



CENTER FOR INNOVATION IN PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS (CIPESS)

**FEDERAL UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, MAKURDI (FUAM)
NOW KNOWN AS JOSEPH SARWUAN TARKA UNIVERSITY,
MAKURDI (JOSTUM)**



Excellence & Professionalism

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JANUARY, 2024

BULLETIN

It won't be out of place to wish you a memorable 2024 since we are 'meeting' on this forum for the first time this year. In this edition of our bulletin, a major highlight is internships. Our postgraduate students (PG Diploma and MSc) proceeded on internships from January 2024 - this is unprecedented in Nigerian tertiary education as only undergraduates usually do so. The World Bank considers internship a critical part of training in the 21st century and that, I believe is for good reasons. Many students embark on PG studies because they have not been able to get any employment. You see, just passing exams and having a good degree is no longer enough to secure that all-important job offer in today's world. Pertinent work experience is now just as valuable as the degree and exam results when it comes to building a successful career. As a result, internships have become an essential way to help candidates make themselves stand out. We need to know a little bit more about internships to see why interning at a company is vital to career growth.

The concept of an internship: People need the experience to get hands-on knowledge in their career fields. In today's labour market, employers rely heavily on CVs that demonstrate relevant work history, whether it is from actual job experience, volunteer work, or interning at a company/industry. An internship is an official program offered by organizations to help train and provide work experience to students and recent graduates. The concept of working as an intern began a long time ago but has drastically evolved over the years. Internships first started as a labourer taking on young individuals and teaching them their art or trade – what we usually call apprenticeship. In exchange for being taught a skill, the trainee would agree to work for the labourer for a specific time. Even then, the purpose of an internship or rather an apprenticeship was to gain new skills to be able to obtain future work.

In modern interning, an intern or trainee can work for an organization for a specific amount of time. Interns can work for 1-12 months or longer, depending on the company or industry & the trainee's organization. Internships are popular amongst graduate and undergraduate students who need to gain research or valuable work experience. Almost every sector and type of company, from a large multinational corporation to a small startup, now offers internships.

Are you amazed at how calls for applications usually request that applicants possess certain years of experience? Getting work experience is an essential aspect of starting a career as a young graduate. An internship is one of the best ways to gain that all-important job experience.

Internships provide exposure to the real world: Unfortunately, in today's job market, that you're armed with a degree doesn't offer the much-needed work experience required to succeed in a workspace. By partaking in an internship, students gain real-life exposure, grow knowledge and determine if they are in the right career field and understand the career trajectory of their desired job titles. Internship is an excellent learning curve for young graduates and students as they meet new people and make connections in the professional world.

Internships give you a platform to establish critical networking connections: An internship is an experiential learning opportunity that offers an invaluable chance for students to network and build crucial professional connections before they even graduate. For some students, it is a stepping-stone to bonus opportunities within the same organization, including a full-time job. The more people you meet in the professional world with the same interest, the higher your chances to grow as a professional. You will get to know how these people work, what strategies they use to tackle a difficult situation, and how they get the job done. Different people have different skills. Meeting them and watching them work will help you understand how to work with different people and in various

work environments. You can use their strategies and reinvent them for your circumstances.

Internships allow you to learn more about yourself: A student may start as an intern in a specific field. But the more she explores it, the more she discovers about it. Every industry has its pros and cons. Working in a real-world environment helps students understand the depths of the field and helps the intern determine whether it is a career they wish to pursue in the future. An internship helps the trainee to learn about their capabilities and ultimately encourages them to have a greater understanding of their strengths and weaknesses. It can be a challenging experience at times. Still, the benefits gained from being pushed out of your comfort zone will help you tremendously in the future when you are presented with a difficult task or situations.

Internships equip students with more than just technical skills: When working as a professional for an organization, business and technical knowledge are not the only things that the industry demands. People skills are a *sine qua non* – because no matter how good you are, you won't stand a chance of succeeding in any profession unless you develop collaborative work ethics and learn to be a team player.

On top of that, you need to know how to work under pressure, and why deadlines matter. An internship gives a young adult exposure to the challenges of a work environment and having experience of these situations will be useful to talk about in future interviews and show employers that you will be a good fit for their company.

Internships allow you to gain a competitive edge: Everyone knows that the job market is competitive, especially in the current global climate. There may be hundreds of other candidates applying for the same role as you. As a result, you need a way to help give you a competitive edge and make your stand out. Internships can provide you with experience and the skills to help make employers notice you. It also shows that you are someone who has the drive and passion and has been motivated to acquire experience outside of just University.

