

THE FUTURE IS HERE



**Convocation Address of the Vice Chancellor
Professor Wahab Olasupo EGBEWOLE, SAN
On the occasion of 37th and 38th Convocation
Ceremonies on *Saturday, October 21, 2023 (Day II)***

It is indeed my great pleasure to welcome you all to Day Two of the 37th and 38th Convocation Ceremonies.

Today marks yet another momentous occasion in the life of the University of Ilorin as we gather to celebrate our Convocation. This event is a culmination of years of industry, hard work, dedication, and unrelenting commitment to the pursuit of knowledge. You have burnt candles at both ends and we are happy for your parents who have laboured to see you to this day. We have all come together to honour the achievements of our graduating students and to look forward to the promise of a brighter future.

First and foremost, I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation to the Visitor of the University, President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, GCFR and the Honorable Minister of Education, Professor Tahir Maman, SAN. I appreciate our Chancellor, the Emir of Katsina, His Royal Highness, Alhaji (Dr) Abdulmumini Kabir Usman, CFR. Special appreciation goes to the Governor of Kwara State, Mallam Abdulrahman Abdulrasaq; and the Emir of Ilorin, HRH Alhaji (Dr) Ibrahim Sulu Gambari, CFR; other Royal Highnesses; and my Lords-Spiritual and temporal – for being supportive at all times.

My appreciation also goes to Vice-Chancellors from other Universities across the nation and our eminent guests and personalities who have found time to felicitate

with us on this joyous occasion. I must not fail to recognize the Ag. Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission, Mr. Chris Mayaiki, the Registrar and Chief Executive of the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), Prof. Ishaq Oloyede and Executive Secretary of TETFund, Arc. Sonny Echono.

Let me also extend my heartfelt congratulations to the graduating class of 2021/2022 who are being sent to the world today. You have demonstrated exceptional resilience, determination, and intellectual fortitude throughout your academic journey here at our esteemed institution. Your achievements today are a testament to your unwavering dedication to the pursuit of knowledge. As you stand on the threshold of a new beginning in your lives, I want you to know that the University of Ilorin is immensely proud of each and every one of you.

I must also express my deepest gratitude to our dedicated members of staff who have imparted knowledge and guided our students with passion and commitment in spite of the challenges. Your role in shaping the minds and futures of our graduates cannot be overstated. You have demonstrated uncommon dedication to your work and have consistently championed positive values in our students. You are the pillars of this institution, and we are profoundly grateful for your tireless efforts.

Our Convocation is further enriched by the presence of our esteemed guest of honor, Professor Toyin Falola from the University of Texas. Professor Falola is a luminary

in the field of African studies, and his work has had a profound impact on the society. His lecture was as illuminating as enriching. He emphasised the essence of value over modernity and modernization. I appeal to you to take time to reflect on the lecture and use it to chart your way into the future. That **FUTURE IS HERE** because the **END IS BETTER**.

Today's Convocation is a reflection of the values and principles that underpin the University of Ilorin. We are committed to fostering a culture of excellence, critical thinking, and lifelong learning. Our graduates leave these hallowed halls not only with degrees but with a strong foundation for making meaningful contributions to our society and the world at large.

As we celebrate the achievements of our graduates, let us also remember that education is a lifelong journey. The knowledge and skills you have acquired here are tools that will empower you to navigate the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The world is ever-evolving, and your ability to adapt, learn, and grow will be paramount. Your generation is driven by technology and it is the tool to rule that future that just dawned on you today.

I am proud to announce that our university has achieved remarkable milestones in terms of ranking, both nationally and internationally. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our faculty, staff, and students. In a demonstration of our

strong determination of becoming the best in Nigeria, our university has moved up the ranking ladder of leading ivory towers in Nigeria and for the 10th consecutive year, we again topped the list of most sought-after University in the country for the 2023 Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

The University continued to enjoy the support of TETFUND as an intervention fund of ₦954,732,123.00 was allocated to the University by TETFUND for year 2023 to cover eleven (11) specific areas. Equally, the University received TETFund award of Five Hundred Million (₦500,000,000.00) hostel accommodation for our students and Two Hundred Million (₦200,000,000.00) for Zonal Interventions. The University is using the funds to execute different projects.

Research and innovation are the lifeblood of our institution. The university produced 4 patents in 2021/2022 academic session and currently has a total of 36 patents with the Federal Government of Nigeria through the National Office of Technology Acquisition and Promotion (NATOP), Abuja. With this, University of Ilorin is one of the highest contributing institutions to patency in Nigeria. The number of our patents in the various disciplines are: Medical 5, Agriculture 5, Engineering 16, Food 1, Information Technology 4, Petrochemical 3, Defence 1, Energy 1. The various patents are currently being positioned for commercialization.

