THE COMPLETE STEP-BY-STEP UK RELOCATION & FUNDING BLUEPRINT FOR NIGERIANS

GET PAID TO STUDY IN THE UK:

The Secret Government Grant & Bursary Route for Nigerian & African Graduates

Study in the UK for Free + Collect Up to £5,000 Pocket Money:

The Complete UK Department for Education (DfE) Teacher Training Secret

How Nigerian graduates in ANY discipline (Engineering, Science, Business, Mass Comm, Arts, or Education) can access the UK Government £9,535 Tuition Grant (100% Free Tuition), collect up to £5,000 in Tax-Free Monthly Cash Bursaries (or the £7,000 Employer Incentive), secure a Student Visa (CAS), and build a thriving career in England — without paying a travel agent millions of Naira.

£9,535	Up to £5,000	15 Providers	+£29,000
DfE Tuition Grant (100% Free Tuition)	**Tax-Free Bursary** (Paid Monthly to You)	**7 Visa Universities** + 8 SCITTs Mapped	**STEM Bonus Route** (Secondary QTS Guide)

WHAT MAKES THIS GUIDE DIFFERENT (+ 6 FREE BONUS TEMPLATES INSIDE):

1. **THE 7 VISA-SPONSORING UNIVERSITIES REVEALED: Other guides mix all 15 providers together.** We separate the exact 7 UK Universities that issue Student Visa CAS letters from the 8 SCITTs.
2. **BONUS £29,000 - £31,000 STEM TEACHER ROUTE: Exclusive chapter for Physics, Chemistry,** Engineering, Maths, Computing & Languages graduates comparing Early Years vs. Secondary QTS.
3. **NIGERIAN QUALIFICATION & IELTS WAIVER DECODER: How to use your BSc (1st Class, 2:1, or 2:2),** HND+PGD, WAEC/NECO C6, and University MOI Letter to save NGN 550,000+ on IELTS.
4. **THE 14-DAY NIGERIAN CRECHE VOLUNTEERING BLUEPRINT: How Career-Changers in banking, tech, or** engineering get real nursery experience in Nigeria in 2 weeks (+ Ready-to-Sign Reference Letter).
5. **3 FULL PERSONAL STATEMENTS + WORKED UK CV + 12 ZOOM INTERVIEW ANSWERS: Tailored for** Nigerian STEM/Business Career-Changers, Social Science Graduates, and Parents/Teachers.
6. **UKVI 28-DAY PROOF OF FUNDS, IOM LAGOS/ABUJA TB TEST & VFS BIOMETRICS WALKTHROUGH.**

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2026 / 2027 ACADEMIC EDITION - VERIFIED AGAINST OFFICIAL GOV.UK & DFE GUIDANCE

Includes the 15-Provider CAS Directory, 3 EYFS Personal Statements, UK CV Template, Nursery Reference Letter, 30-Day Application Tracker, and Optional Done-For-You Admission Concierge.

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Get Paid to Study in the UK: The Secret Government Grant & Bursary Route for Nigerian Graduates
Alt Title: Study in the UK for Free + Collect Up to £5,000 Pocket Money: The UK Government Teacher Training Secret Author: Christian Ugo, BSc Chemical Engineering, University of Nottingham (UK) • Lead Strategist, AFRYTRAV International. (c) 2026 Christian Ugo & AFRYTRAV International. All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, resold, or shared in WhatsApp/Telegram groups without prior written permission from the publisher.

IMPORTANT EDUCATIONAL & REGULATORY DISCLAIMER (ALWAYS VERIFY ON GOV.UK)

This blueprint is an independent, deeply researched educational manual written specifically for Nigerian and African graduates. It is not produced or endorsed by the UK Department for Education (DfE), UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI), or any individual university named herein. All figures — including the £9,535 EYITT Training Grant, tiered bursaries up to £5,000, the £7,000 Employer Incentive, Secondary STEM ITT bursaries up to £29,000, UKVI Student Visa fee (£558), IHS (£776/year), and maintenance thresholds (£1,529/month London; £1,171/month outside London) — reflect official published UK government guidance for the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 academic cycles. Because immigration and funding rules are reviewed annually by the UK Government, readers must always verify live criteria on gov.uk and directly with their chosen training provider before committing funds. This guide provides DIY educational information, not licensed legal or OISC immigration representation.

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BEFORE WE BEGIN — HEART TO HEART

Why a Chemical Engineering Graduate from the University of Nottingham Wrote This Book for You

Hello and welcome. My name is Christian Ugo. I graduated with a BSc in Chemical Engineering from the University of Nottingham in England, and as the Founder of AFRYTRAV International, I have spent years helping ambitious Nigerians and Africans navigate the real, legal pathways to study and work abroad without getting fleeced by predatory travel agents.

