dr. David Afolayan, HoD Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Anthony Anyakora, Head of the Consultancy Services Unit, Dr. Vitalis Anye, Dean School of Engineering and Coordinator AUSTInspire, and Ms. Juliet Okocha, Administrative Assistant of the Unit.

The visiting delegation comprised Mr. Dennis Vormawor, Dr. Collins Adefunji, Mr. Chukwudi Johnpaul Okolo, Ms. Lena Leumer, Mr. Komivi Lasmothery and Dr. Harald von Korfflesch.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to advancing practical partnerships that promote innovation, research and technological development.



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NUC Evaluates 11 New Undergraduate Programmes in AUST



● **Group photograph of the NUC verification team alongside AUST top management team, shortly before the commencement of the verification exercise in AUST recently.**

The African University of Science and Technology (AUST) is positioning itself for a major academic expansion following a comprehensive resource-verification visit by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

Established in 2007 as a strictly postgraduate institution, AUST has continuously evolved to offer both postgraduate and undergraduate education while maintaining its core emphasis on high-level research.

The evaluation focused on assessing the institution's physical facilities and academic staffing readiness for the

launch of 11 proposed undergraduate programmes. It was a foundational resource review rather than a formal accreditation visit.

The 11 proposed disciplines include; Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Information Systems, Architecture, Economics, Banking and Finance, Nursing, Medical Laboratory Technology, Industrial Chemistry, Computer Engineering.

Addressing the NUC resource-verification team, AUST President, Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, noted that while infrastructure remains strong, the recruitment of

sufficient resident academic staff remains the institution's primary constraint. To bridge this gap, AUST utilises a hybrid delivery model, combining regular semester-based undergraduate education with modular postgraduate formats supported by visiting faculty while academic staffing capacity is being developed.

He also highlighted the institution's continued use of the AUSTInspire Hub to drive innovation and strengthen industry linkages, alongside strategic partnerships supporting engineering, space technology, research, and innovation.



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NUC Evaluates 11 New Undergraduate Programmes in AUST



● **Group photograph of the NUC verification team alongside AUST top management team, shortly before the commencement of the verification exercise in AUST recently.**



● **Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS, AUST President (M) flanked by the NUC verification team and AUST management team during the verification exercise on Nursing Sciences held recently at AUST.**

Leading the NUC resource verification team, Dr. Esther Imuetinyan Mmeka, Director of the Directorate of Skills Development and Entrepreneurship (DSDE) at the National Universities Commission (NUC), commended the University Management for its visionary approach to expanding AUST's academic horizon, particularly through undergraduate programmes. She expressed optimism that the exercise would yield positive outcomes. In her words, "We hope for positivity when we are going to convey the results."

During the visit, the NUC team was tasked with verifying physical facilities and confirming the availability of academic staff on campus. Detailed programme-by-programme assessments were

delegated to specialised review groups.

The final assessment outcome and official approval from the NUC remain pending.

The NUC verification team included the following panel: Architecture (BSc), Prof. Ibrahim Abubakar Alkali (Bayero University, Kano), Dr. Esther Mmeka, Mrs. Maureen Austine; Nursing Science (BSc), Prof. Abdurrahman Sani Mohammed (Usmanu Danfodiyo Univ., Sokoto), Mr. Agbo unji Olusegun Daniel and Mrs. Adewuola Oguntimehin; Medical Laboratory Technology (BSc), Prof. Nkiru Azubike (Univ. of Nigeria, Nsukka), Mr. Livinus Odum, Mr. Bashir; Banking and Finance (BSc), Prof. Muhammad Madawaki (Univ. of Maiduguri), Mr. Ehibor

Moses (NUC); Economics (BSc), Prof. Lionel Effiom (Univ. of Calabar), Mrs. Ojei Ekene Praise (NUC) and Dr. Ajani; Industrial Chemistry (BSc), Prof. Oforghor Frankline Dinero, Mrs. Vera Anthony, Mr. Uche (NUC); Cybersecurity (BSc), Prof. Saleh (Sale) Abdullahi (Nile University, Abuja), Mrs. Stella Chigbo (NUC); Artificial Intelligence (BSc), Prof. Saleh Abdullahi (Nile University), Mrs. Stella Chigbo (NUC); Data Science (BSc), Prof. Saleh Abdullahi (Nile University), Mrs. Stella Chigbo (NUC); Information Systems (BSc), Prof. Saleh Abdullahi (Nile University), Mrs. Stella Chigbo (NUC); Computer Engineering (BSc), Prof. Christopher Ngene (Univ. of Maiduguri), Ms. Kate (NUC).



