

HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JOS: Landmarks In The Development Of The University Of Jos

Location

The city of Jos at which the University is located, is situated at the northern edge of a pear-shaped upland known as the Jos Plateau. This upland stretches for approximately 104km from north to south, and 80km from east to west, covering an area of about 8,600km² or 860,000 hectares. Characterized by impressive ridges and isolated rocky hills separated by extensive plains, the Plateau exhibits a variety of land forms which provide excellent picnic resorts. Several rivers and hillocks are interspersed among the highlands giving the landscape a striking scenery. It maintains an average height of 1,200m (4,000ft) above sea level, and reaches its highest peak in the Shere Hills where it stands at 1,766m (5,829ft).

Jos was established in 1915, as a tin transportation camp and its early history was closely linked to the prosperity of the mining industry. In 1967, it became the capital of the defunct Benue-Plateau State and was transformed into the capital city of Plateau State in 1975, thus becoming an important administrative and commercial center. With a population of about 1,500,000, Jos remains one of the most cosmopolitan cities in Nigeria.

Situated almost at the geographical center of the country and about 300km from Abuja, the Federal Capital of Nigeria, Jos is linked by road, rail and air to the rest of the country. It has a temperate climate averaging 22°C (72°F) daily; an average humidity of 60% and average annual rainfall of 1,400mm (56”).

Governance

The University was constituted by Decree No.82 of 1979 of the Federal Military Government of Nigeria and the Head of State is the Visitor. Its governing body is the University Council, comprising nominees of government and representatives of the University Community. The highest academic body is the University Senate comprising the Vice Chancellor (Chairman of Senate), his Deputies, the University Librarian, Deans of Faculties, Directors of Academic units, Heads of Academic Departments, Faculty Representatives, and all Professors. The Registrar is the Secretary to Council and Senate. The Bursar, Directors of non-academic units including Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Health Services, Physical Facilities, and the Public Relations Officer (PRO) are in attendance at meetings of Senate, while the Bursar and Librarian are in attendance at meetings of Council. Existing procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and assessing performance in the University include an annual financial audit, annual review, and periodic accreditation of courses by the National Universities Commission (NUC) and visitation instituted by the Visitor.

Funding

The University is funded by the Federal Government through the NUC from which it receives annual recurrent and capital allocations. Other sources of funding for the University include ad-hoc special grants from government, grants from the Education Tax Fund (ETF) and internally generated revenue. Government allocations and internally generated revenue constitute over 95% and less than 3%, respectively, of its total income.

Academic Units

The University of Jos was established in 1975 by the Federal Government of Nigeria. It evolved out of the Jos Campus of the University of Ibadan, which was established in 1971. Twenty-eight years after its creation, the University comprises eight Faculties and a School of Postgraduate Studies. The Faculty of Pharmaceutical Sciences was set up in 1984 and the other seven at commencement in 1975. The University embraces 53 Departments, a Teaching Hospital and several other academic units, which include:

- ◆ The Centre for Continuing Education (CCE)
- ◆ The Centre for Research and Development (CRD)
- ◆ The Information and Communication (ICT) Directorate
- ◆ The Division of General Studies
- ◆ The Institute of Education
- ◆ The Centre for Biotechnology and Genetic Engineering (CBGE)
- ◆ The Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies (CECOMPS)

Academic staff of the University, although predominantly Nigerian by nationality, have representation from eleven countries of Africa, Asia, Europe and the Americas. The Nigerian staff come from all geo-political zones, while students from all the States of Nigeria and many different countries of the world are currently registered in its various programs of study. These programs are offered at doctoral, masters, bachelors, diploma and certificates levels, with different emphasis on teaching and research across the various disciplines. The University operates the Course Credit Unit System and in 2007/2008, had a total of 871 academic, 391 senior technical, 223 senior administrative, and 357 junior technical and 195 secretarial staff. Total non-academics = 1,671. These collectively serve a total full time student population of 18,952 and part time student population of 12,389 (Tables 1-5). The University has an impressive record of collaboration with other institutions locally and abroad including linkages with Nigerian Research Institutes, Universities in Africa, Europe and the Americas, as well as government institutions in Japan and international bodies such as The World Health Organization of the United Nations. During the implementation of the first cycle of strategic plan, the university was able to attract a grant of \$2m from Carnegie Corporation of New York under its program for institutional strengthening in African universities. This grant was again renewed for \$2.5m during the Second Cycle Strategic Cycle. A third cycle grant is now being awaited.