What do the stats say? Studies reveal that graduates who complete more than three internships are more likely to secure a full-time job, and was associated with higher salaries, for both middle and working-class students.

The worst thing you can do now is to do nothing and expect something to happen.

Thank you for your constructive interest in CIPESS FUAM



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, FICCON, FCSN
Center Leader & Director, Center for
Innovation in Procurement Environmental
and Social Standards (CIPESS)

MANAGEMENT TEAM



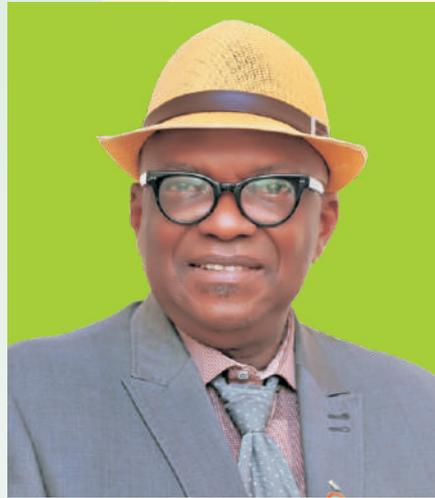
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DEPUTY CENTER LEADER
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Table of Contents

Headline	Page
* From the Center Leader & Director's Desk	2
* Management Team	3
* Let's Stop Passing the Buck: Center Leader Urges CIPESS Track B Graduands	4
* CIPESS Graduates First Sets of Trainees in Kogi State	5
* Our Story in Pictures	6-8
* CIPESS is Doing Well: Professor Nnamonu	9
* CIPESS Advanced Certificate Courses: 140 Participants Graduated in Makurdi	10
* Call for Applications into Bachelor of Science Degree Programmes	11

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LET'S STOP PASSING THE BUCK

CENTER LEADER URGES CIPESS TRACK B GRADUANDS

Graduands of the Advanced Certificate Course (Track B) at the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi (JOSTUM) have been urged not to delegate responsibilities on issues that will improve the society but to be the change they seek.



Center Leader and Director, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu Delivering a Goodwill Message During CIPESS Track B Graduation Event at NOUN, Abuja.

The Center Leader and Director, CIPESS, Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu made the call on Friday, December 1, 2023 during the graduation of 137 Track B participants at the National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN), Abuja.

Delivering the goodwill message at the valedictory event, the Center Leader and Director, extended congratulations to the graduands and praised their tenacity throughout the training. She encouraged the graduands to dare to be different in their various works of life. “Dare to be different-be the light of the single bulb that will brighten the place. Let's stop passing the buck. Do your own thing and brighten the corner where you are, that is the import of this training.” Prof. Nnamonu stated.

While aligning her thoughts with Helen Marshall, Vice Chancellor of Salford University, Manchester, the Center Leader further Urged the graduands to go out and be unstoppable in their efforts to improve the society.

Speaking on the theme “Drivers of Change” the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Simon A. Shomkegh charged the graduands to step into the society not merely as transformed individuals, but as catalysts for the anticipated change in their varied pursuits. “We want you to be committed to promoting best practices in solving problems in your chosen fields. We expect that you commit to the improvement

of the quality of lives of the Nigerian citizens. Professor Shomkegh asserted. We expect that integrity, patriotism and professionalism will be your core values,” he added.

Professor Shomkegh further emphasized that graduands were expected to reflect these ideals in their everyday work as Nigerians and practitioners in order to develop the nation of their dreams. He urged them to champion the cause of reducing corruption and mismanagement of public resources, believe in equality, diversity, and inclusion of every Nigerian, saying, a positive change is possible through men and women of courage with a firm belief in human dignity and prosperity.

Valedictory speeches from course representatives of Procurement Standards, Cohort 3A, Oshuporu Ebenezer, Procurement Standards Cohort 4A, Swomen Fatima, Environmental Standards James Jennifer and Social Standards, Tongov Joseph, all expressed gratitude to the CIPESS management team for the opportunity and the smooth delivery of the course.

James Jennifer praised the World Bank, National Universities Commission and Joseph Sarwan Tarka University, Makurdi for the initiative and called on her fellow graduands to continue to seek knowledge to improve the society. “As we embark on this new chapter, we must remember that our education does not end here. Learning is a lifelong journey, and the world is our classroom. We must continue to seek knowledge, embrace new experiences, and challenge ourselves to grow and evolve.” The class delegate said.