If you bought this guide today, I already know the two thoughts that have been keeping you awake at night:

1. "I want to relocate to the UK legally, hold a respected qualification, and build a better future — but where on earth am I supposed to find £16,000 to £22,000 (NGN 32 Million to NGN 45 Million) just for one year of UK Master's tuition fees?"
2. "Now that the UK overseas Care Worker visa route closed in July 2025, fake agents are everywhere. Is there still a genuine, government-backed route into England for a Nigerian graduate who doesn't have tens of millions in the bank?"

The answer is YES — and it is written directly into the official UK Department for Education (DfE) funding rules on gov.uk. It is called Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT), leading to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS).

People often ask me: "Christian, you studied Chemical Engineering at Nottingham. Do I need a degree in Education to qualify for this UK Government Teacher Training Grant?" No, you do not! Whether you studied Chemical Engineering, Microbiology, Accounting, Economics, Mass Communication, Political Science, Computer Science, or Psychology at a recognized Nigerian university, the UK Department for Education explicitly accepts a Bachelor's degree in any subject for the Graduate Entry EYITT route.

Even better: on this route, the UK Government pays a £9,535 Training Grant directly to your UK university (wiping out your tuition fee completely), AND if you hold a First-Class, 2:1, or 2:2 degree equivalent, you can receive a tax-free Training Bursary of £2,000 to £5,000 paid directly into your UK bank account in 10 monthly instalments!

YOUR 15-MINUTE "QUICK WIN" EXERCISE (DO THIS RIGHT NOW BEFORE READING CHAPTER 1!)

I don't want this PDF to sit in your phone's Downloads folder. Within the next 15 minutes, complete these 3 micro-actions so you experience immediate momentum:

1. Step 1 (3 Minutes) — Check Your Cash Bursary Tier: Look at your Nigerian Bachelor's degree certificate (or Master's certificate). If you graduated with a First Class Honours (or PhD) -> Write down: Tier 1 (£9,535 Tuition Grant + £5,000 Cash Bursary = £14,535 Total Support).
2. If you graduated with a Second Class Upper (2:1) or hold a Master's degree -> Write down: Tier 2 (£9,535 Tuition Grant + £4,000 Cash Bursary = £13,535 Total Support).
3. If you graduated with a Second Class Lower (2:2) -> Write down: Tier 3 (£9,535 Tuition Grant + £2,000 Cash Bursary = £11,535 Total Support).
4. Step 2 (5 Minutes) — Audit Your WAEC / NECO Result: Pull up your WAEC or NECO certificate. Check that you have at least Credit (C6 or above) in English Language, Mathematics, and ONE Science subject (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Health Science, or Agricultural Science). (Missing Science or Maths? Don't panic — Chapter 5 shows you the exact £150 online UK Equivalency Test you can take from home in Nigeria!)
5. Step 3 (7 Minutes) — Send Your First Verification Email Today: Jump briefly to Chapter 16 (Page 42), copy our 5-sentence Pre-Application International Enquiry Email, and send it to University of Greenwich (i.atkins@gre.ac.uk) and Kingston University London (emsw@kingston.ac.uk). When an official UK university replies directly to your inbox within 48–72 hours confirming their funded EYITT intake, you will never doubt yourself or pay a scammer agent again!

CHAPTER 01

The Best-Kept UK Relocation Secret: What Is EYITT & Why the UK Government Pays International Graduates

> *"When the UK faces a severe national workforce shortage in a regulated profession, it doesn't just open visa routes — it puts government grant money on the table."*

1.1 What Exactly Is an Early Years Teacher in England?

In Nigeria, many people think "nursery teaching" is an informal job with low pay. In England, the exact opposite is true. Scientific research shows that 90% of a human child's brain architecture develops between birth and age five. Because those first five years shape language, emotional security, literacy, and numeracy for life, the UK Government regulates early childhood education strictly under a national statutory framework called the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS).

To lead curriculum practice across England's nurseries, pre-schools, school nursery classes, and children's centres, England created a specialist graduate-level professional qualification called Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS). And the 1-year postgraduate training programme that leads to EYTS is called Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT).

0 to 5 Years Old

The specialist age bracket you train to lead under England's statutory Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.

Up to £16,535

Maximum Department for Education funding package per trainee (£9,535 Tuition Grant + £7,000 Employer Incentive or £5,000 Bursary).

12 Months (Full-Time)

Duration of the Graduate Entry postgraduate route — combining university study with practical nursery placements in England.

