



NATIONAL BOARD FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

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TEB/INSP/C.36/Vol.1/77

14th August, 2026

TO: All Rectors, Provosts and Heads of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL CAMPUSES BY TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA (2026)

The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) wishes to inform all Rectors, Provosts and Heads of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Institutions of the approval by the Federal Government of the **National Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Additional Campuses by Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria (2026)** for immediate implementation.

2. The Guidelines, issued by the Federal Ministry of Education, provide a uniform regulatory framework for the establishment, approval, operation, monitoring and evaluation of Additional Campuses of tertiary institutions in Nigeria. Compliance with the Guidelines is **mandatory for all Polytechnics** and other institutions within the scope of the respective regulatory agencies.
3. The Board wishes to emphasize that the Guidelines supersede the previous Guidelines on the subject and are intended to address the proliferation of unauthorized and unregulated campuses, which poses significant risks to academic quality, institutional credibility and the sustainability of the tertiary education system.

Establishment of Additional Campuses

4. Henceforth, no Polytechnic shall establish or commence the operation of an Additional Campus without prior approval of the National Board for Technical Education (NBTE). A proposal for the establishment and operation of an Additional Campus must first be endorsed by the institution's appropriate academic approving authority and Governing Council before submission to the Board for consideration.
5. Approval granted to operate an academic programme, department, school, faculty or other academic unit **shall not be construed as approval to establish an Additional Campus**. Approval for an Additional Campus shall only be granted by the Board following a satisfactory assessment in accordance with the National Guidelines.

6. For emphasis, only duly approved Polytechnics are eligible to apply for the establishment of an Additional Campus. Institutions under sanction or probation are not eligible to apply.
7. In addition, the proposed Additional Campus:
 - shall be located within the same State as the main campus;
 - shall not be more than **200 kilometres** from the main campus;
 - shall not result in the institution having more than **three campuses in total**, including the main campus; and
 - shall have evidence of land ownership in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements and an approved physical development plan.

Infrastructure and Resource Requirements

8. Every proposed Additional Campus shall operate from **purpose-built and permanently designated facilities** suitable for tertiary education and shall not operate from rented or shared facilities.
9. Each Additional Campus shall independently provide, as applicable, adequate lecture rooms and tutorial facilities, functional laboratories, studios, farms or workshops, a standard library with current physical and electronic resources, adequate ICT infrastructure and internet connectivity, administrative offices, student support facilities, safety and accessibility provisions, perimeter fencing and security, stable electricity and potable water supply, as well as appropriate road access and landscaping.

Academic, Administrative and Staffing Requirements

10. Only programmes approved by NBTE shall be offered at an Additional Campus. The academic standards maintained at the Additional Campus shall be identical to those of the main campus, while programmes already domiciled at the main campus shall **not be replicated** at the Additional Campus.
11. All programmes offered shall fully comply with the applicable NBTE Minimum Standards. Professional and laboratory-based programmes shall only be offered where the requisite facilities, equipment and qualified personnel are available.
12. The administrative head of an Additional Campus of a Polytechnic shall not be below the rank of **Chief Lecturer**. In addition, the campus shall maintain an adequate complement of qualified full-time academic, technical and administrative staff. Reliance on adjunct, visiting or part-time lecturers shall not substitute for the required number of full-time staff. Appropriate staff-student ratios shall also be maintained.

Admission and Student Matters

13. Student admission into programmes operated at an approved Additional Campus shall comply with Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) procedures and the institution's approved regulations. Enrolment shall not exceed the approved carrying capacity, and admission quotas shall reflect the available facilities and staffing.