A Section of Graduands Seated During CIPESS Track B Graduation Event at NOUN, Abuja.

In a vote of thanks, the Deputy Director, Dr Christopher Eche thanked the graduands and saluted their courage of having gone through the training successfully. He urged them to put to good use all they learnt during the training for the growth of the society.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of certificates to 137 graduands in the various Standards in an atmosphere filled with excitement.

CIPRESS GRADUATES FIRST SET OF TRAINEES IN KOGI STATE

The pen of destiny writes a new chapter as the Center for innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPRESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University Makurdi graduated no fewer than 136 participants in its Standalone Certificate Course Training (Track A) at Salem University Lokoja, Kogi state.



DCL PS, Prof. S.T. Kpelai (left) Presenting Certificate of Completion to a Graduand During CIPRESS Track A Graduation Event in Kogi state.

Delivering the goodwill message at the valedictory event, the Center Leader and Director Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu, represented by the Project Management Officer Prof. Ebenezar Ekefan, congratulated the participants for their commitment and charged them to value the certificates issued to them. “The certificates you obtain from CIPRESS FUAM will add real value to your life, as you look forward to becoming change agents in the procurement, environment and social sectors in Nigeria”. He stated.

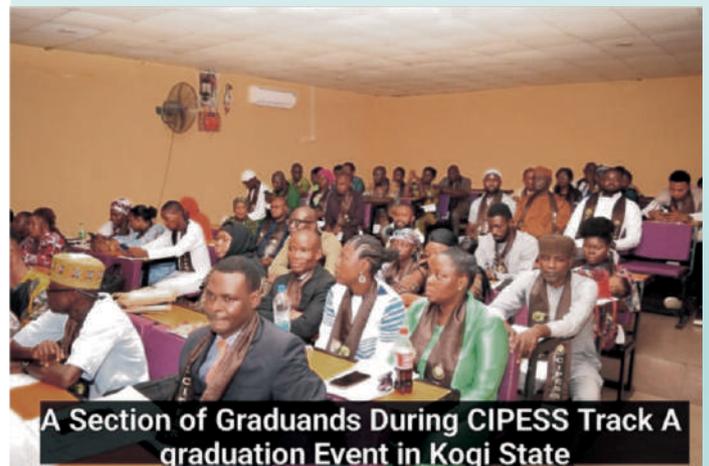
Professor Ekefan emphasized that graduates having grasped the principles and methodologies of industry best practices were now empowered to act as catalysts for change within their respective work domains. He further urged them to take on responsibilities with the commitment to apply what they have learned, contributing to the wellbeing of the nation.

Speaking on the theme “Drivers of Change” the monitoring and Evaluation Officer Prof. Simon A. Shomkegh represented by the Assistant Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Patricia Kuma urged graduates to be problem solvers and the driving force that would bring the desired change the society needs.

She emphasized the need to be committed in promoting best practices in problem-solving, enhancing the lives of citizens, fostering integrity, patriotism, and professionalism as this would contribute to reducing instances of corruption and

mismanagement of resources, provide mentorship as well as prosperity for all Nigerians.

Delivering valedictory speeches, Akubo Enemali of Procurement Standards Cohort 1, Larry O. Ibilola of Procurement Standards Cohort 2, Jibril Kasim of Environmental Standards, and Akintola Oluwaseun Joy of Social Standards in separate remarks conveyed appreciation to the World Bank, the National Universities Commission and CIPRESS management team for the opportunity and applauded the seamless delivery of the course. Akinola Oluwaseun Joy expressed confidence that they had acquired knowledge and the necessary skills to become leaders in the sustainable development scheme. She further urged her fellow graduates not to be satisfied with the knowledge acquired but to seek further knowledge to improve the society. “I endorse us all to leverage on the knowledge we have acquired from this training to improve our individual lives, organizations and build a formidable network of change agents.” She stated.



A Section of Graduands During CIPRESS Track A graduation Event in Kogi State

Expressing gratitude, Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards, Prof. S. T. Kpelai thanked the graduates and commended their endurance and sacrifices on completing the course. He urged them to be confident of what they have learnt and take bold decisions to add value in their various organizations. Professor Kpelai charged the graduates to be role models and lead by examples. “Do the right thing and let others copy from you and put in practice what you have been taught.” He said.

