



JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

JAMB EQUAL OPPORTUNITY GROUP

THE REGISTRAR, PROF. IS-HAQ OLANREWaju OLOYEDE, FNAL, CON CORDIALLY INVITES ALL STAKEHOLDERS AND THE GENERAL PUBLIC TO THE FIRST (1ST) NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OF ACCESS TO HIGHER EDUCATION IN NIGERIA

The Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB), through its Equal Opportunity Group (JEOG), has been conducting the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) for blind candidates and others with disabilities such as autism and Down syndrome. The aim is to ensure that no eligible Nigerian is denied the opportunity of taking the UTME regardless of disability.

The efforts have been quite successful, as JEOG has processed about 2,500 candidates for the UTME, with over a third admitted to courses of their choice in higher education institutions in Nigeria (mainly universities). The average admission rate of 34.3% for blind candidates is higher than the national average for all candidates over the same period. The good news does not stop with the admission of the candidates reports from some universities and other tertiary institutions indicate that the admitted blind candidates compete favourably with their non-blind counterparts.

Despite these laudable achievements, a lot more needs to be done by all stakeholders. Areas requiring improvements include participation by more institutions in the admission and training of candidates with special needs; improving the learning environment for such candidates; and expanding the base of candidates serviced by JAMB through JEOG.

To address these problems and many others, JAMB plans to periodically organise National Conference on Equal Opportunity of Access to Higher Education (NCEO/AHE).

The first of such conferences is scheduled to hold between **Monday, 25th and Tuesday, 26th September, 2023 at Ladi Kwali Hall, Abuja Continental Hotel, Abuja, FCT (formerly Sheraton Abuja Hotel)**. The theme of this first conference is **Towards Increasing Equal Opportunity of Access to Higher Education in Nigeria**. Its aim is to improve access to higher education for persons with special needs and to improve the learning environment in tertiary institutions for such persons. The objectives of this pioneer national conference include the following:

- To undertake situation analysis of opportunities and access to higher education of persons with special needs especially the blind, albinos, persons with autism, Down syndrome and physically challenged and others in correctional centres;
- To discuss the challenges facing candidates with special needs in gaining admission into Nigerian tertiary institutions and share experiences on modalities of admission and retention of persons with disabilities;
- To discuss the challenges confronting students with special needs in the Nigerian higher education system and propose sustainable solutions to increased access of students with special needs to quality higher education; and
- To propose changes that can be made to national policies that will address inequities in opportunities and equal access to higher education especially by the blind, albinos, persons with autism, Down syndrome the physically challenged and others in correctional centres.

The Strategic Roadmap for Inclusive Access to Quality Higher Education in Nigeria (2024 – 2028) will be unveiled during the Conference

Expected participants who are to indicate their interest by registering through the link <https://jeog.ng/> are the stakeholders in the education of persons with disabilities which are but not limited to the following:

- Heads of Tertiary Institutions
- Heads of Examination Bodies – WAEC, NECO, NABTEB,
- NBAIS State Commissioners of Education
- Heads of Schools of Persons with Disabilities
- Deans of Faculties of Education and Heads of Departments of Special Education
- Leaders and members of Associations of Persons with Disabilities
- The General Public

Registration for the conference is free. Participants are, however, responsible for other associated costs, including transportation and accommodation.

Announcer

Prof. Muhammad Yahuza Bello
Chairman, Conference Planning Committee