

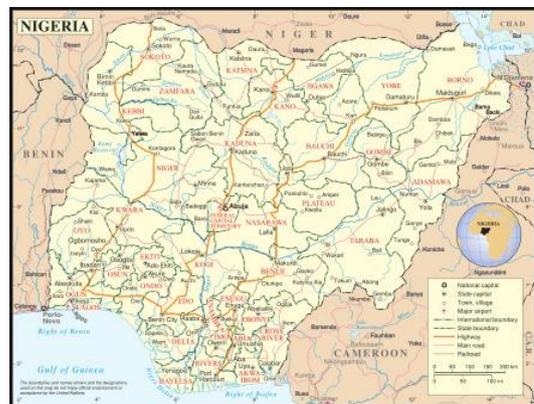
## NIGERIA: an overview

### Key facts

- ✓ Key regional player in West Africa
- ✓ Growing number of Nigerian students in Nigeria and studying abroad
- ✓ Largest population in Africa
- ✓ English official language

### General presentation

- **Official name:** Federal Republic of Nigeria
- **Population:** 203,452,505 (July 2018 est.)
- **Annual population growth:** 2,54% (2018 est.)
- **Capital:** Abuja
- **Political System:** Federal presidential republic
- **Official language:** English
- **Major languages:** Hausa, Igbo, Yoruba
- **Ethnic groups:** Nigeria is home to over 250 ethnic groups
- **Religion:** Main religions: Christianity and Islam.
- **Life expectancy:** 51.88 years (2010-2015)



A key regional player in West Africa, with a population of approximately 197 million, Nigeria accounts for about 47% of West Africa's population, and has one of the largest populations of youth in the world. A federation that consists of 36 autonomous states, Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and culturally diverse society. With an abundance of resources, it is Africa's biggest oil exporter, and also has the largest natural gas reserves on the continent.

The country has recently held national elections in 2019, for the sixth consecutive time since its return to democracy in 1999. The incumbent president, Muhammadu Buhari won the elections and would be sworn in for a second term on May 29, 2019. He has identified fighting corruption, increasing security, tackling unemployment, diversifying the economy, enhancing climate resilience, and boosting the living standards of Nigerians as main policy priorities his government seeks to continue to pursue in his second term up till 2023. Nigeria's federated structure gives significant autonomy to states.

Between 2006 and 2016, Nigeria's gross domestic product (GDP) grew at an average rate of 5.7% per year, as volatile oil prices drove growth to a high of 8% in 2006 and to a low of -1.5% in 2016. While Nigeria's economy has performed much better in recent years than it did during previous boom-bust oil-price cycles, such as in the late 1970s or mid-1980s, oil prices continue to dominate the country's growth pattern. (...)

The country continues to face massive developmental challenges, which include the need to reduce the dependency on oil and diversify the economy, address insufficient infrastructure, and build

strong and effective institutions, as well as governance issues and public financial management systems.<sup>1</sup>

## Higher education in Nigeria<sup>2</sup>

University education is provided by universities. There is a distinction between public (including federal and state universities) and private institutions (which were introduced in 1990). Both public and private institutions are accredited by the National Universities Commission (NUC).

In the past, the quality of education offered by federal universities was assumed to be better than that of state universities, due to the fact that individual states had the right to establish their own universities without the need for national accreditation. Nowadays all universities are monitored by the (federal) government, and states are no longer permitted to set up their own universities. The purpose of this measure is to create a uniform level among all universities.

Higher technical and professional education is mainly provided by specialist schools and institutions such as Polytechnics, Institutions of technology, Colleges of Education and Professional Institutions. Monotechnics provide education in the field of agriculture and industry.

The Federal Ministry of Education (FME) and the Ministry of State for Education are responsible for secondary and higher education. The National Universities Commission (NUC), founded in 1962, is responsible for accrediting institutions, granting funding, assessing the extent to which the curricula meet the requirements of the labour market, and the development of university education. Accreditation takes place every 6 years.

The universities are managed by a Council and a Senate. Within universities, institutes and boards function more or less autonomously.