1.2 Why England Explicitly Opened This Funded Route to International Students

In recent years, the UK Government expanded free government-funded childcare hours for working parents in England (covering children from 9 months old up to school age). That policy created an immediate, massive shortage of graduate-level Early Years Teachers across thousands of UK nurseries and school settings.

Normally, UK government tuition grants are restricted to British citizens and settled residents. However, because the shortage of graduate Early Years specialists is so acute, the Department for Education wrote an explicit rule directly into the official Early Years Initial Teacher Training Funding Guidance on gov.uk:

WHAT THE OFFICIAL UK DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION (DfE) GUIDANCE SAYS IN PLAIN ENGLISH:

International students CAN be offered Department for Education-funded EYITT places on the exact same basis as UK home students, provided they:

1. Meet the academic entry criteria (a recognized UK degree or an equivalent overseas Bachelor's degree, plus GCSE Grade 4/C equivalents in English, Mathematics, and a Science subject); AND
2. Hold the valid immigration permission (such as a UK Student Visa sponsored via a CAS, a Graduate Visa, a Skilled Worker Visa, or a Dependent Visa) covering the full length of the training course before the programme begins.

1.3 Who This Blueprint Is Designed For (3 Nigerian Buyer Profiles)

1. The Smart Relocator in Nigeria

You hold a BSc (First Class, 2:1, or 2:2) in Nigeria. You want to study in the UK legally, get a Student Visa and Post-Study Graduate Visa, but you refuse to pay £18,000 in Master's tuition fees.

2. The Career-Changer

You studied Engineering, Microbiology, Banking, Mass Comm, or Sociology. You love mentoring children and want a funded UK postgraduate qualification that opens doors in UK education and social care.

3. The UK Visa-Switcher

You are already in the UK on a Student Visa, Graduate Visa (PSW), or Dependent Visa and want a funded UK qualification (£9,535 grant + £5,000 bursary or £7,000 employer incentive) to transition into Early Years leadership.

Now that you understand why the UK Government created this funded doorway, turn the page to Chapter 2 where we break down every single pound — and Naira equivalent — of the three funding pots available to you.

CHAPTER 02

The Money Map: Decoding the £9,535 Tuition Grant, the £5,000 Cash Bursary & the £7,000 Employer Incentive

"Understanding how the three Department for Education funding pots work is the single most valuable 10 minutes you will spend in this guide."

2.1 The Three Pots of UK Government Money Explained Simply

Inside the official Department for Education (DfE) EYITT funding rules, there is not just one grant — there are three distinct pots of government money. Which pots you receive depends on whether you apply for the Graduate Entry (Full-Time Study) Route from Nigeria or the Graduate Employment-Based (Working) Route if you already have the right to work in the UK.

Funding Pot	Exact Amount (2026/27 Scale)	Who Receives the Money?	How It Benefits You as a Nigerian Applicant
Pot #1: The DfE Training Grant (Tuition Fee Grant)	£9,535 (approx. NGN 19M+ value)	Paid directly by the UK Government to your accredited university/provider.	Covers 100% of your EYITT tuition fee! Your CAS letter shows your tuition is funded, meaning you pay £0 tuition out of pocket.
Pot #2: The Tax-Free Training Bursary (Pocket Money)	Up to £5,000 (£2,000, £4,000, or £5,000)	Paid to your university and deposited directly into your personal UK bank account.	Paid in 10 equal monthly instalments (Oct–July) on the full-time Graduate Entry route to support your rent, food, and transport in England.
Pot #3: The Employer Incentive Grant	£7,000	Paid to your UK nursery employer (on the Graduate Employment-Based route only).	Available if you already hold UK work rights and work in a nursery. Helps your employer fund your salary and study release days while you train.

CRITICAL RULE: YOU CANNOT COMBINE POT #2 AND POT #3 AT THE SAME TIME

- If you are applying from Nigeria on a Student Visa (Graduate Entry Full-Time Route): You receive Pot #1 (£9,535 Tuition Grant) + Pot #2 (Up to £5,000 Cash Bursary) = Up to £14,535 total package.
- If you are already in the UK with work rights and employed by a nursery (Graduate Employment-Based Route): Your training triggers Pot #1 (£9,535 Tuition Grant) + Pot #3 (£7,000 Employer Incentive) = £16,535 total package (plus your regular monthly nursery salary!).