The focal point of the event was the presentation of certificates to 136 graduates across the different standards.

OUR STORY IN PICTURES



Center Leader and Director, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu Delivering a Goodwill Message During CIPSS Track B Graduation Event at NOUN, Abuja.



Deputy Center Leader, Social Standards, Prof. A. A. Naswem (left) Presenting Certificate to a Graduand During CIPSS Track B Graduation Event at NOUN, Abuja.



JOSTUM, DVC Admin., Prof. C. D. Tuleun (left) Presenting Certificate to a Graduand During CIPSS Track B Graduation Event at NOUN, Abuja.



Deputy Center Leader, Procurement Standards, Prof. S. T. Kpekai (right) Presenting Certificate of Participation to Prof. L. A. Nnamonu (CL&D) During CIPSS Track B Graduation Event at NOUN, Abuja.



Deputy Center Leader, Environmental standards, Prof. R. Sha'Ato Presenting Certificate to a Graduand During CIPSS Track B Graduation Event at NOUN, Abuja.



CIPSS Track B Graduands During Valedictory Event at National Open University of Nigeria (NOUN) Abuja



Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Prof. S. A. Shomkegh (left) Delivering a Lecture During CIPSS Track B Valedictory Event at NOUN, Abuja.



OUR STORY IN PICTURES



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OUR STORY IN PICTURES



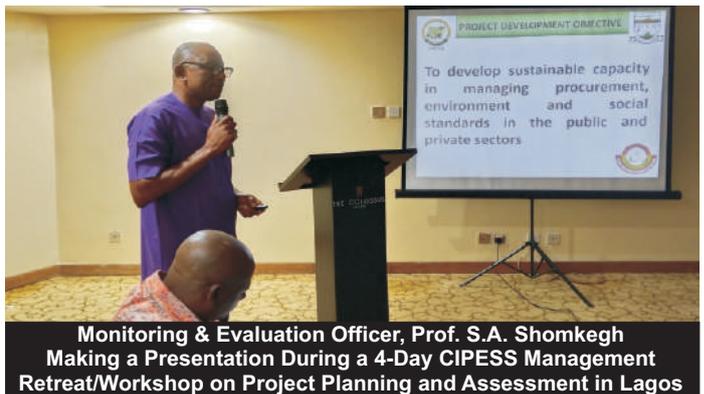
CIPESS FUAM Center Leader and Director, Prof. L. A. Nnamonu buttressing a point During SPESSE Mid-Term Review Meeting in Abuja.



CIPESS Management Staff During the 4-Day CIPESS Management Retreat/Workshop on Project Planning and Assessment in Lagos



Deputy Director, Dr. C.O. Eche making a Remark at the 4-Day CIPESS Management Retreat/Workshop on Project Planning and Assessment in Lagos as the DCL ES, Prof. R. Sha-Ato (L), CL&D, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (2ND R) & DCL PS, Prof. S.T. Kpelai © Listen



Monitoring & Evaluation Officer, Prof. S.A. Shomkegh Making a Presentation During a 4-Day CIPESS Management Retreat/Workshop on Project Planning and Assessment in Lagos



CL&D, Prof. L.A. Nnamonu (L) and other Management Staff During the 4-Day CIPESS Management Retreat/Workshop on Project Planning and Assessment in Lagos



CIPESS Procurement Officers & a Section of Bidders and Observers During a Bid opening Ceremony in CIPESS JOSTUM



CIPESS Project Staff Led by Prof. L.A. Nnamonu During SPESSE Mid-Term Review Mission in Abuja.



CIPESS IS DOING WELL: PROFESSOR NNAMONU

Centre Leader and Director, Centre for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Prof. L.A. Nnamonu, has praised the Center's achievements from inception to the present, as detailed in the Project Appraisal Document (PAD).

Professor Nnamonu revealed this recently in her office while discussing CIPESS' achievements and future objectives during an interview.

Speaking during the session, the Center Director asserted that, “on the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE)



Prof. Lami A. Nnamonu
Center Leader & Director,
(CIPESS)

project and some other World Bank projects, there are a number of tangible and verifiable milestones and results that must be achieved before money is released to the project. Until results are achieved and verified, money is not paid, and CIPESS' metrics are clearly there”. The Center Leader added.

