

NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY NAME CHANGES...

Nigeria's university system began in 1948 with the establishment of the University College, Ibadan, patterned after the British system. Although the National Universities Commission (N.U.C.) was founded in 1962 to plan, coordinate and ensure balanced growth of universities in the country, the Nigerian Civil War (1967-70) prevented implementation of plans. From the 1970s, the N.U.C. rapidly founded many new universities in response to public demand.

In the early 1980s both the federal government and the states vied in establishing even more universities. For example, seven new Federal Universities of Technology (FUT) were set up during this period to support the scientific and technical advancement of the country, thought to have a secure economic future based on its oil resources. Plans also were made to set up a National Open University.

All this expansion proved to be a case of too much too soon for the country's economy. A period of consolidation and coordination followed. In 1984 the government passed a decree abolishing and prohibiting private universities, and allowing only three of its new FUTs to remain. (In 1988, in response to public pressure, full university status was restored to those FUTs which had merged with conventional universities; two of the reinstated FUTs are now Universities of Agriculture at Abeokuta and Makurdi, and the other two were reborn as the new University of Abuja.) For those who are trying to keep pace with these rapid changes, here is a complete list to date of Nigeria's 30 universities (excepting one military institution) as compiled by the *Commonwealth Universities Yearbook 1989*.*

Abubakar Tafewa Balewa University of Technology: previously established as Federal University of Technology, Bauchi (1980). In 1984 it was merged with the Ahmadu Bello University as Babakar Tafewa Balewa College. In 1989 it received its present status and name.

University of Abuja, founded in 1988.

University of Agriculture, Abeokuta, founded in 1988. Formerly it was known as the College of Science and Technology, University of Lagos.

University of Agriculture, Makurdi, founded in 1988. It was formerly a Federal University of Technology, Makurdi (1981), which was merged with the University of Jos in 1984, and then given full university status in 1988 under its present name.

Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria, founded in 1962.

Anambra State University of Technology, founded in 1980. Includes the campuses of Abakaliki, Awka, Enugu, and Nnewi.

Bayero University, Kano, founded in 1977. Previously established as Ahmadu Bello College (1960), and renamed Abdullahi Bayero College (1962).

Bendel State University, Ekpoma, founded in 1981. Includes the campus of Abraka, named in 1985 and formerly the College of Education, Abraka.

University of Benin, founded in 1970 as

the Institute of Technology, Benin City. Received current name in 1972.

University of Calabar, founded in 1975.

University of Cross River State, Yuo, founded in 1983. Has a second campus at Ikat Osorua in Ikat Ekpene.

Federal University of Technology, Akure, founded in 1981.

Federal University of Technology, Minna, founded in 1983.

Federal University of Technology, Owerri, founded in 1980.

Federal University of Technology, Yola, founded in 1981. In 1984 it became the Modibbo Adama College of the University of Maiduguri. In 1988 it regained full university status under the present name.

University of Ibadan, founded in 1962. Previously established as University College, Ibadan, in 1948.

University of Ilorin, founded in 1977. Previously established as University College in 1975.

Imo State University, Okigwe, founded in 1981.

University of Jos, founded in 1975. Previously established as the University of Ibadan, Jos Campus, in 1971. The Federal University of Makurdi was merged with the University of Jos in 1984 as the Makurdi Campus, but regained full university status as the University of Agriculture, Makurdi, in 1988.

University of Lagos, founded in 1962.

Lagos State University, founded in 1983.

University of Maiduguri, founded in 1975.

From 1984-1988 the Federal University of Technology, Yolo, was merged with the University of Maiduguri, and called the Modibbo Adama College.

University of Nigeria, founded in 1960. There are campuses at Nsukka and Enugu. **Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife,** founded in 1961 as the University of Ife, and renamed in 1987.

Ogun State University, Ago-Iwoye, founded in 1982.

Ondo State University, Ado-Ekiti, founded in 1982 as the **Obafemi Awolowo University;** renamed in 1985. **University of Port Harcourt,** founded in 1975 as University College, Port Harcourt. Became autonomous in 1977.

Rivers State University of Science and Technology, Port Harcourt, given university status in 1980; formerly known as the College of Science and Technology.

Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto, founded in 1975 as the University of Sokoto; renamed in 1988.

*The *Commonwealth Universities Yearbook 1989* (4 volumes) is available for \$199 from Stockton Press, 15 E. 26th St., New York, NY 10010. S&H free if payment is by check, and added to invoices sent in response to purchase orders.