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Igbinedion Journal of Diplomacy and Strategy is a publication of the Department of International Relations and Strategic Studies, Igbinedion University Okada. This is the third edition of the Journal, the last publication being in November 2010. This special edition which marks the 15years return of the journal publication is a free online edition. For further inquiries about the next edition and other information about this publication, please contact agba.augustine@iuokada.edu.ng

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EDITOR'S NOTE

The first issue of this Journal was published in November 2009. It was greatly accorded recognition and received as far as the United States Library of Congress. The second volume was in November 2010 and it also had some success. This is the third volume, coming out in March 2025, about 15 years after the last edition. The long absence hinged to some factors has now been overcome. We welcome this volume which is a free online edition.

This volume houses twenty-two articles which present a variety of menu of both local and international content for our readers, covering the Russia/Ukraine War, the resurgence of coups in Africa, Israeli- Palestinian Conflict, terrorism and insurgency, climate change, the social media and technology in contemporary international relations etc.

No doubt, the content of this edition is rich, and we are convinced that our public readers, members of the academia, library staff, students, security and defence expertise, diplomats etc would find this edition an inevitable companion and asset to their collections.



Signed

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Brief of the Department of International Relations & Strategic Studies

The programme B.Sc International Relations was established within the College of Arts and Social Sciences on September 1, 2001 with only two students admitted via Direct Entry in the 2001/2002 academic session. It graduated its first batch of students in the 2003/2004 session. The programme got its full accreditation status in 2011, and has remained fully accredited until 2022 when she got interim. The department was successful in its NUC Resource verification for approval for its Masters of Science (MSc) programme in 2015 and Doctorate (PhD) programme in 2019.

Over the years, the BSc programme has produced a number of graduates of high quality who have competed favourably with their colleagues all over the world in securing high profile jobs and also gaining admission into postgraduate programmes of highly reputed universities. For instance, Idowu Ajiri (2005 set), works with the United Nations Office in Ghana; Ebele Ezeife (2006 set) works with Zenith Bank Plc, Nigeria. Also, Onyinye Chijioke (2010 set) obtained Master's degree in International Relations of the University of Dundee, Scotland, while Isabella Ogieakhie (2012 set) obtained Master's in International Relations of the University of Manitoba, Canada. Amy Ikpitah (2016 set) got a job as Consular Administrator of the Embassy of Hungary, Abuja, Nigeria, and in 2021 upon going for her Masters Degree in Hungary, secured a job at the Embassy of Nigeria Budapest as a Front Desk Agent, Immigration Desk. Jennifer Ezenwabasili (2016 set) was in 2021 appointed as Consular Assistant at the Embassy of Hungary, Abuja. Jennifer Confidence (2017 set) graduated as not only the best student in the department and college, but the overall best in the university. She has completed her masters at the University of Glasgow on Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies and is currently the 'Coordinator for the Center for African-American Studies (CAARS)-African Universities/Tertiary Institutions Linkages'. Also Jeremy Onyeka of the same 2017 set works with Zenith Bank Abuja. Francis Okparaocha (2018 set) is also doing well after graduation. He graduated with a First Class Degree and has completed his Masters Degree (M.A) in International Security at Oxford Brookes University. Jumoke Adeoba (2020 set) like Jennifer Confidence in 2017, was the best overall best graduating student in the department, the college, and the entire university. She has worked at the ECOWAS headquarters in Abuja for two years and has begun her Masters at University of Reading, UK. Catherine Isaac (2021 set), a First Class graduate, was the best graduating student of the programme and in the College of Arts And Social Sciences. Precious Chukwuemeka Asor (2021 set) also graduated with First Class Honours, and is currently doing her Masters Degree at Keele Univeristy, United Kingdom, where she was recently certified with 'Commendation at the Student of the Year 2022' Award. These are just a few out of a number of our products thriving after graduation. There are also a number of our past and current students who have engaged in summer internship at embassies or other institutions where needed. For instance, Amy Ikpitah, now a graduate was an intern in the summer of 2015 at the ECOWAS mission in Abuja, alongside Francis Okparaocha (2018 set). Also, Jennifer Ezenwabasili, Uche Obuagu, Ewomazino Mercy all had their internships at the Sierra Leonean Embassy in Abuja in 2015. In the same 2015, Peculiar Osemwengie was also enrolled for internship at the Nigerian Television Authority where she was given the responsibility of assisting in analyzing 'Global Tit-Bits'. Our students have continued to be interns since 2015 to date at some embassies and institutions. In 2018, Jumoke Adeoba then in her 200 level did her embassy internship at ECOWAS Mission Abuja. In 2021, Nancy Nwachukwu (2022 set), Chiamaka Ezedimbu and Pure Esumei both currently in their final year did their internships at the Sierra Leonean Embassy in Abuja during the three month summer holiday. In 2022, Chiamaka Ezedimbu and Pure Esumei, and also Precious Babayemi did their internships at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Abuja and Lagos respectively during the three-month summer holiday. In 2023, Bah Abubakar, a 100 Level student did his internship at Sierra Leonean High Commission, Abuja. In the summer of 2024, Bliss Celesting (300Level), Mercy Abibu (200Level), Osifo Loyalty (200Level), Salami Abibat (200Level), Sonia Onanefe (200Level), and Chiwendu Onyishi (100Level) all did their internship at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA), Lagos. Also in 2024, Ikechukwu Chelsea and Rejoice Chukwuemeka-Asor had their summer internship at the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMFAC) in Abuja. Favour Akinade and Gideon Usifo had theirs at the ECOWAS Headquarters Commission in Abuja.

