

## **ALB Nigerian students' scholarship through HAH Project**

### **Participating Schools**

The scholarship application was only made available to two schools in southeastern Nigeria, The University of Nigeria Nsukka (UNN), and Chukwuemeka odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU). This approach was followed to create a community among the three students from each school, encourage collaboration, and decrease the stress that may come with the scholarship admission process. Since both schools are government schools rather than private schools which are ridiculously expensive, they are more likely to have students from disadvantaged families and underserved communities. Government schools also have a history of faculty strikes due to lack of payment by the government. Thus, it is possible that the students may take more years to graduate; usually not more than an extra year (no extra education fees though). The two schools are currently behind in their schedules due to similar issues. They just resumed in November for a new academic year (instead of August).



### **The University of Nigeria, Nsukka.**

UNN was founded in 1955 as a federal government college. Federal schools in Nigeria are usually less expensive and quite competitive due to the high education standards, and the low cost of attendance. UNN is ranked the second best university in Nigeria, and it is located in Enugu State, precisely in a very remote village called, Nsukka. Students and alumni of UNN usually refer to themselves as Lions and Lionesses, and since UNN is the only Nigerian University that goes by “University of Nigeria,” her students casually argue that there are only two universities in Nigeria, the University of Nigeria (UNN) and “others”. I (Arinze Nwagbata) have some ties at UNN. My late father and immediate older sister are both alumni of UNN, while my oldest sister is a current Medical student at UNN’s medical school which is located in a different city, Enugu city. My sisters played a role in finding a responsible lecturer who is willing to work with Hold a Hand project by advising and updating us on the school’s structure, and interviewing the scholarship applicants. The lecturer who performed this task at UNN is Ebubechukwu Dim, a retained first class student of the Department of Science Laboratory Technology.

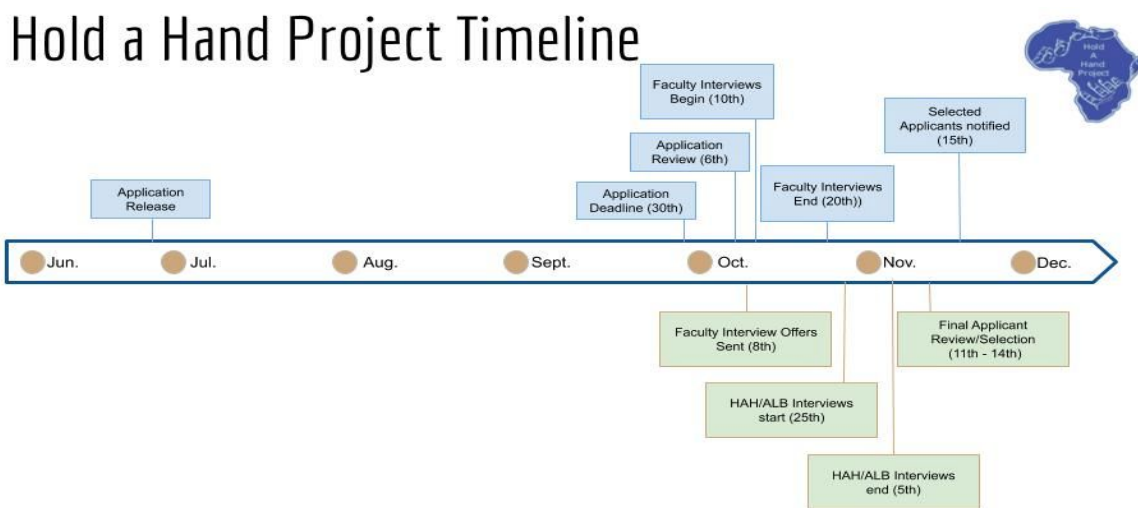


### **Chukwuemeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University**

COOU is formerly known as Anambra State University (ANSU) which gives away its location. It was named COOU after a war General/hero in the Nigerian civil war that lasted from 1967 to 1970. The university was established in 2000 and has two campuses, both in the remote villages of Uli and Igbariam (the science and art campuses, respectively). These areas lack electricity, and the students mostly contribute to buy generators for

personal use while the school has equipment for powering some facilities during certain times of the day. COOU is said to be the best state university in Anambra state. State schools are usually more expensive than federal schools, but less competitive. Many disadvantaged students end up going here, and then struggling through the four or more years to raise their tuition. They make this decision because college admission on its own is quite competitive due to university shortage. Every year, 1.5 million students apply to college, but only about 500,000 matriculate while the rest reapply the next year with the new high school seniors. I have four friends in the Uli campus (three medical students and one architecture student). Like at UNN, they helped me find a lecturer who is part of our admission process. The lecturer is Charles Anukwonke. He was also retained by the school on graduating with a first class, the highest graduation honor.

### Admission Process



The admission timeline is displayed above. The scholarship application was collected through a [google form](#) that asked different questions to get a sense of each applicant's background and motivations. Some other information were collected as suggested by the lecturers. These info are mostly for identification purposes, and to get a sense of the students' academic standing. The application was made available to the schools on the 30th of June, 2019. Initial push for advertisement included emailing the schools to display information on their websites, pasting flyers around campus, and sharing the flyers with various student Whatsapp groups. These were not very efficient especially since the scholarship targets only first year students. In addition, college students in Nigeria are not used to applying for scholarships as there are less opportunities. The few available scholarships by big companies are usually awarded on grades and do not require essays. Thus, students were skeptical about taking the time to complete the application. As a result, the deadline was moved to the 30th of September, giving us some time to run Facebook ads for about three weeks. At the end, we received a total of 15 applications. The Hold a hand board, which was then composed of three UT students, reviewed the application, and sent out interview invites to seven students at UNN and five students at COOU. The lecturers completed the interviews early November, and Hold a Hand Board contacted five UNN students and four COOU students via video and phone calls for another quick interview within the Nov. 8th weekend. Recipients were determined that Sunday, and were informed of their acceptances through phone calls. Three students were selected from each campus (two female and one male student in each). Information about selected students are included below.