The remarkable achievements of our students are a source of pride for me as I recognize their outstanding talents, dedication, and hard work. The achievements of our students serve as a testament to the quality of education and opportunities that our institution provides. In the spirit of fostering an environment of learning, innovation and growth, our students have excelled in a myriad of fields, setting a standard of excellence and commendation.

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, I am proud to showcase the summary of the successful students graduating from the University of Ilorin in the 2021/2022 academic session. A total of 10,757 students will be convoking for the 38th Convocation Ceremonies. In the First Degree/Diploma category, we have 239 First Class, 3,406 Second Class (Upper Division), 4,691 Second Class (Lower Division), 961 Third Class and 21 Pass. The 38th Convocation Ceremonies also include 160 MBBS graduands, 87 Nursing graduands, 15 Optometry graduands, 35 Veterinary Medicine graduands, and 26 graduands with Distinction and 43 graduands with Pass in Pharmacy. Thus, we have 9,684 graduands in the First Degree/Diploma category. Furthermore, the total number of Higher Degrees to be awarded at the 38th Convocation Ceremonies is 1,073. Out of this figure, there are 60 Postgraduate Diplomas, 605 Masters from various Faculties, 211 Professional Master's Degrees, and 197 PhDs.

I want to use this medium to appreciate the personnel of the Registry department, particularly, the Student Affairs and Academic Support units who within a few days worked assiduously with the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) to mobilise 8,290 of the 9,684 graduands of the just concluded 2021/2022 academic session for the next batch of service. This appreciation also extends to the staff of COMSIT, Faculty Officers, Level Advisers, Course Lecturers, Heads of Departments, and Deans of Faculties who worked tirelessly to ensure the results were ready and presented to the Business Committee of the Senate (BCOS).

I must acknowledge the Chairman of the BCOS, Professor Abayomi Olubunmi Omotesho (the Deputy Vice Chancellor, Academics) for his unrelenting efforts to galvanise members of the BCOS to prepare and present the graduating class of the 2021/2022 Academic Session.

In conclusion, I want to express my sincere appreciation to all our guests, family members, and friends who have joined us to celebrate this Convocation. Your support and encouragement have played a crucial role in the success of our graduates.

To the graduands, I offer my warmest wishes for a future filled with accomplishment, fulfillment, and the pursuit of your dreams. As you step into the world beyond, remember that you carry with you the knowledge and values instilled

by this institution. Use them wisely and make us proud. Please continue to remember that your future is here and no time to waste.

Once again, congratulations, and let us celebrate this Convocation with great enthusiasm and hope for the **FUTURE THAT IS HERE.**

**SUMMARY SHEET OF FIRST DEGREE/DIPLOMA FOR 2021/2022
ACADEMIC SESSION**

	1 st Class	2 nd Class (2.1)	2 nd Class (2.2)	3 rd Class	Pass	MBBS	Nursing	DVM	D.Optomety	Pharmacy		TOTAL
										Distinction	Pass	
Agriculture	55	547	408	35								1045
Arts	7	293	570	99	1							970
Basic Medical Sciences	15	165	97	7								284
Clinical Sciences						160	87					247
Communication & Information Sciences	8	132	223	61	2							426
Education	17	713	1296	201	10							2237
Institute Of Education	3	131	110	14	1							259
Engineering & Technology	53	347	213	44	0							657
Environmental Sciences	9	111	114	19	0							253
Law	1	77	94	13	0							185
Life Sciences	25	275	436	87	4				15			842
Management Sciences	12	287	460	91	0							850
Pharmaceutical Sciences										26	43	69
Physical Sciences	31	196	341	184	2							754
Social Sciences	3	132	329	106	1							571
Veterinary Medicine								35				35
TOTAL	239	3406	4691	961	21	160	87	35	15	26	43	9684

**SUMMARY SHEET OF HIGHER DEGREES/POSTGRADUATE
DIPLOMAS FOR 2021/2022 ACADEMIC SESSION**

	MASTERS	PHD	PGDS	PROFESSIONAL MASTER'S	TOTAL
AGRICULTURE	80	13	5		98
ARTS	81	35			116
BASIC MEDICAL SCIENCES	13	7			20
BASIC CLINICAL SCIENCES	4	0			4
CLINICAL SCIENCES	9	2			11
COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION SCIENCES	2	8	16	45	71
EDUCATION	90	22	17		129
ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY	48	7			55
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES	0	0			0
LAW	26	5			31
LIFE SCIENCES	58	48			106
MANAGEMENT SCIENCES	30	5	21	104	160
PHARMACEUTICAL SCIENCES	4	0			4
PHYSICAL SCIENCES	94	34	1		129
SOCIAL SCIENCES	64	11		62	137
VETERINARY MEDICINE	2	0			2
TOTAL	605	197	60	211	1073