2.2 The Training Bursary Table: What Your Nigerian Degree Class Is Worth in Cash

If you enroll on the full-time Graduate Entry Route (the standard route for applicants relocating from Nigeria on a Student Visa), the amount of tax-free cash bursary paid into your pocket is determined strictly by your Nigerian degree classification once assessed for UK equivalence:

Bursary Tier	Your Nigerian Qualification (UK Equivalent)	Total Tax-Free Bursary	Monthly Cash Payment Into Your Bank	Plus Tuition Grant Covered
TIER 1	First-Class Honours (1st Class) BSc/BA, or a PhD / Doctoral Degree	£5,000	£500 per month x 10 months (Oct–July)	+ £9,535 Tuition Grant (£14,535 Total)
TIER 2	Second-Class Upper (2:1) Honours BSc/BA, or a Master's Degree (MSc/MA/MBA)	£4,000	£400 per month x 10 months (Oct–July)	+ £9,535 Tuition Grant (£13,535 Total)
TIER 3	Second-Class Lower (2:2) Honours BSc/BA	£2,000	£200 per month x 10 months (Oct–July)	+ £9,535 Tuition Grant (£11,535 Total)
No Bursary (Grant Only)	Third-Class, Ordinary Degree, or Unclassified Degree (where accepted by provider)	£0 Bursary	—	Still receives the £9,535 Tuition Grant!

2.3 Two Real-World Worked Examples for Nigerian Graduates

To make sure you see exactly how these numbers work in real life for a Nigerian graduate, let's look at two practical case studies:

WORKED EXAMPLE #1: CHINEDU (BSc Chemical Engineering, 2:1 from UNILAG — Applying From Lagos)

Chinedu graduated from the University of Lagos with a 2:1 in Chemical Engineering. During his NYSC year, he taught Mathematics and Basic Science and volunteered at a local nursery & primary school on Saturdays. He wants to relocate to England legally without paying £20,000 for an MSc.

- Step 1: In November, Chinedu applies directly to the University of Worcester (outside London) for the Graduate Entry EYITT programme starting in September.
- Step 2: Worcester assesses his UNILAG 2:1 degree as equivalent to a UK 2:1 honours degree and issues him an unconditional offer and a Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS).
- Step 3 (Tuition Covered): The UK Department for Education pays the £9,535 Training Grant directly to the University of Worcester. Chinedu pays £0 in tuition fees.
- Step 4 (Monthly Cash Bursary): Because Chinedu holds a 2:1 degree (Tier 2), he qualifies for the £4,000 Training Bursary. From October to July, Worcester pays £400 on the 1st of every month directly into Chinedu's UK bank account.
- Step 5 (Part-Time Work Rights): On his Student Visa, Chinedu is also legally permitted to work up to 20 hours per week during term time (and full-time during holidays). Working 15 hours a week at £12.21/hour adds roughly £730/month to his £400/month tax-free bursary — giving him over £1,130/month to live comfortably in Worcester!

WORKED EXAMPLE #2: AMARA (BSc Mass Communication, 2:2 + MSc from UNN — The Master's Upgrade Trick!)

Amara graduated with a 2:2 (Second Class Lower) in Mass Communication from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka (UNN), which normally places her in Tier 3 (£2,000 bursary). However, she also completed an MSc in Mass Communication in Nigeria.

- The Official DfE Upgrade Rule: Under the official Department for Education EYITT funding table (see Page 8), holding a recognized Master's degree automatically upgrades a 2:2 graduate from Tier 3 (£2,000) to Tier 2 (£4,000)!
- Result: By submitting both her BSc (2:2) and her MSc transcript for equivalence assessment, Amara doubles her tax-free bursary from £2,000 to £4,000 (£400/month for 10 months) alongside her £9,535 free tuition grant.

2.4 Three Hidden Financial Traps You Must Avoid

1. Trap #1 — Applying for the "Undergraduate Entry" or "Assessment Only" Route: As we will detail in Chapter 4, England has four pathways to EYTS, but only two of them carry DfE grant funding. Never let an agent enroll you in an unfunded route.
2. Trap #2 — Confusing the Bursary With Visa Proof of Funds (POF): While your £9,535 Tuition Grant covers your course fees (so you do NOT need to show tuition funds to the embassy), your monthly bursary (£200–£500/mo) is paid after you arrive and enroll in October. For your Student Visa application in Nigeria, you still need to show UKVI maintenance living funds in your bank account for 28 days (or only the remaining balance if your provider explicitly lists your bursary on your CAS). Chapter 6 shows you the exact math.

3. Trap #3 — Paying an Agent for "Guaranteed Bursary Slots": Funded places are allocated directly by the 15 accredited providers on a first-come, first-served basis starting in October. No agent in Lagos or London "owns" slots.

Wait — what if you studied Physics, Chemistry, Engineering, Mathematics, Computing, or French and want an even larger bursary (up to £29,000–£31,000)? Turn to Chapter 3 for an exclusive bonus route that other Early Years guides never mention!

