



Australian High Commission

Nigeria



Australia Awards

MEDIA RELEASE

Nigerian recipients of Australia Awards prepare to study 'Down Under'

10 November 2014

Eighteen Nigerian professionals will be among some 200 people from 22 African countries selected to take up Australia Awards Scholarships at Masters and PhD level at Australian universities from January 2015. Six recipients from Cameroon and two from The Gambia were also selected.

Australia's High Commissioner to Nigeria, HE Jonathan Richardson, will host a high profile reception for the 2015 Australia Awards Scholarship recipients from Nigeria on 10 November, to celebrate their selection and bid them farewell.

"The Australian Government wants to see highly educated, talented professionals contributing to the development of Nigeria and beyond. The Australia Awards provide the training and skills necessary to make this a reality and I want to wish every recipient travelling to Australia the best of luck in their studies" he said.

The Australia Awards program offers postgraduate training opportunities across Africa in areas where Australia is recognised as having world-leading expertise, including agriculture and food security, mining and natural resource management, and public policy.

In order to prepare the recipients to live and study in Australia, the Australian Government will host three-day workshops in Nigeria from 10-12 November, as well as in other African countries. The recipients will be thoroughly briefed on how to successfully relocate and how to approach their studies 'Down Under'.

Recipients will also discuss their plans on how to use their newly acquired skills and knowledge to contribute to their countries' development outcomes upon their return to work at the completion of their studies. Alumni of the Australia Awards program have made significant contributions to key sectors across Africa, including in agriculture, natural resource management, health, and public policy.

With the support of the Australian Government, Nigerians who have studied in Australia, either under the Australia Awards program or under their own auspices, have come together to form an association of alumni with a view to encourage networking and the sharing of information. The Australia Alumni Association of Nigeria was officially launched in July 2014.

Applications for the latest round of Australia Awards Scholarships (Masters level studies at an Australian university beginning in 2016) and the Australia Awards Africa Fellowships (professional development short-courses delivered in both Australia and Africa in 2015) opened on 1 September 2014.

More information on Australia Awards in Africa, including on how to apply, is available on the website: www.australiaawardsafrica.org.

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