Table 1: Distribution of Full-Time Students by Departments and Faculties 2007/2008 Session

Faculties	Department	Under-graduate		Post graduate		Remedial	Total No. of Students
		Male	Female	Male	Female		
Arts	6	778	953	230	188		2149
Education	5	1490	982	449	252		3173
Envr. Scie.	3	930	329	150	45		1454
Law	4	611	474	281	105		1471
Medical Scie	19	1279	926	29	5		2239
Natural Scie.	7	2065	1379	449	252		4145
Social Scie.	6	1579	1198	484	173		3434
Pharm. Scie.	5	512	348	24	3		887
TOTAL	55	9244	6589	2096	1023	1050	18952

Table 2: Distribution of Staff by Departments and Faculties 2007/2008

Faculties	Department	Academic Staff		Total Academic Staff
		Male	Female	
Arts	6	75	37	112
Education	5	52	48	100
Envr. Scie.	3	72	12	84
Law	4	26	6	32
Medical Scie.	19	103	26	129
Natural Scie.	7	107	37	144
Social Scie.	6	88	25	113
Pharm. Scie.	5	36	10	46
TOTAL	55	559	201	760

Table 3: Academic Staff in other academic and research units in the University

Units	Academic Staff		Total Academic Staff
	Male	Female	
General Studies	7	4	11
Centre for Conflict Mgt	6	2	8
Centre for Continuing Education	16	10	26
Library	10	10	20
Remedial Studies	23	9	32
Centre for Biotech and Gen. Engineering	1	-	1
Institute of Education	8	5	13
Total	71	40	111
Grand Total	630	241	871

Table 4: Distribution of Non – Academic Staff by Category, Sex, 2007/2008 Session

Category	Male	Female	Total
Senior Tech	271	120	391
Senior Administrative	146	77	223
Secretarial	64	131	195
Junior Tech.	463	84	547
Junior Non Tech.	142	173	315
Total	1086	585	1671

Table 5: Distribution of Part Time Students by Faculty 2007/2008 Session

Faculty/Programme	Undergraduate		Postgraduate		Total
	Male	Female	Male	Female	
Institute of Education	3845	2914			6,759
PGD Tech			77	49	126
Social Sciences	1535	1491			3,026
Ex. MBA			95	42	137
Natural Sciences	1308	979			2,287
PGD Statistics			42	12	54
TOTAL	6688	5384	214	103	12,389

Table 6: Distribution of Sub-degree students according to programme and gender, 2007/2008 Session

Programme	Male	Female	Total
Diploma in Social Work and Development	142	122	264
Diploma in Business Administration	190	143	333
Diploma in Applied Psychology	212	199	411
Advanced Diploma in Health and Social Services & Management	28	43	71
Diploma in Theatre Arts	58	82	140
Diploma in Law	501	338	839
Diploma in SLT	116	99	215
Certificate in SLT	10	8	18
Total	1,257	1,034	2291

A Multi-Campus Institution:

The University has three campuses: The Bauchi Road, the Naraguta and the Township Campuses. The Bauchi Road Campus, currently accommodates the Faculties of Environmental, Medical (Pre-clinical Departments only), Natural and Pharmaceutical Sciences, Law, and Postgraduate Studies, Library facilities, the Information and Communication (ICT) Directorate, the Centre for Research and Development, the University Primary School and the University Administration.

The Naraguta Campus currently houses the Faculties of Arts, Education, Social Sciences and their Library facilities as well as the Directorate of Physical Facilities, the University Health Center and the University Secondary School. Located there also, are the Naraguta and Abuja Student Hostels, which accommodate 2,010 and 2,562 students respectively and the Students Village where 1,780 students are accommodated in compounds set up as in a typical African village. The Township Campus accommodates the Centre for Continuing Education, the University Press, the clinical departments of the Faculty of Medicine and the Teaching

Hospital. The University has, among others, two major staff housing estates located at the Naraguta Campus and on Bauchi Road.