AUST Announces Promotion of Five Faculty Members

The Board of Trustees of the African University of Science and Technology (AUST), Abuja, has officially approved the promotion of five distinguished faculty members to the ranks of Professor and Associate Professor.

The decision was approved during the Board's meeting following directives from the President and Chair of the Appointments, Appraisal, and Promotions Committee, who noted that the elevations serve as a formal recognition of the recipients' academic achievements, scholarly contributions, and unwavering commitment to teaching, research, and institutional service.

The newly promoted faculty members include:



Prof. Azikiwe Peter Onwualu, FAS
President, AUST

Prof. Abdulhakeem Bello Professor of Applied Physics

Prof. Bello is a Professor of Applied Physics at AUST, serving as Acting Vice President (Academic), Director of Academic Planning, and Head of the Department of Theoretical and Applied Physics. He holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Pretoria and specializes in nanostructured materials (graphene, carbon nanotubes), conducting polymers, and electrochemical technologies including Li-ion batteries, solid-state electrolytes, and supercapacitors.

He has authored over 150 journal articles, nine book chapters, and conference proceedings, with a Scopus H-index of 40 and 5,524 citations, and has contributed to major World Bank-funded grants through PAMI and PASET. He is an Affiliate of the African Academy of Sciences (2022–2026) and a Fellow/Member of the Nigerian Young Academy.



Prof. Matthew Olumide Adepoju Professor of Geoinformatics and GIS Applications

Prof. Adepoju is Director General and Chief Executive of NASRDA, with a Ph.D and M.Sc in Geographical Information Science from the University of Leicester and the University of Nottingham. His research focuses on satellite remote sensing and geospatial information science, particularly land use and land cover change detection, geospatial modelling for agriculture and food security, environmental monitoring, and flood and deforestation assessment.

He has authored more than 40 peer-reviewed publications and is a Fellow of the Geoinformation Society of Nigeria, the National Cartographic Association, and other professional bodies.



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AUST Announces Promotion of Five Faculty Members



Dr. Usman Bello Abdulmalik **Associate Professor of Mathematics**

Dr. Abdulmalik is an Associate Professor of Mathematics at AUST, Abuja, and Dean of the School of Science and Science Education. He holds a B.Sc from Bayero University, Kano, an M.Sc and a Ph.D. in Functional Analysis from AUST, and researches large-scale mathematical optimisation and inverse problems in imaging, with applications in machine learning and mathematical oncology. He has attracted major grants including TETFund NRF for an Automated Radiotherapy Treatment Planning Aid and Canada's IDRC grant for AI-based COVID-19 forecasting in Africa, and is a Fellow of the AI in Science Faculty Program at the University of Chicago.

He leads the e-Health and Digital Health research group under NITDA, has published in leading journals with over 300 citations, and supervises 6 Ph.D. students while driving mathematical research capacity-building across Africa.



Dr. Innocent Ehiaguina Bello **Associate Professor of Geoinformatics and GIS Applications**

Dr. Bello is a geospatial scientist and cartographer specializing in Geoinformatics, Earth Observation, GIS, Remote Sensing, and Spatial Data Infrastructure, serving as Academic Coordinator at the Institute of Space Science and Engineering, AUST. He holds a Ph.D. in Remote Sensing, an M.Sc in Cartography and GIS, and postgraduate qualifications from the University of Twente and Cranfield University, and is National President of the Nigerian Cartographic Association.

