

**SOCIO-POLITICAL CHALLENGES AND EDUCATION TOURISM IN
FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS: A STUDY OF NIGERIAN TERTIARY LEVEL
STUDENTS**

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STUDENTS**

BY

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF POSTGRADUATE
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THE AWARD OF MASTER OF SCIENCE (M.Sc) DEGREE IN
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LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES, COVENANT
UNIVERSITY, OTA, OGUN STATE, NIGERIA**

FEBRUARY, 2024

ACCEPTANCE

This is to attest that this dissertation is accepted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the degree of Master of Science (M.Sc.) in International Relations in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Nigeria.

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DECLARATION

I, BHADMUS, JOY TITILOPE (21PAH02448) declare that this M.Sc dissertation is based on my study in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State. This project has not been submitted elsewhere for the award of a degree. All ideas and views expressed are products of personal research and all sources of data, scholarly information used in this dissertation are duly acknowledged.

BHADMUS, JOY TITILOPE

Signature and Date

CERTIFICATION

We certify that this dissertation titled **SOCIO-POLITICAL CHALLENGES AND EDUCATION TOURISM IN FOREIGN INSTITUTIONS: A STUDY OF NIGERIAN TERTIARY LEVEL STUDENTS** is an original research work carried out by **BHADMUS, JOY TITILOPE (21PAH02448)** in the Department of Political Science and International Relations, College of Leadership and Development Studies, Covenant University, Ota, Ogun State, Nigeria under the supervision of Dr. Felix C. Chidozie. We have examined and found this work acceptable as part of the requirements for the award of M.Sc. in International Relations.

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DEDICATION

This Dissertation is dedicated to God for His constant reassurance of His presence, His strength, His Word, and His Spirit. This dissertation would not have been possible without His directions. I am eternally grateful that He is my Father, the One who hears me.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ILC	International Labour Conference
UN	United Nations
ILO	International Labour Organisation
HEQ	Highest Educational Qualification
SBU	Strategic Business Unit
NOUN	National Open University of Nigeria
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
IOM	International Organization for Migration
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
ASUU	Academic Staff Union of Universities
UNESCO	United Nations Education Scientific and Cultural Organization
HDI	Human Development Index
UBEC	Universal Basic Education Commission
NPE	National Policy on Education
UME	University Matriculation Examination
TDA	Trade Disputes Act
SADC	South African Development Countries
CBN	Central Bank of Nigeria
UN	United Nations

ABSTRACT

Education tourism has been a sought-after option in recent years for tertiary level students in Nigeria who are in search of quality education in foreign institutions. Reports have revealed that Nigeria has the highest outbound student mobility in Africa. The decision for Nigerian tertiary level students to leave the country is motivated by the socio-political challenges that have plagued the public tertiary institutions in Nigeria. This study therefore examines how socio-political challenges have influenced education tourism in foreign institutions among Nigerian tertiary level students with a focus on three socio-political challenges - poor funding, incessant strikes, and insecurity. This study also analyses education tourism from 2019 to 2023. Hence, both primary data and secondary data were collected using literature search and interview. This study adopts the Human Capital Theory. According to this theory, lack of educational opportunities in the home country and its availability in the destination country are the primary motivation for moving. Data gathered were analysed using thematic method of analysis. This research reveals that the absence of sustainable funding of public tertiary institutions has hindered the quality of education in Nigeria, the constant disruption in academic calendars has resulted in students staying in school for more than the duration of their study, and the state of insecurity has led to the loss of lives, properties and disruption in schools' administration. These have led to the prevalence of education tourism among Nigerian tertiary level students to foreign institutions, and more are willing to embark on education tourism if given the means and the opportunity to do so. The study also reveals that education tourism among Nigerian tertiary level students occurred most in 2022 and the United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, Germany, and Malaysia are the most popular destinations for Nigerian students to pursue foreign education. This study recommends that there should be the yearly allocation of 26% of the national budget to the education sector which will help close the gap that stands currently. Also, Nigerian tertiary institutions should ensure that facilities available in foreign institutions which are necessary for effective learning and teaching are made available. This should also include the creation of more scholarship opportunities which are likely to attract foreign students to study in Nigeria. With this, Nigerian tertiary schools will be able to compete globally with foreign institutions. Furthermore, there should be the creation of policies and programmes that create job opportunities for Nigerian graduates. This will help reduce unemployment and therefore reduce the rate of insecurity in the country. The study therefore concludes that there is a relationship between socio-political challenges and education tourism, and these socio-political challenges- poor funding of the education sector, incessant strikes, and insecurity- have motivated Nigerian tertiary level students to embark on education tourism in foreign institutions.

Keywords: Education Tourism, Funding, Insecurity, Socio-Political, Strike, Tertiary Student