Existing Satellite Campuses and Unapproved Study Centres

14. The Board further wishes to clarify the status of existing Satellite Campuses and unapproved Study Centres in light of the new National Guidelines.
15. The Guidelines expressly direct all tertiary institutions operating Satellite Campuses or unapproved Study Centres to **wind down their operations and transition them back to their officially approved Main Campuses on or before September 2027**. This position is consistent with the Federal Executive Council decision previously communicated by the Board regarding the closure of Satellite Campuses and Outreach Centres.
16. Accordingly, the disclosure of an existing Satellite Campus or unapproved Study Centre to NBTE does **not constitute approval or recognition** of such a centre, nor does it confer automatic eligibility to continue its operation.
17. Institutions that wish to establish an Additional Campus in any location currently being used as a Satellite Campus, Study Centre or Outreach Centre may submit a fresh application to NBTE for consideration **strictly in accordance with the National Guidelines**. Such application shall be subjected to the prescribed regulatory assessment and shall not be construed as an automatic conversion or regularization of the existing centre.
18. The Board will, where appropriate, provide guidance to affected institutions on the orderly transition of students and academic activities from unapproved centres to the Main Campus or, where eligible, on the procedure for applying for approval of an Additional Campus.

Regulatory Inspection and Approval

19. The NBTE shall conduct an **on-site verification/resource inspection** of every proposed Additional Campus before approval for commencement of operation is granted. The Board shall also conduct periodic programme audits and monitoring visits to ensure continued compliance with the Guidelines and applicable NBTE standards.
20. No institution shall advertise, admit students into, commence academic activities at, or otherwise represent any location as an approved Additional Campus until the requisite approval has been formally granted by the appropriate authority.

Compliance and Sanctions

21. Institutions are hereby advised to ensure strict compliance with the National Guidelines. The operation of an unapproved Additional Campus, Satellite Campus or Study Centre shall constitute a regulatory violation and may attract appropriate sanctions.
22. The Guidelines provide, among other sanctions, that graduates from unapproved Additional Campuses shall not be mobilized for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme and certificates obtained from unapproved Additional Campuses shall not be recognized for further studies, employment, promotion, career advancement or other purposes. Defaulting institutions may also be subjected to regulatory sanctions, including denial of resource verification/assessment for the establishment of new programmes.
23. All Rectors, Provosts and Heads of TVET Institutions are therefore directed to familiarize themselves with the attached **National Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Additional Campuses by Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria (2026)** and ensure full compliance with its provisions.
24. For the avoidance of doubt, the National Guidelines constitute the operative framework for all future applications for Additional Campuses, while existing Satellite Campuses and unapproved Study Centres shall be dealt with in accordance with the prescribed transition and wind-down provisions.
25. This circular is issued for **immediate compliance and implementation**.

Please accept the assurances of the Executive Secretary's highest regards.



Murtala Aliyu Sakwa, PhD
Director, Inspectorate Department
FOR: EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Enclosure:

National Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Additional Campuses by Tertiary Institutions in Nigeria (2026).



FEDERAL MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

NATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF ADDITIONAL CAMPUSES BY TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS IN NIGERIA (2026)

The Federal Ministry of Education in May 2025, directed that universities, polytechnics and colleges of education in Nigeria should obtain approval from their respective regulatory agencies before establishing or operating any additional campus. The directive was in response to the increasing number of unauthorised and unregulated campuses which pose a threat to the quality, credibility and sustainability of Nigeria's tertiary education system.

These guidelines provides a framework for the approval, monitoring and evaluation of academic activities in Nigerian Tertiary Institutions to ensure compliance with approved national and international standards and the sustenance of academic quality.

The guideline also seeks to encourage Tertiary Institutions to congregate their academic, financial and human resources which are currently being diverted to off- campuses back into their main campuses to improve educational quality and infrastructure. Compliance with the guidelines is therefore mandatory for the establishment and continued operation of all additional campuses of tertiary institutions in Nigeria.

Note: Additional Campuses are approved campuses that offer courses that are not available in the main campus while Satellite Campuses are campuses that offer identical programs to those at the main campus and with limited facilities (sometimes without necessary approvals from the relevant Regulatory Bodies)

S/N	KEY COMPONENT	GUIDELINES
1.	Regulatory Approval	- Proposal to establish and operate an additional campus to the Regulatory Agencies for approval shall first be endorsed by the institution's academic approving authority and its Governing Council; and - Approval granted to run any academic unit, programme or faculty/college/school shall not be construed as approval to establish additional campus. - Establishment of additional campuses by any tertiary institution (University, Polytechnic, College of Education) shall be approved by their respective Regulatory Agencies (National Universities Commission (NUC), National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) and National Commission for Colleges of