CHAPTER 03 — EXCLUSIVE BONUS INSIDER CHAPTER

Beyond Early Years: The £29,000–£31,000 Secondary STEM & Languages Teacher Training Route (QTS)

> *"As a Chemical Engineering graduate from Nottingham, I could not write a book on UK Teacher Grants without showing STEM graduates the Secondary QTS funding rules too."*

3.1 Why Most Guides Confuse EYITT (Ages 0–5) With Secondary ITT/PGCE (Ages 11–18)

On YouTube and TikTok, you may have heard creators say: "The UK pays £28,000 or £29,000 to trainee teachers!" while others say: "The UK pays a £9,535 grant + £5,000 bursary!" Many Nigerians get confused because they don't realize these are two completely different UK Department for Education programmes with very different rules for international students!

Here is the side-by-side truth from gov.uk so you know exactly which one you qualify for:

Feature	Route A: Early Years (EYITT — Ages 0 to 5) (The Core Focus of This Book)	Route B: Secondary PGCE / ITT (QTS — Ages 11 to 18) (High-Priority STEM & Languages Route)
Qualification Awarded	Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS)	Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) + PGCE
Degree Subject Needed	ANY Bachelor's Degree Subject! (Engineering, Business, Arts, Social Sciences, Microbiology, etc.)	Must hold a degree (or strong A-Level/related degree) in a shortage subject: Physics, Maths, Computing, Chemistry, or Languages (French/Spanish/German).
Course Tuition Fees for International Students	£0 Tuition Fee to You! Covered 100% by the £9,535 DfE Training Grant paid to your provider.	International students are charged international PGCE tuition fees (£15,000–£22,000) UNLESS on a Salaried School-Sponsored route.
Cash Bursary Amount (2025/26 & 2026/27)	£5,000 (1st Class/PhD), £4,000 (2:1/Master's), or £2,000 (2:2).	Up to £29,000 Bursary (or £31,000 Scholarship) for Physics, Chemistry, Maths & Computing; £20,000–£26,000 for Languages/Biology.
International Eligibility Rule (THE BIG CATCH!)	OPEN TO OVERSEAS STUDENT VISA APPLICANTS! DfE explicitly allows international students on a Student Visa to receive funded EYITT places & bursaries.	STRICT STUDENT FINANCE RULE: For 2026/27, DfE tightened rules so most Secondary ITT bursaries require UK Student Finance eligibility (settled status, family/dependent residency, or specific pre-cutoff Physics/Languages exemptions).

3.2 Why Early Years (EYITT) Is the #1 Winner for Nigerians Applying From Nigeria

Look closely at the bottom two rows of that table. That is the million-Naira insight most YouTubers never explain:

- In mainstream Secondary PGCE/QTS, an international student applying from Nigeria on a standard Student Visa usually has to pay £16,000+ in international tuition fees and is often blocked from the £29,000 bursary by the UK Student Finance residency rule (unless they qualify under a specific Physics/Languages exemption or Salaried Skilled Worker school sponsorship).
- By contrast, in Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT), the Department for Education pays your £9,535 course fee directly to the university AND passes the £2,000–£5,000 bursary to you even when you are applying from Nigeria on a Student Visa — and it accepts any degree discipline!

BONUS TIP FOR STEM GRADUATES (PHYSICS, MATHS, CHEMISTRY, ENGINEERING & COMPUTING):

If you have a strong degree in Physics, Engineering, Maths, Chemistry, or Computing, you can play a Two-Pronged Strategy:

1. Apply to 3 accredited EYITT providers (Chapter 7) where your £9,535 tuition grant + £4,000/£5,000 bursary is guaranteed upon admission and visa approval.
2. Simultaneously register for free with a DfE Teacher Training Adviser at getintoteaching.education.gov.uk to check if any secondary school partnerships are offering Salaried QTS Skilled Worker Sponsorship in Physics, Maths, or Computing for your intake year!

CHAPTER 04

The Four Roads to Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) — And How to Pick the Right One for Your Situation

"England offers four official ways to earn Early Years Teacher Status. Only two carry UK Government grant money — and picking the right one depends on where you live today."

4.1 Comparing All 4 Official EYITT Routes Side by Side

ROUTE 1: Graduate Entry (Full-Time) — [DFE FUNDED]

• Best For: Graduates applying from Nigeria / outside the UK (or graduates in the UK who are not currently employed in a nursery).

• Duration: ~12 months full-time (September to July).

• Funding: £9,535 Tuition Grant + Up to £5,000 Tax-Free Bursary.

• How It Works: You study academic modules at one of the accredited universities while completing supervised practical placements across two early years settings (covering babies/toddlers and preschool ages 3–5) plus a brief primary school key-stage transition visit.

• Visa Route: Eligible for UK Student Visa (CAS) sponsorship from university providers (see Chapter 7).