In general, federal institutions rate more highly than the original state universities in the university rankings issued by the NUC. However, measures are taken to create a uniform level among all universities. Polytechnics, Colleges of Agriculture, Monotechnics, Colleges of Health Technology and Technical Colleges are accredited by the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE). The NBTE is also responsible for developing and accrediting the curriculum used for examinations run by the NABTEB.

Teacher education is supervised by the Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN). Colleges of Education and their programmes are overseen by the National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE).

## Higher education institutions

National universities Commission <i>Overview of accredited higher education institutions</i> <i>(see tab Nigerian Universities)</i>	<a href="http://nuc.edu.ng/">http://nuc.edu.ng/</a>
National Board for Technical Education <i>Accredited higher education institutions)</i>	<a href="http://www.nbte.gov.ng/institutions.html">http://www.nbte.gov.ng/institutions.html</a>

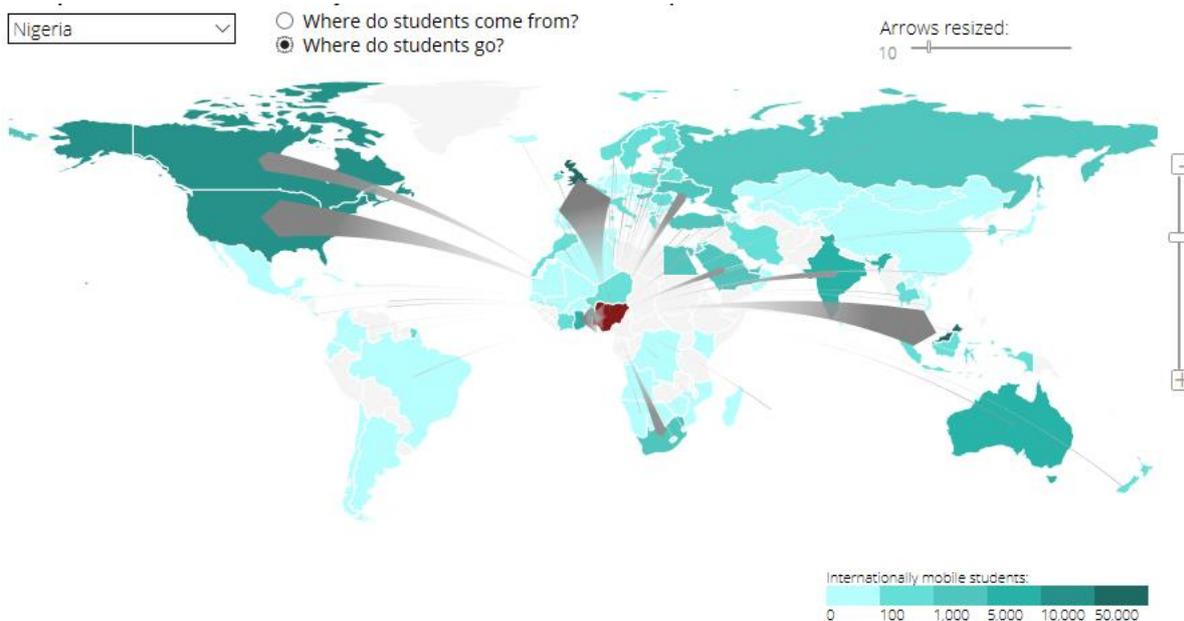
<sup>1</sup> Full tekst available at: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria/overview#1>

<sup>2</sup> Nuffic Country Module Nigeria

National Commission for College Education  
 Overview of accredited colleges of Education

<http://www.ncceonline.edu.ng/colleges.php>

### Outgoing student mobility figures<sup>3</sup>



Destination country	
United Kingdom	16,072
United States	11,167
Malaysia	11,052
Ghana	9,127
Benin	8,510
Canada	5,982
South Africa	3,077
Ukraine	3,035
India	2,086

In 2015, 89,094 Nigerian students studied abroad, which represents 1,8% of the total mobile students.

The preferred destination for Nigerian students is the United Kingdom (16,072 students), followed by the United States and Malaysia.