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		Education (NCCE) only after a satisfactory assessment; iv. The Honourable Minister of Education shall issue a written Approval for the commencement of operation of additional campuses by all Federal Tertiary Institutions while the Regulatory Agencies shall issue written Approval for the commencement of operation of additional campuses by States and Private Tertiary Institutions.
2.	Eligibility Criteria for Establishment	i. Only duly approved Universities, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education shall be eligible to apply for the establishment of an additional campus(es); ii. Institutions under sanctions or probation shall not be eligible; iii. The distance between the main campus and the proposed campus shall not be more than 200 kilometers and must be within the same State where the main campus is domiciled; iv. The total number of campuses including the main campus, shall not exceed three (3); and v. There must be evidence of land ownership in line with regulatory specifications and physical development plan of the proposed campus(es).
3.	Infrastructural Requirements	i. Additional campuses shall operate from purpose-built, permanently designated facilities suitable for the provision of tertiary education services and not from rented or shared facilities. ii. Each additional campus shall possess: • Adequate lecture rooms and tutorial facilities; • Functional laboratories/studios/farms/workshops etc. for science, technology, engineering, medical, agricultural and other laboratory-based programmes; • A standard library with current physical and electronic resources; • Adequate Information and Communication Technology (ICT) infrastructure with functional internet connectivity; • Administrative offices and student support facilities; • Appropriate safety and accessibility provisions; • Perimeter fencing and adequate security provisions; • A regular and stable supply of electric power and potable water; and • A good road network with hard and soft landscaping.
4.	Academic Requirements	i. Only programmes approved by the Regulatory Agencies shall be offered at the additional campuses; ii. Academic standards shall be identical to those maintained in the main campus of the institution; iii. Programmes domiciled in the main campus shall not be replicated in the additional campus; iv. Academic programmes offered shall comply fully with the

S/N	KEY COMPONENT	GUIDELINES
		Minimum Standards as prescribed by the relevant Regulatory Agency; and v. Professional and laboratory-based programmes shall only be offered where requisite facilities, equipment, and qualified personnel are available.
5.	Administration, Governance and Staffing Requirements	i. The Administrative Head of an additional campus must NOT be below the rank of Professor or Chief Lecturer, as the case may be; ii. All additional campuses shall maintain an adequate number of qualified, full-time academic, technical and administrative staff; iii. Reliance on adjunct, visiting or part-time lecturers shall not substitute for the required number of full-time staff; iv. Staff deployment shall ensure effective teaching, supervision, assessment, student support, and quality assurance; and v. Appropriate staff-student ratios shall be maintained.
6.	Student Admission Requirements	i. Student admissions shall be conducted in accordance with the Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board (JAMB) admission procedures and institutions' regulations. ii. Enrollment shall not exceed the approved carrying capacity; and iii. Admission quotas shall reflect available facilities and staffing.
7.	Additional Campuses	i. Regulatory Agencies (NUC/NBTE/NCCE) shall: a. conduct on-site verification visits to all additional campuses before granting approval for such to start operating; b. conduct periodic programme audits and monitoring visits to ensure continued compliance; c. maintain a database of approved additional campuses; and ii. All Tertiary Institutions (Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education) shall maintain accurate records of enrolment, staffing, facilities, programme delivery and student performance at the additional campuses;
8.	Satellite Campuses	All Tertiary Institutions (Universities, Polytechnics, Colleges of Education) operating satellite campuses or unapproved study centres are hereby directed to wind them down and transition their operations back to their officially approved Main Campuses on or before September 2027. This has been approved by Federal Executive Council (FEC) in 2000, (copy attached)
9.	Sanctions	i. Graduates from unapproved additional campuses shall not be mobilised for the National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) programme; ii. Certificates obtained from unapproved additional campuses shall not be recognised for further studies, employment, promotion, career advancement or other purposes; iii. Defaulting institutions shall face regulatory sanctions including denial of resource verification/assessment for the establishment of new programmes; and iv. The Federal Ministry of Education (FME) shall recommend to the Visitor for the dissolution of the Governing Council of any

S/N	KEY COMPONENT	GUIDELINES
		defaulting Institution.