ROUTE 2: Graduate Employment-Based — [DFE FUNDED]

• Best For: Graduates already living in the UK with the legal right to work (e.g., on a Graduate Visa, Dependent Visa, or Skilled Worker Visa) who are working (or secure a job) in an English nursery or early years setting.

• Duration: ~12 months part-time alongside paid nursery employment.

• Funding: £9,535 Tuition Grant + £7,000 Employer Incentive (plus you earn your regular monthly nursery salary!).

• Visa Rule: The training provider does not issue a Student Visa for this route — your right to work must already cover the full 12-month training period.

ROUTE 3: Undergraduate Entry — [NOT DFE-FUNDED]

• Who It Is For: School leavers without a first degree who want to take a 3-to-4-year full Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood that incorporates EYTS.

• Why Nigerians Should Skip It: Carries £0 DfE Training Grant and £0 Bursary. International students pay full overseas undergraduate tuition (£14,000+/year for 3 years).

ROUTE 4: Assessment Only — [NOT DFE-FUNDED]

• Who It Is For: Highly experienced UK early years practitioners who already meet every single Teachers' Standard (Early Years) without needing training.

• Why Nigerians Should Skip It: Self-funded (approx. £2,500–£3,000 out of pocket), provides no training, no grant, no bursary, and no Student Visa sponsorship.

4.2 The 30-Second Route Decision Flowchart for Nigerians

Your Current Situation Today	Your Exact Target Route	How You Get Funded & Sponsored
Situation A: You are in Nigeria (or Ghana/Kenya) with a BSc/BA (or HND+PGD) and do not have a UK visa yet.	Route 1: Graduate Entry (Full-Time)	Apply directly to the 7 Visa-Sponsoring Universities in Chapter 7 -> Receive Offer + CAS -> Get £9,535 Tuition Grant + up to £5,000 Bursary -> Apply for UK Student Visa.
Situation B: You are already in the UK on a Student Visa finishing your Master's, or on a Dependent/Graduate Visa, and not working in a nursery yet.	Route 1: Graduate Entry OR get hired as a Nursery Assistant first and take Route 2.	On Route 1, you switch/extend your Student Visa (if eligible) and collect the £5,000 bursary. On Route 2 (if you hold a Dependent/Graduate Visa with >12 months left), a nursery hires you and claims the £7,000 employer grant!
Situation C: You are already in the UK working in a nursery/care setting with at least 12 months left on your visa.	Route 2: Graduate Employment-Based	Pitch your nursery manager today! Show them that the UK Government will pay your £9,535 tuition AND pay the nursery £7,000 cash incentive to let you train on the job.

CHAPTER 05

The Nigerian Qualification Decoder: How Your BSc, 2:2, HND+PGD & WAEC/NECO Map to UK DfE Rules

"Most Nigerians disqualify themselves in their head because they see UK terms like '300 HE Credits, Level 6, and GCSE Grade 4.' Here is how your Nigerian certificates match every single one."

5.1 Decoding the Official Academic Entry Criteria for Nigerian Applicants

Before any of the 15 accredited providers can offer you a funded EYITT place, they are audited by the UK Department for Education to verify that you meet two sets of academic benchmarks: (1) Degree Criteria and (2) Secondary School (GCSE) Criteria. Let's translate the UK government jargon into exact Nigerian qualifications:

Official UK DfE Requirement	What It Means in Nigeria (Exact Equivalent)	How UK Universities Verify It
1. A UK First Degree (or equivalent overseas qualification) of at least 300 HE credit points, including 60 at Level 6	A standard 4-year or 5-year Bachelor's Degree (BSc, BA, BEd, BEng, BTech, LLB) from any NUC-accredited Nigerian federal, state, or private university.	The university's international admissions team checks your degree certificate and transcript against the Ecctis (formerly UK NARIC) database — or asks you for an Ecctis Statement of Comparability.
2. GCSE Grade 4 (formerly Grade C) or above in English Language	WAEC (WASSCE) or NECO Grade C6 or higher (A1, B2, B3, C4, C5, or C6) in English Language. (Note: E8, D7, or F9 is NOT accepted!)	You upload your WAEC/NECO certificate plus a scratch-card verification pin or official confirmation during application.
3. GCSE Grade 4 (Grade C) or above in Mathematics	WAEC or NECO Grade C6 or higher (A1 to C6) in General Mathematics.	Verified via your WAEC/NECO result certificate (or an online UK Equivalency Test if you got D7/E8).
4. GCSE Grade 4 (Grade C) or above in a Science Subject	WAEC or NECO Grade C6 or higher in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Integrated Science, Health Science, or Agricultural Science.	Even if you studied Arts, Law, or Commercial class in secondary school in Nigeria, your mandatory Biology or Agricultural Science C6 on WAEC satisfies this requirement!