### 2019-2020 Tuition and other academic years' estimates

Note that the estimated future tuition amount is susceptible to change should the school increase or decrease tuition. The number of years the students will spend in college varies, depending on their majors. We have a range of 4 to 7 years (We have a medical student whose total number of years in college is seven). Chinenye Umeononamma recently changed majors from sociology to law. Thus, all students are sophomores except her. She restarted college as a freshman.

1. For the current academic year (2019-2020), the students tuition information is thus:

#### **COOU recipients:**

Chinenye Umeononamma	₦190, 465
Faith Obaa	₦139, 965
Chinonso Johnson	₦139, 965
	₦ 470, 395 = <b>\$1329</b> (\$1 = #354)

#### **UNN recipients:**

Chiemeka Jerry	₦48, 600
Jennifer Akagu	₦45, 100
Deborah Chibuike	₦51, 600
	₦145, 300 = <b>\$411</b>
	<b>Total = \$1740</b>

2. Estimates for the 2020-2021 academic year:

#### **COOU recipients:**

Chinenye Umeononamma	₦189, 465
Faith Obaa	₦139, 465
Chinonso Johnson	₦139, 465
	₦ 468, 395 = <b>\$1324</b>

#### **UNN recipients:**

Chiemeka Jerry	₦43, 500
Jennifer Akagu	₦40, 000
Deborah Chibuike	₦46, 500
	₦130, 000 = <b>\$368</b>
	<b>Total = \$1692</b>

3. Estimates for the 2021-2022 academic year:

#### **COOU recipients:**

Chinenye Umeononamma	₦115, 815
Faith Obaa	₦115, 815
Chinonso Johnson	₦115, 815
	₦347, 445 = <b>\$982</b>

#### **UNN recipients:**

Chiemeka Jerry	₦44, 000
Jennifer Akagu	₦40, 500
Deborah Chibuike	₦51, 600
	₦136, 100 = <b>\$385</b>

**Total = \$1367**

4. Estimates for the 2022-2023 academic year:

**COOU recipient:**

Chinenye Umeononamma

₦110,815 = \$314

**UNN recipient:**

Deborah Chibuike

₦46,500 = \$132

**Total = \$446**

5. Estimates for the 2023-2024 academic year:

**COOU recipient:**

Chinenye Umeononamma

₦110,815 = \$314

**UNN recipient:**

Deborah Chibuike

₦46,500 = \$132

**Total = \$446**

6. Estimates for the 2024-2025 academic year:

**COOU recipient:**

Chinenye Umeononamma

₦110,815 = \$314

**UNN recipient:**

Deborah Chibuike

₦47,000 = \$133

**Total = \$447**

**Hold a Hand Project Bank Information**

**Bank Name:** BB&T

**Account Number:** 1440003148126

**Routing Number:** 111017694

**Recipients:**

## Deborah Chibuike

University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN)

Deborah is a second-year medical student at UNN. She is from a family of six with her three other siblings also in college. As a physician, Deborah hopes to practice in a rural community and affect the mortality rate. She currently explores her passion for community service by volunteering with Enactus, a global experiential learning platform for student leaders and social innovators.



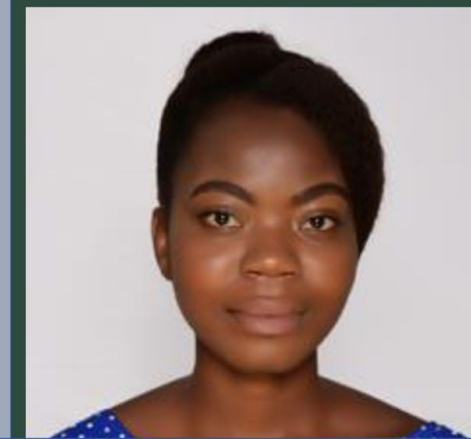
2019  
Scholarship  
Recipient

## Jennifer Akagu

University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN)

Jennifer is a second-year political science student at UNN. She lost her father at a young age and is currently in a family of nine. She worked temporary post-high school to save for college and she held the secretary position in the PTA of the school she taught.

Jennifer is an activist for gender equality and against social disparities. She has political ambitions and hopes to become a power symbol for women in her college and the larger community.



2019  
Scholarship  
Recipient

# Jerry Chiemeka

University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN)

Jerry Chiemeka is a second-year electrical engineering student at UNN. He is from a family of six and has held leadership positions in his church and in college as the youth leader and course group leader, respectively. Jerry is interested in electrical engineering research to improve the adequacy and affordability of power in Nigeria. He seeks to maximize the transfer of knowledge by creating significant internship opportunities for engineering college students.



2019  
Scholarship  
Recipient

# Chinenye Umeononamma

Chukwumeka Odumegwu Ojukwu University (COOU), Nigeria

Chinenye is a first-year law student at COOU. She is the sixth child in a family of eight, and has previously held leadership positions as the dormitory prefect and study facilitator in high school and college, respectively.

Chinenye's works and goals center around improving the interaction between the government and the people, thus ensuring that the environmental challenges of the common man are properly addressed.



2019  
Scholarship  
Recipient