At NASRDA he has led the SDI Division and worked as a Research Scientist and Lead Geospatial Analyst, focusing on space-borne data, spatial analytics, and GeoAI for environmental management, disaster modeling, and national security. He has over 70 peer-reviewed publications, with specializations in advanced cartography, environmental modeling, and geospatial policy and security.



Dr. Vitalis Chioh Anye **Associate Professor of Materials Science and Engineering**

Dr. Anye is Dean of the School of Engineering and Head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at AUST, with over a decade of experience in solid-state electrolytes, thin-film optoelectronics, perovskite solar cells, energy storage, and sustainable materials design. He holds a Ph.D and M.Sc from AUST and physics training from the University of Buea, and has conducted research visits at Princeton, Worcester Polytechnic Institute, KIST (South Korea), and the University of Cantabria.

He leads the AUSTInspire Business Incubation Centre and the Pan-African Materials Institute, has supervised over 15 Master's and Ph.D. students, and has published over 50 articles with approximately 950 citations and an h-index of 16.



AUST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2026



AFRICAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (AUST), ABUJA

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) PROGRAMS

S/N	COURSES	FEE (₦)	VENUE	DATE (2026)	LINKS
1	PROJECT MANAGEMENT (9 TH Cohort)	Virtual - 150,000 Physical- 200,000	Hybrid	April - May	www.austcpd.com
2	BASIC COMPUTER AWARENESS AND CODING	60,000	AUST	April/ August	
3	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR LEADERS AND CORPORATE EXECUTIVES	100,000	Online	April 25th - May 23rd	
4	PROMPT ENGINEERING IN AI	100,000	Online	August	
5	CYBERSECURITY CYBEROPS ASSOCIATE 3RD COHORT	100,000	Hybrid	January-March and June-August	
6	ETHICAL HACKING 3RD COHORT	100,000	Hybrid	January-March and June-August	
7	DATA ANALYTICS ESSENTIALS 3RD COHORT	100,000	Hybrid	January-March and June-August	
8	NETWORK TECHNICIAN 3RD COHORT	100,000	Hybrid	January-March and June-August	
9	IoT AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION 3RD COHORT	100,000	Hybrid	January-March and June-August	
10	IT ESSENTIAL 8: 3RD COHORT	100,000	Hybrid	January-March and June-August	
11	ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND MACHINE LEARNING IN PUBLIC HEALTH	100,000	Hybrid	January – March and August - October (3 months each)	
12	CERTIFIED NURSING ASSISTANT TRAINING (CNA)	550,000	AUST	January/May/ September	
13	PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN TRANSPORTATION DECISION MAKING	300,000	AUST	June	
14	CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT	150,000	Hybrid	June-July	
15	BRAND DESIGN BEGINNER	200,000	Hybrid	June 3Months	
16	DEVOPS BEGINNER	200,000	Hybrid	June 3Months	
17	MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID (MHFA)	85,000	AUST	June	
18	PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN OFFICE ADMINISTRATION AND MANAGEMENT	100,000	Hybrid	February and August	