5.2 What If You Have an HND, Third-Class, or Missing WAEC Science/Maths? (The Legal Workarounds)

Here is the deep insider knowledge you will not find in basic brochures:

WORKAROUND #1: WHAT IF YOU HAVE D7/E8 IN WAEC MATHS OR SCIENCE (OR DID NOT TAKE SCIENCE)?

If your WAEC/NECO has C6+ in English, but you had a D7 in Mathematics or did not sit a Science subject, you are NOT disqualified! Almost all 15 UK EYITT providers (including UCL, Kingston, Reading, Greenwich, and Best Practice Network) officially accept a UK GCSE Equivalency Test.

- Approved Online Test Providers: Equivalency Testing (equivalencytesting.com) and A Star Equivalency (astarequivalency.co.uk).
- How It Works: You book the exam online from Nigeria (approx. £145–£175), study their short revision booklet for 2–3 weeks, take the proctored online exam on your laptop at home in Lagos/Abuja, and receive an official certificate accepted by UK universities as equal to GCSE Grade 4/C!

WORKAROUND #2: WHAT IF YOU HOLD AN HND (HIGHER NATIONAL DIPLOMA) FROM A NIGERIAN POLYTECHNIC?

- Standalone HND: On Ecctis (UK NARIC), a standalone Nigerian HND is graded as equivalent to a UK Level 5 Foundation Degree/HND (240 credits), which falls just short of the mandatory 60 credits at Level 6 (Bachelor's Honours level).
- How HND Holders Qualify: If you hold an HND + a Nigerian Postgraduate Diploma (PGD) from an NUC-accredited university, OR an HND + a Master's degree (MSc/MBA), OR a 1-year BSc Top-Up, your combined qualification meets or exceeds UK Level 6/7! Always email the provider's admissions tutor (using our Chapter 16 template) attaching both your HND and PGD/Master's transcripts for pre-assessment.

5.3 How to Handle the Ecctis (Formerly UK NARIC) Degree Equivalency Check

Because your Bachelor's degree and WAEC/NECO were obtained in Nigeria, your UK university must record formal evidence in your Department for Education audit file that your qualifications are equivalent to UK standards. This happens in one of two ways:

1. In-House University Assessment (Free!): Large universities with dedicated Nigerian admissions teams — such as the University of Greenwich, Kingston University London, UCL, University of Reading, Sheffield Hallam, and University of Worcester — already hold direct institutional subscriptions to the Ecctis database. When you upload your Nigerian degree certificate, official university transcript, and WAEC certificate, their admissions office verifies your equivalency internally at zero extra cost to you.
2. Personal Ecctis Statement of Comparability (£49.50 + VAT): Smaller SCITT providers (or universities evaluating an unusual combination like HND + PGD + Master's) may ask you to provide an official Ecctis Statement of Comparability. You can apply for this online at ecctis.com by uploading colour scans of your Nigerian degree certificate, final transcript, and WAEC certificate. It takes 10–15 working days.

5.4 How to Save NGN 550,000+ on IELTS Using Your WAEC C6 & Nigerian University MOI Letter

With IELTS fees in Nigeria now exceeding NGN 520,000–NGN 580,000, one of the best advantages of applying to a UK Higher Education Institution (HEI) with a Track Record of Compliance is the English Language Waiver for Nigerians:

THE 2-STEP NIGERIAN IELTS WAIVER STRATEGY FOR UK UNIVERSITIES:

1. Weapon #1 — Your WAEC / NECO English Language Credit (C6 or Better): The majority of the 7 visa-sponsoring universities on the EYITT list (such as Greenwich, Kingston, Worcester, Reading, Sussex, and Sheffield Hallam) officially accept WAEC (WASSCE) or NECO English Language at Grade C6 or above (usually alongside an online scratch-card check) as meeting both their academic GCSE English requirement AND their UKVI Student Visa English language requirement!
2. Weapon #2 — Your University Medium of Instruction (MOI) Letter: If your WAEC is older than 10 years, pair your WAEC certificate with an official Medium of Instruction (MOI) Letter signed by your Nigerian university Registrar stating: "This is to certify that [Your Full Name] completed a full-time Bachelor's degree at [University Name], Nigeria, taught and examined entirely in the English language."
3. When You SHOULD Still Take IELTS (Academic UKVI): If a specific provider (such as UCL on certain postgraduate tracks) requires an English qualification obtained within the last 2–5 years and your WAEC is older, or if you have D7 in WAEC English, book either a GCSE English Equivalency Test or IELTS Academic (6.5 overall, minimum 6.0 in each band — always check the specific university's live course page).