She went on to say that the training figures were exciting because CIPESS had achieved more than a hundred percent of the five-year training target for Track A and more than 91%, 664%, and 600% in procurement, environmental, and social standards for Track B, respectively, in just 18 months of training. According to her, during the World Bank's first Independent

Third-Party Verification Exercise, CIPESS earned all Disbursement Linked Indicator (DLI) entitlements with no penalty, proving that the centre was on track.

Discussing the project's influence and contributions to the institution, The Center Leader said, the project has enhanced online teaching and learning, purchased effective software, renovated library amenities, and offered free internet access. Other initiatives include training over 280 academic and non-teaching University staff members in online engagement and grant proposal writing, as well as installing Learning Management System (LMS) capabilities in 10 classrooms for online teaching and learning. According to the Centre Leader, the Centre made additional contributions to the University by signing Memorandums of Understanding for the institution and organising information disclosure retreats for University Management, Deans, Directors, and Heads of Department to familiarise them with CIPESS' mandate and mission.

The Centre Director thanked God for His unending mercy and congratulated Prof. A.R. Kimbir, JOSTUM's immediate past vice chancellor, for his contributions both before and after the project's award. She also thanked JOSTUM's 7th substantive Vice Chancellor, Engr. Prof. I.N. Itodo, for his unwavering support, as well as the whole CIPESS team for their hard work, which has resulted in exceptional achievements at the Centre.



CIPESS ADVANCE CERTIFICATE COURSE: 140 PARTICIPANTS GRADUATED IN MAKURDI

No fewer than 140 participants enrolled for the Advanced Certificate Course programme at the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Markurdi (JOSTUM) on Friday, 3rd November, 2023 received certificates of completion after three weeks of intensive and extensive training.



DCL ES, Prof. Rufus Sha'Ato Delivering a Speech During CIPESS Track B Graduation Ceremony in Makurdi

Delivering the goodwill message at the valedictory ceremony, the Center Leader and Director, CIPESS, Professor Lami A. Nnamonu represented by the Deputy Center Leader, Environmental Standards, Professor Rufus Sha'Ato congratulated the graduands and commended their resilience which according to him yielded positive result. He further charged the graduands to pass on what they have learnt to their places of work and also live it in their various walks of life.

“We want you to be truly drivers of change so that our society will get better. Don't leave this programme as graduates and say bye-bye-but maintain a network of communication among yourselves so that you can continue to share experiences.” Prof. Sha'Ato urged graduands. Speaking on the theme “Drivers of change” the Monitoring and Evaluation Officer, Professor Simon A. Shomkegh represented by Dr. David Ekhuemelo called on the graduands to go out in the society and become not just changed individuals, but people who will drive the change that is expected in the environment, procurement and social sectors. He further urged them to be committed to promoting standard best practices in solving societal problems.

Valedictory speeches from course representatives; Kete N. Jocelyn of Procurement Standard Cohort 2M, Edmond Kanshio of Environmental Standard, Samchoso O. Ameh of Procurement Standard

Cohort 3M, and Akaangee Terfa of Social Standards, individually praised the World Bank, National Universities Commission and Joseph Sarwan Tarka University, Makurdi for the initiative and applauded CIPESS and its management for the opportunity. Kete Jocelyn on her part expressed gratitude to the Center Leader and her team for the painstaking efforts to ensure that they were well catered for in terms of welfare and knowledge impartation. “We assure you of our commitments to upholding the standards in procurement processes as we have learnt. The ethics we have been taught will speak through us and help us inspire others as change agents”, she added.

In a vote of thanks, the Vice Chancellor, JOSTUM, Engr. Professor Isaac Itodo, represented by the Deputy Vice Chancellor Administration, Professor Mrs C.D. Tuleun expressed profound gratitude to the University for giving the opportunity to impart knowledge and the enabling environment and the World Bank together with the National Universities Commission for their funding and coordination. The Vice Chancellor who thanked the participants for making time out of their tight schedules to avail themselves for the courses further urged the graduands to be change makers. “It is good to know and apply, because if you know and knows not that you know it means that you are a fool. You have known and are sent out there to cause a change, make a positive change so that others too will come and learn from what you have learnt”, she said.



DVC Admin. and APC, PS Prof. C.D. Tuleun® Presenting Certificate of short Course Completion to a Graduand during the Event

The pinnacle of the event was the award of certificates to the 140 graduands of the various standards in an atmosphere that was brimming with excitement.