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S/N	COURSES	FEE (₦)	VENUE	DATE (2026)	LINKS
19	GRANT MANAGEMENT AND RESEARCH WRITING	100,000	Hybrid	May	
20	HEALTH SAFETY ENVIRONMENT (HSE)	100,000	Hybrid	May	
21	WASTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT	150,000	Hybrid	June	
22	FINANCIAL TECHNOLOGY (FINTECH)	TBD	Hybrid	TBD	
23	PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN AGRIBUSINESS, POST-HARVEST SYSTEM, AND FOOD SECURITY	200,000 early bird (300,000 late payment)	Hybrid	May	
24	IMPLEMENTING RURAL TRANSITTECHNOLOGY	300,000	AUST	May-June	
25	FINANCIAL PLANNING IN TRANSPORTATION	300,000	AUST	July-August	
26	SENIOR LEADERSHIP FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION & PARA-TRANSITMANAGEMENT	300,000	AUST	October-November	
27	NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON COORDINATING DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES AND CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT ALONG FEDERAL HIGHWAYS	300,000	AUST	October	
28	URBAN CORRIDOR PLANNING AND LAND- USE INTEGRATION FOR TRANSITWAY DEVELOPMENT	300,000	Virtual	May- July	
29	PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN PUBLIC LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE	275,000	Hybrid	May-November	
30	EXECUTIVE PROGRAM IN HEALTH SYSTEM LEADERSHIP (EPSL)	450,000	Hybrid	May- June	
31	CERTIFICATE IN POLITICAL AND CHRISTIAN DIPLOMACY (CPCD)	250,000	Hybrid	August	
32	EXECUTIVE CERTIFICATE IN PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT	450,000	Hybrid	August	
33	PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN GENDER AND TRANSFORMATIVE LEADERSHIP	450,000	Hybrid	May-December	
34	RFID-Enabled Agribusiness and Livestock Traceability Systems	Physical 300,000 Virtual 200,000	Hybrid	March	
35	RFID and Smart Data Applications in Healthcare Systems	Physical 350,000 Virtual 250,000	Hybrid	May	
36	RFID Applications in Defence and Security Operations	Physical 400,000 Virtual 300,000	Hybrid	August	
37	RFID in Oil & Gas Operations, Supply Chain, and Logistics Management	Physical 400,000 Virtual 300,000	Hybrid	November	
38	SUSTAINABLE BUILT ENVIRONMENT PRACTICE	150,000	CADA	September	
39	MANAGING NON-PROFIT (GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)	350,000	AUST	April (3months)	
40	NUTRITION AND WELL-BEING (2nd cohort)	205,000 (plus accommodation)	AUST	September	



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S/N	COURSES	FEE (₦)	VENUE	DATE (2026)	LINKS
41	HYDROPONIC SYSTEMS FOR SMALL SCALE FARMING: A MODEL FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE	\$150 (200,000)	AUST	April	
42	MICRO-IRRIGATION SYSTEM FOR SMALL SCALE FARMING FOR FOOD SECURITY	\$200 (250,000)	AUST	June	
43	PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMA IN DATA SCIENCE	160,000	Hybrid	August	
44	PROJECT MANAGEMENT (10TH Cohort)	Virtual 150,000 Physical 200,000	Hybrid	September 13th – October 18th	
45	STEM TRAINING CERTIFICATE COURSE	50,000	States and LGAs across Nigeria	TBD	
46	AIR CONDITIONING & REFRIGERATION SERVICES SKILLS	150,000 each	AUST	June – September	
47	AUTOMOTIVE MECHATRONICS	120,000	AUST	June – September	
48	BLOCK LAYING	120,000	AUST	June – September	
49	COMMUNICATION SKILLS	120,000	AUST	June – September	
50	COMPUTER STUDIES	120,000	AUST	June – September	
51	ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS	120,000	AUST	June – September	
52	FASHION DESIGNING	120,000	AUST	June – September	
53	PLUMBING SKILLS	150,000	AUST	June – September	
54	WELDING AND METAL FABRICATION	120,000	AUST	June – September	
55	INTRODUCTION TO SATELLITE COMMUNICATION	Virtual 150,000 Physical 200,000	AUST	April	
56	CERTIFICATE IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND BUSINESS INNOVATION	200,000	AUST	TBD	
57	TRADE FINANCE AND AfCFTA	150,000	AUST	September	
58	EXECUTIVE TRAINING IN HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT	160,000	AUST	August	
59	EXECUTIVE TRAINING IN HUMAN RIGHTS AND MEDIATION LAWS	160,000	AUST	May	
60	STRATEGIC PPP LEADERSHIP PROGRAM	TBD	AUST	TBD	
61	THE CREATOR'S SHOES: A CREATIVE MASTERCLASS ON CONTENT CREATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGEMENT	50,000	Hybrid	May	
62	BEGINNER CONFECTIONARY	150,000	AUST	June / October	



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S/N	COURSES	FEE (₦)	VENUE	DATE (2026)	LINKS
63	TECHNICAL BUSINESS ANALYSIS	300,000	Hybrid	June - August	
64	DRONE OPERATION & AGRICULTURAL SPRAYING TECHNOLOGY	TBA	AUST	TBA	
65	GENDER AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT	450,000	Hybrid	February	
66	POLICY AND SECURITY DEVELOPMENT	450,000	Hybrid	April	

For more inquiries/information about the above courses, please

Call/WhatsApp +2348144262249, +2348064351176

Website: www.austcpd.com

Email: cpd@aust.edu.ng or president@aust.edu.ng

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Address: African University of Science and Technology, Abuja. KM 10
Airport RD, Galadimawa, Abuja.