The programme, since inception, has been privileged to have on its faculty top-rate academics. In this connection, the roll call includes Prof, Eghosa Osaghae (current DG of NIIA), a world-renowned scholar of Comparative Politics, who has, over the years, taught introductory courses to our freshmen; Prof O.B.C. Nwolise, a versatile scholar of Strategic Studies, whose stint as Head of Department (2008-2009), and till date our Visiting Professor, expanded the Strategic Studies content of our curriculums. Prof Fred Aja Agwu, a prolific researcher on International Law and International Economic Relations at the Nigeria Institute of International Affairs, whose inputs as our External Examiner has been invaluable; and most recently, our teleconference professor, Dr. Jami Leibowitz of East Carolina University, USA, whose teaching of the recondite course "Global Understanding" to select students alongside American students on the other side of the teleconference divide, has opened a new vista of opportunities to our departments in the world of globalized classroom. Mention should also be made of the current Head of Department, Prof. Femi Olufunmilade, a specialist in Conflict Studies and International Economic Relations, whose vast connections with the Diplomatic Corps in Nigeria as Publisher of Diplomatic Digest has not only infused the teaching of courses on diplomacy with real-life authority but has rebounded to benefits such as resource support and Embassy Internship opportunities to students in the Department.

Diplomacy as a core aspect of our studies has been given prime attention with not only the embassy internships we organize for a handful of our students, but also our bi-annual Global Understanding Exchange Programme with our Global Partners in Education that involves several other universities across the world also helps students to build a culture of appreciating other peoples' values and beliefs which is essential for good diplomacy. Also, as recently as January 2022 our students participated in a certified course on Diplomatic Practice organized by the Model United Nations Academy in conjunction with the Initiative Hub for African Development where the participants were awarded with certificates in Diplomatic Practice. Photocopies of certificates given can be seen in the department.

Field trips have also long been incorporated into the Department as a platform for expanding our students training and knowledge in the practice of diplomacy, international relations, and strategic studies. As recently as 2019, the department visited Ghana and was on an excursion at the Nigerian High Commission in Accra. Covid 19 outbreak and the post Covid effects hampered plans for a visit to the headquarters of the African Union in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. That notwithstanding, the history of department cannot be finished without highlighting a number of the Department's study trips both locally and internationally over the time. For instance, in 2008, the department had engaged in a field trip to the ECOWAS commission and the National Defence College all in Abuja led by Prof OBC Nwolise. In 2012, Dr. Femi Olufunmilade (now Professor) led students on a tour of Ghana where they visited the Kwame Nkrumah Meseum. In 2017, the department undertook a major study trip to the United States in East Carolina University to participate in the Global Understanding conference organized by the Global Partners in Education with the team led again by Dr. Femi Olufunmilade. In 2018, the department undertook a study trip to Europe (France and Netherlands) at the invitation of the Global Partners in Education to participate in the Global Understanding conference in France organized with the team led once again by Dr. Femi Olufunmilade. In 2019, the department visited Accra in Ghana for a second time after 2012, and visited the Nigerian High Commission, and also toured other sites including the Kwame Nkrumah Museum in Accra, led by Dr. Roosevelt Idehen and Mr Onybuchu Ugwu. In July 2024, the Department undertook a Study Trip to Abuja, visiting some institutions and embassies. The Department visited the Indian and South African High Commissions on the 11th of July 2024 where lectures were given to the Department's visiting team on Nigeria-India Relations and Nigeria-South African Relations respectively. A day earlier, the department paid a visit to the China's Cultural Center in Abuja where they were treated to a lecture on Nigeria-China Relations and China's rich cultural history. The department that same day equally visited the Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission (RMAFC) in Abuja where the Directors at the Commission delivered a lecture to the students on how nations create wealth and become powerful. About twenty students embarked on the journey and team was led by Dr. Emeka Agba and Prof Madu Magnus (on Sabbatical).

And in July 2025, the Department led by Dr. Emeka Agba would be visiting the United Nations House (Headquarters) in Abuja. Other places for visit in Abuja include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigerian Customs Service Headquarters, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission Headquarters, Nigerian Army Resource Center, and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution between the period of July 6-11, 2025.