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS INTO BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE PROGRAMMES

Applications are invited from qualified and interested candidates for admission into Bachelor of Science degree programmes in the fields of Procurement Standards, Environmental Standards and Social Standards at the Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS), Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi (FUAM) now Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM)

ABOUTUS

The Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards is a World Bank sponsored Center of Excellence established at the Federal University of Agriculture, Makurdi now Joseph Sarwuan Tarka University, Makurdi (JOSTUM), Benue State.

CIPESS is funded by the World Bank for a 5-year period under the Sustainable Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Enhancement (SPESSE) project.

The SPESSE project is aimed at enhancing sustainable human capacity development in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards in public and private sectors in Nigeria and the West African sub-region. This is to support good governance, increase transparency, competition, equal opportunity and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery as well as improve value for money in public expenditure. This will be done through training, professionalization and cutting-edge research in Procurement Standards, Environmental Standards and Social Standards by means of robust collaboration with regional, national and international partners leveraging on Information & Communication Technologies.

VISION

To be a dynamic regional hub for expert training and research in Procurement, Environmental and Social standards based on global best practices.

MISSION

To produce a critical mass of highly skilled and fit-for-purpose professionals in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards for sustainable development.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES AVAILABLE

The Bachelors degree programmes which cover three cardinal fields of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards have been approval by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

1. B.Sc. PROCUREMENT MANAGEMENT

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UTME

1. Candidates must score a minimum of 200 points in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).
2. At least Credit level passes in five subjects including English Language, Mathematics and Economics to form the core subjects with Credit in one other relevant science subject at the Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination.

DIRECT ENTRY

1. Advanced level credit passes in at least two relevant subjects in addition to the five O' Level credits as for UTME
2. OND and HND with a minimum of Upper Credit level are eligible for consideration for admission into 200- and 300- levels respectively in addition to meeting the O' Level requirement.

2. B.Sc. ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UTME

- Candidates must score a minimum of 200 points in the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME)
2. Five Credit passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) including English Language, Mathematics, and any other three subjects from the

following list: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Geography, Economics, Government and Agricultural Science.

DIRECT ENTRY

1. Candidates who fulfil the basic admission requirements and who have obtained G.C.E Advanced Level, HSC/IJMB or equivalent passes in Biology and Physics, or Mathematics or Physics, or Geography and any other subject noted above as well as holders of the Advanced Diploma in Environmental Standards at Credit level may be admitted at the 200 level of the programme.
2. Holders of OND and HND at minimum of Upper Credit level are eligible for consideration for admission into 200- and 300- levels respectively

3. B.Sc. SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

UTME

1. Candidates must score a minimum of 200 points in Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME)
2. Candidates must possess a minimum of five credits passes at SSCE (or its equivalent) including English Language, Mathematics, and any other three subjects from the following list: Geography, Economics, Government and Biology.

DIRECT ENTRY

1. Candidates who fulfil the basic admission requirements and who have obtained G.C.E Advanced Level passes in at least two subjects.
2. Also, to be considered are candidates with Diploma/Advanced Diploma in any of the following: Social Standards, Social Work, Social Development components and Impact Assessment components passed at upper credit level or National Certificate of Education (NCE) in Social Studies passed at 'B' level and above.

DURATION OF PROGRAMME

The B.Sc. programmes shall run for a period of four (4) academic sessions or eight (8) semesters.

HOW TO APPLY

1. Interested and qualified candidates for admission into 100-Level of study must obtain the required cut-off points through Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).
2. Candidates for Direct Entry (DE) admission into 200-Level must also follow the necessary procedures and fulfil the conditions in line with Joint Admission and Matriculation Board (JAMB) to be eligible.

DEGREE COMPLETION CRITERIAL

1. At least 70% class attendance
 2. Candidates must earn the total minimum credit units for graduation.
- Candidates must complete the mandatory internship of the programme.
3. Candidates must submit approved research project.
 4. Candidates must complete end of course evaluation forms for all courses registered.

CONTACT US

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Signed

Professor Lami A. Nnamonu, FICCON, FCSN
Center Leader & Director, Center for Innovation in Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards (CIPESS)



SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL STANDARDS ENHANCEMENT (SPESSE) PROJECT



SPESSE

MISSION

To produce a critical mass of highly skilled and fit-for purpose professionals in the areas of Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards for sustainable development.

VISION

To be a Dynamic Regional Hub for Expert Training and Research in Public Procurement, Environmental and Social Standards Based on Global Best Practices.

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