All our CPD courses are all both virtual and physical with practical applications.

We look forward to receiving you / your organization as our participant.
Thank you.

AUST MONTHLY NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026



POSTGRADUATE ADMISSION OPENS

— 2026/2027 SESSION —

The African University of Science and Technology (AUST), is accepting applications to its Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Degrees in the courses listed below.

SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

- ϕ Computer Science (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
- ϕ Management of Information Technology (MIT) (PGD, M.Sc)

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

- ϕ Applied Statistics (PGD, M.Sc)
- ϕ Mathematical Modelling (PGD, M.Sc)
- ϕ Pure & Applied Mathematics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
- ϕ Theoretical & Applied Physics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

- ϕ Materials Science & Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
- ϕ Petroleum & Energy Resources Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)

SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

- ϕ Public Policy (PGD, M.PP. M.Sc)
- ϕ Public Administration (PGD, M.Sc)

INSTITUTE OF SPACE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

- ϕ Aerospace Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
- ϕ Systems Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
- ϕ GIS and Geoinformatics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
- ϕ Space Physics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)



**ENROLL
NOW**

For More Inquiries on Admissions

Please Contact:

08032276184 / 08035403714

08035906464 / 08075434141

Email us: admissions@aust.edu.ng

Or visit our website: www.aust.edu.ng

The African University of Science and Technology (AUST), KM 10, Airport Road, Galadimawa, Abuja, is accepting applications to the courses listed below:

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMS

▼ SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION

Computer Science (B.Sc.)
Software Engineering (B.Sc.)

▼ SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Accounting (B.Sc.)
Business Administration (B.Sc.)

▼ SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Civil Engineering (B.Eng)
Materials and Metallurgical Engineering (B.Eng)
Mechanical Engineering (B.Eng)
Petroleum and Energy Resource Engineering (B.Eng)

▼ SCHOOL OF FOUNDATION STUDIES

JUPEB ADMISSION INTO 200 LEVEL
IN AUST & ANY OTHER UNIVERSITY

Prospective candidates with JAMB scores are advised to visit a JAMB CBT center for change of courses and institution, if they did not choose AUST as first choice. Candidates can also visit JAMB E-facility portal; <https://www.jamb.gov.ng/efacility> Click on Application for Correction of Data from the list of the services on the left side. From the dropdown menu, select the one you need to change i.e. Course/Institution.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

▼ SCHOOL OF COMPUTING AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Computer Science (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
Management of Information Technology (MIT)
(PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)

▼ INSTITUTE OF SPACE SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

Aerospace Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
Systems Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
GIS and Geoinformatics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
Space Physics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)

▼ SCHOOL OF ADMINISTRATION, BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT SCIENCES

Public Policy (PGD, M.PP & M.Sc)
Policy and Strategic Studies (Ph.D)
Public Administration (PGD, M.Sc)
Leadership and Governance (Ph.D)

▼ SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND SCIENCE EDUCATION

Applied Statistics (PGD, M.Sc)
Mathematical Modelling (PGD, M.Sc)
Pure & Applied Mathematics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
Theoretical & Applied Physics (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)

SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

Materials Science & Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)
Petroleum & Energy Resources Engineering (PGD, M.Sc & Ph.D)

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Kindly visit the university's website for details: www.aust.edu.ng

For Continuing Professional Development Courses and Certificate Studies kindly visit: www.austcpd.com

For Cisco Certification, visit netacad.com and click on AUST as an academy of the institute

You can also visit www.huawei.com for AI education empowerment and Talent Growth.

**For More Inquiries on Admissions
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