There are however, more than 5,000 Nigerian students in Europe mainly in Turkey, Hungary, Finland, Cyprus, Italy, Romania, France, Lithuania, Ireland, Poland, Estonia, Greece, Sweden, Netherlands and Norway.

<sup>3</sup> <http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow>

## Erasmus+ in Nigeria<sup>4</sup>

- International credit mobility**

	2017	2016
Proposals received involving Nigeria	7	9
Projects selected involving Nigeria	5	2
Students and staff moving to Europe	21	29
Students and staff moving to Nigeria	5	4
Percentage of regional budget	1,69	1,79

- Erasmus Joint Master Degree (EMJMD)**

Nigeria in EMJMD projects	2017	2016	2015	2014
Total EMJMDs selected	39	27	15	11
Total proposals received	122	92	76	61
Proposals received involving Nigeria	0	1	0	0
EMJMDs selected involving Nigeria	0	1	0	0
Full partners from Nigeria in EMJMDs	0	0	0	0
Associates from Nigeria in EMJMDs	0	1	0	0

- Capacity building for Higher Education**

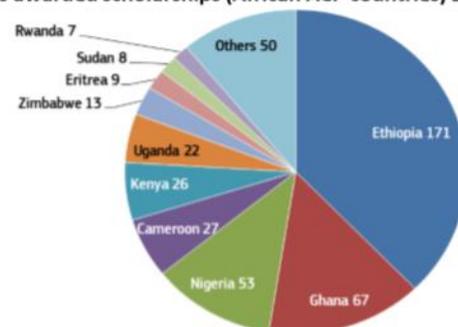
Nigeria in CBHE projects	2017	2016
Proposals received in call overall	833	736
Projects selected in call overall	149	147
Proposals received involving Nigeria	1	1
Projects selected involving Nigeria	0	0
Projects coordinated by Nigeria	0	0
Instances of participation from Nigeria in selected projects	0	0

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of countries or a single country. They can also be cross-regional, including institutions from different partner regions.

- Scholarship-winners from Nigeria**

	2017	2016	2015
<b>EM Masters scholarships Nigeria</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
from global budget	16	11	15
From additional regional budget	2	3	0
Scholarships worldwide	1556	1347	1308
EM programmes offering scholarships	100	87	120
<b>EM Doctoral fellowships (2010-17)</b>			
Fellowships for nationals of Nigeria	1	1	2
Fellowships worldwide	55	116	153
Programmes offering fellowships	8	18	29

Top 10 countries awarded scholarships (African ACP countries) 2014-2017



<sup>4</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/africa/erasmusplus\\_nigeria\\_2017.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/africa/erasmusplus_nigeria_2017.pdf)

To learn more about...

Development in Nigeria	<a href="http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ng">http://uis.unesco.org/en/country/ng</a>
	<a href="http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NGA">http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/NGA</a>
	<a href="https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria">https://www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria</a>
	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/nigeria_en">https://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/countries/nigeria_en</a>
Student mobility from Nigeria	<a href="http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow">http://uis.unesco.org/en/uis-student-flow</a>
Erasmus+ and Nigeria	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/africa/erasmusplus_nigeria_2017.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/assets/eac/erasmus-plus/factsheets/africa/erasmusplus_nigeria_2017.pdf</a>
Nuffic's Country Module Nigeria	<a href="https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/education-and-diplomas-nigeria/">https://www.nuffic.nl/en/subjects/education-and-diplomas-nigeria/</a>
Federal Ministry of Education	<a href="http://education.gov.ng/">http://education.gov.ng/</a>
National universities Commission	<a href="http://nuc.edu.ng/">http://nuc.edu.ng/</a>
National Board for Technical Education <i>Accredited higher education institutions</i> )	<a href="http://www.nbte.gov.ng/institutions.html">http://www.nbte.gov.ng/institutions.html</a>
National Commission for College Education <i>Overview of accredited colleges of Education</i>	<a href="http://www.ncceonline.edu.ng/colleges.php">http://www.ncceonline.edu.ng/colleges.php</a>
Delegation of the European Union to Nigeria and ECOWAS	<a href="https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nigeria_en">https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/nigeria_en</a>