

AIG SCHOLARSHIPS 2023



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Notes From The Executive Vice-Chair

I welcome you to this special edition of our newsletter, which focuses on the AIG Scholarships.

The AIG Scholarships were born from a vision to empower Nigerian public servants with the skills, knowledge, and networks they need to drive impactful reforms in their organisations. Since we awarded our first scholarship in 2016, our commitment to building the capacity of the public sector workforce has remained unwavering. To date, we have awarded 32 scholarships worth £2.5m to potential future public sector leaders, to undertake a Masters of Public Policy degree at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford.

AIG scholars embark on a transformative journey in Oxford, where they engage with a world-class academic faculty, collaborate with expert practitioners, and build connections with other public sector leaders from around the globe. The knowledge gained during their time at Oxford equips them with the skills they need to tackle complex policy challenges, lead reform initiatives, and bring about sustainable development in our nation.

The application process for the 2024/2025 AIG Scholarships is currently ongoing. I encourage all eligible Nigerian public servants who share our vision for a transformed public sector to take advantage of this unique opportunity and apply for the scholarships.

Fovwe Aig-Imoukhuede
Executive Vice-Chair

About The AIG Scholarships

The AIG Scholarships were launched in 2016 to provide a unique opportunity for public servants to pursue a Master of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. AIG Scholars spend the year gaining knowledge from outstanding academic faculty and interacting with other future public sector leaders worldwide. After completing their degrees, scholars return to public service and use their learnings to bolster policymaking, support reforms and contribute to the nation's development.

Programme Details

- **Financial Support:** Funding is provided for tuition, living expenses, and a stipend for a summer project.
- **Coaching and Mentoring:** Extensive coaching and mentoring is offered to help scholars navigate their time at Oxford and make the most of the experience.
- **Career Development:** AIG Scholars receive full support to map out their career development paths and access opportunities that are aligned with their areas of interest, leveraging the knowledge gained at Oxford.

AIG Scholars will embark on summer placements to gain additional knowledge and experience in their areas of interest and build global networks.

2024/2025 AIG Scholarships Schedule

- **Monday, 31 July 2023**-Application window opens
- **Friday, 15 September 2023**- Application window closes
- **Saturday, 23 September 2023**- Invitations issued for Computer-Based Tests
- **Thursday 5 – Thursday 12 October 2023**- Essay Submissions
- **Wednesday 25 – Monday 30 October 2023**- Video Interviews
- **December 2023**- Final Selection

Eligibility Criteria

- Nigerian nationality currently working in the public sector (Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Parastatals) at either Federal or State levels.
- Aged between 25 and 45 years.
- Have at least seven (7) years (combined private and public sector) work experience.
- Have a bachelor's degree with a minimum of second-class upper qualification.

Programme Outcomes

1. **Enhanced Policy Expertise:** Graduates of the AIG Scholarships programme will acquire advanced knowledge and skills in public policy through their Master of Public Policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. They will develop a deep understanding of policy analysis, formulation, and implementation, enabling them to contribute effectively to evidence-based policymaking in the public sector.
2. **Capacity for Reform:** Armed with comprehensive knowledge gained during their time at Oxford, AIG Scholars will possess the capacity to spearhead reforms and innovative initiatives within their respective ministries, agencies and departments. They will be equipped with the knowledge they need to navigate complex policy challenges and drive sustainable development in their nation.
3. **Knowledge Transfer:** Upon completion of their Master's degrees, AIG Scholars will return to their public service positions, bringing the latest insights, best practices, and academic rigour gained from their time at Oxford. They will contribute to strengthening the quality of policymaking, using evidence-backed approaches and a global perspective.
4. **Network Building:** Through summer placements and interactions with other scholars, AIG Scholars will establish a robust professional network comprising fellow scholars, academics, and practitioners worldwide. This network will provide ongoing opportunities for collaboration, idea exchange, and peer learning.

What Our Alumni Are Saying

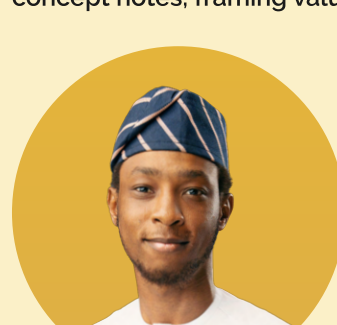
Folashade Osho
2020 AIG Scholar

Folashade Osho is the Chief Regulatory Officer/Quality Assurance Officer- Laboratory Services Directorate, National Agency for Food and Drug Administration and Control (NAFDAC), Nigeria.



Folashade says that her Master's in Public Policy degree (MPP) allowed her to gain the skills and capacity to use multi-disciplinary and global perspectives to tackle Nigeria's public policy challenges.

"Interacting with world-class academics, policy experts, a diverse cohort and robust multidisciplinary course content broadened my perspective and allowed me to embrace global, historical and multidisciplinary perspectives when considering available options to address Nigeria's policy problems. The knowledge I gained from the effective use of evidence in policymaking, managing public sector organisations, and interest groups' politics has proved extremely valuable in my work as a member of the TWG for implementing pharmaceutical traceability in Nigeria. Notably in planning stakeholder sensitisation programs, preparing concept notes, framing value and securing stakeholder buy-in for the project."



Hakeem Onasanya
2020 AIG Scholar

Hakeem Onasanya is the Head, Startups, (Lagos Innovates) at the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF).

Hakeem applied for the AIG Scholarship to undertake a Master's in Public Policy degree (MPP) because of his passion for public service and desire to positively impact his country and give back. He says that his time at Oxford was life-changing.

"My experience at the Blavatnik School of Government was a once-in-a-lifetime, life-changing opportunity. I gained practical knowledge from academics and renowned public policy leaders on the nuances of public service. Most importantly, I learned the importance of focusing on the impact my work will have. When you work in public service, you have a duty to serve the people; you are not doing them a favour. So, I approach my work with that mindset. I also carry out constant impact evaluations to assess how the beneficiaries of any project I am engaged in are faring and if it is solving the identified problem. Finally, I ensure that I obtain sufficient data so that the assessment of the results of our interventions is backed by evidence."

LinkedIn Q&A Session



As part of our commitment to providing valuable resources and guided to aspiring AIG Scholars, we are thrilled to announce an upcoming LinkedIn Q&A session featuring some of our alumni.

Our alumni represent a diverse range of sectors within the public service and have utilised the AIG Scholarships to enhance their expertise and contribute meaningfully to their fields.



They will share their experiences, discuss the application process, eligibility criteria, programme outcomes, and more.

To participate in the LinkedIn Q&A session, follow our LinkedIn page ([Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation](https://www.linkedin.com/company/aig-imoukhuede-foundation/)) to receive notifications and updates about the event. During the session, you'll have the chance to ask questions in real-time and receive personalised responses from them.

HOW TO APPLY

For more information on the 2024/2025 AIG Scholarships Programme, please visit <https://www.aigimoukhuedefoundation.org/scholarships>.