



## **2<sup>nd</sup> NigeriaLics Ph.D. Academy on Innovation and Competence Building Systems**

**University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria**

**15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> September 2026**

**Submission deadline: 15<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Concept note/Call for proposals**

### **Important Dates**

Call open	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> March 2026
Deadline for Submission of abstracts	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> May 2026
Notification of successful applicants	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> June 2026
Confirmation of participation	Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026
Deadline for submission of travel support request	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Response to applicants' request for travel support	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> July 2026
Academy Date	15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> September 2026

### **Background**

The Nigerian Network for Economics of Learning, Innovation, and Competence Building Systems (NigeriaLics) was founded to provide a platform for collaboration on innovation and development studies between researchers, policymakers, and practitioners in Nigeria as well as with other partners globally. This was in response to a growing recognition of the need for more support for policy-relevant research on sustainable development through innovation within Nigeria and outside Nigeria, particularly the West African sub-region.

The overall vision of NigeriaLics is to facilitate the production and use of high-quality research in the field of innovation and development with a view to promoting inclusive and sustainable development in Nigeria and outside Nigeria including West Africa and Africa in general. The innovation and development studies approach (also referred to as innovation studies) has gained popularity being the convergence point for policy strategies for solving developmental challenges in and outside Nigeria.

NigeriaLics brings together scholars, researchers, and policy analysts who study development, innovation, learning, and competence building in Nigeria. It is also open to membership from outside Nigeria. The emphasis is on interactive learning that promotes plurality in terms of research approach, methodology, and theoretical perspectives. The platform consists of a multidisciplinary field that includes researchers from a wide range of disciplines including innovation studies, the economics of innovation, innovation management, technology management as well as science and technology studies. However, the network also includes those from other fields such as education, engineering, economics and political science.

NigeriaLics is committed to strengthening research capacity, innovation scholarship, and policy relevant knowledge production in Nigeria. In furtherance of this mandate, NigeriaLics is organising the NigeriaLics PhD Academy for 2026. This 2<sup>nd</sup> NigeriaLics PhD Academy will provide opportunity for PhD students enrolled at Nigerian and West African universities who work in the field of innovation and development studies to gain more knowledge of this burgeoning field, meet leading academics in the field and receive feedback on their PhD studies. It will also afford participants the privilege to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> NigeriaLics Conference holding alongside the Academy at the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

### Who is eligible to apply?

This call is targeted at students enrolled in PhD studies at Nigerian and West African universities who work in the field of innovation and development studies and who are principally interested in how innovation relates to economic and social development.

Specifically, PhD students who wish to participate will need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Successfully defended their Research Proposal and be at least in their second year of study;
- Research proposal explicitly covers issues related to science, technology, innovation, and development; and
- Able to present an original academic paper derived from their doctoral studies.
- Able to communicate, effectively, in English Language

Female applicants are particularly encouraged to apply as part of the network's effort to improve diversity in the emerging academic community on innovation and development research in Nigeria and West Africa. *(If you are in doubt as to whether you can apply, please contact us through [academy@nigerialics.ng](mailto:academy@nigerialics.ng)).*

### Structure of the Academy

The Academy will invite leading researchers in the field of innovation and development from around the world to provide lectures and mentor students. The Academy will also provide opportunities for PhD students to share their work and learn new skills. As such, the Academy is made up of the following activities:

- Lectures by senior researchers in areas ranging from research methodologies to the latest theories and empirical research in the fields of innovation, innovation management and science policy;
- Presentations by doctoral students of their work with feedback from the senior scholars at the event;
- Sessions focused on enabling interaction between students, practitioners and policy makers on transforming their innovative ideas into projects while tackling development issues;
- Study visits to innovation hubs, innovative businesses and/or similar organisations; and

- Sessions that focus on key skills that students need to complete their PhD and become successful academic researchers such as publishing or project management skills.

## How to apply

PhD students who apply must submit:

- An extended abstract of maximum of five pages describing the candidate's research (Times New Roman, 12pt, 1.5 spacing). The abstract must include research objectives, methodology, expected results, and emergent conclusions from their Doctoral research, including supporting figures, and references;
- a CV (no more than 3 pages); and
- A recommendation letter from the local Supervisor.

These documents should be sent to the Secretariat ([academy@nigeria.lics.ng](mailto:academy@nigeria.lics.ng)) on or before 24:00 hours (West Africa time) on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May, 2026.

## Selection

A maximum of twenty-five (25) participants will be selected for this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. Selection aims at encouraging participation from all the regions of Nigeria. Limited number of applicants from and based in other West African countries will be selected subject to the availability of supportive funding. Applicants are encouraged to look for alternative funds since NigeriaLics cannot guarantee full support. The sessions of the Academy will be conducted solely in English Language. All extended abstracts will be reviewed by at least two senior scholars from a review panel made up of members of the NigeriaLics Scientific Committee, the host University and external experts.

Selection will be made based on academic quality of extended abstracts as well as on the basis of criteria aimed at promoting diversity (location and gender).

Successful applicants will be notified by 15<sup>th</sup> June 2026 of their acceptance to the Academy.

## Sponsorship and travel support

Limited support may be available to assist selected participants with accommodation and local logistics during the Academy. Further details on financial support will be communicated to successful applicants.

Participants will be responsible for:

- ❖ Travel arrangements
- ❖ Visa (if applicable), Visa support letter will be issued by the organizers
- ❖ Travel Insurance

## Final paper submission and confirmation of attendance

All successful applicants will be expected to have confirmed their participation by 24:00 hours (West Africa time) on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2026 or their place will be given to those on the reserve list.

Only applicants who have confirmed their participation would be further contacted. All selected participants who confirm attendance will also be expected to send a final FULL paper (details of this will be given in your acceptance letter) by 24:00 hours West Africa time on Friday

14<sup>th</sup> August 2026. The full paper should either be your PhD project proposal or a manuscript from your PhD proposal that you would like to present and get feedback on during the Academy.

### Organisation and Support

The 2<sup>nd</sup> NigeriaLics Ph.D. Academy is organized by the NigeriaLics Secretariat and hosted at the Centre for Information and Telecommunications Engineering (CITE), University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Venue: Opp NNPC Filling Station / Helena Hotel, East-West Road, Choba, Port Harcourt

### Contacts

- For any queries or questions about the academy: [academy@nigerialics.ng](mailto:academy@nigerialics.ng)
- For general queries about the University of Lagos: [eseosa.omorogiuwa@uniport.edu.ng](mailto:eseosa.omorogiuwa@uniport.edu.ng)
- For general queries about NigeriaLics: [secretariat@nigerialics.ng](mailto:secretariat@nigerialics.ng) or visit [www.nigerialics.ng](http://www.nigerialics.ng). The NigeriaLics Secretariat office is housed at Deputy Vice-Chancellor Office (Research, Technology and Innovation) PMB 1515, University of Ilorin, Nigeria