5.5 Complete Pre-Application Document Checklist for Nigerian Applicants

Document #	Document Name	Insider Preparation Rule for Nigerians
01	International Passport	Data page scanned in colour. Must be valid for at least 18 months beyond September course start.
02	BSc / BA Degree Certificate	Original colour scan (plus Master's/PGD certificate if using the Tier 2 bursary upgrade).
03	Official Academic Transcript	Student copy can be used for initial application at most schools, but arrange your official stamped transcript early so your unconditional offer & CAS are not delayed!
04	WAEC / NECO Certificate + Pin	Showing C6 or above in English, Mathematics, and a Science subject (Biology/Chemistry/Physics/Agric).
05	UK-Format Early Years CV & Personal Statement	Built using the exact templates in Chapters 10 and 11 of this book.
06	2 Official Referee Contacts	1 Academic Referee (university lecturer with institutional email) + 1 Practical/Professional Referee (ideally the head of the Nigerian nursery where you volunteered — see Chapter 9!).

CHAPTER 06

Your UK Student Visa, Proof of Funds (28-Day Rule), IOM TB Test & VFS Nigeria Masterplan

"Securing your funded offer and CAS is 50% of the victory. Passing the UKVI financial maintenance check from Nigeria with zero red flags is the other 50%."

6.1 How the £9,535 Grant Slashes Your Embassy Proof of Funds Requirement in Half

When a normal Nigerian student applies for a UK Master's visa at VFS Lagos or Abuja, UK Visas and Immigration (UKVI) requires them to show Unpaid Tuition Fees (£16,000–£20,000) + 9 Months Living Maintenance (£10,539–£13,761) = Over £28,000 to £33,000 sitting in a bank account for 28 consecutive days!

Here is why the Graduate Entry EYITT Route is a game-changer for your bank statement:

- Because the UK Department for Education pays your £9,535 Training Grant directly to the university to cover your course fees, your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) shows £0.00 Unpaid Tuition Fees!
- Therefore, for your UK Student Visa application, you only need to show the 9-month Living Maintenance requirement (and if your university explicitly records your £2,000–£5,000 official bursary as financial sponsorship on your CAS, that amount is also deducted from the maintenance balance you need to show!).

6.2 Exact 2026/2027 UKVI Costs & Maintenance Funds Breakdown (London vs. Outside London)

Expense / Requirement Item	Official UKVI Rate (2026/27)	When & How It Is Paid / Shown
1. Course Tuition Fee on CAS	£0.00 Due from You (Covered by £9,535 DfE Grant)	Paid directly by the UK Department for Education to your university provider.
2. Living Maintenance Funds — OUTSIDE LONDON (Reading, Sussex, Sheffield Hallam, Worcester)	£1,171 / month x 9 months = £10,539 total	You do NOT pay this to anyone! It must sit in your (or your parent's/legal guardian's) bank account for 28 consecutive days before visa submission.
3. Living Maintenance Funds — INSIDE LONDON (UCL, Kingston, Greenwich)	£1,529 / month x 9 months = £13,761 total	Held in your bank account for 28 consecutive days. (Notice: Picking a provider outside London reduces your required POF by £3,222!)
4. UK Student Visa Application Fee	£558 (outside the UK)	Paid online by card on gov.uk when submitting your visa form.

Expense / Requirement Item	Official UKVI Rate (2026/27)	When & How It Is Paid / Shown
5. Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS)	£776 per year (~£1,164 for a 16-month visa grant)	Paid online on gov.uk before submitting your visa application; grants full free access to UK NHS hospitals and doctors.
6. Mandatory IOM Nigeria Tuberculosis (TB) Test	$94 USD (approx. NGN 135,000)	Completed at IOM Ikeja (Lagos) or IOM Abuja before applying for your visa. Certificate is valid for 6 months.

THE 3 GOLDEN RULES OF NIGERIAN PROOF OF FUNDS (NEVER GET REFUSED BY UKVI!)

1. The 28-Day & 31-Day Rule: Your required maintenance funds (£10,539 outside London or £13,761 in London) must remain above the threshold every single day for at least 28 consecutive calendar days (using the official OANDA exchange rate on the date you submit your online visa application). The closing date of your bank statement must not be older than 31 days when you pay for your visa online.
2. Only 3 Account Types Are Accepted: Your personal account, your joint account, or your biological/legal parent's account (accompanied by your original NPC/hospital birth certificate + a signed Parent Consent Letter). Never use an uncle's, brother's, or company account — UKVI will refuse it automatically!
3. No Sudden Unexplained Lump-Sum Deposits: Deposit your POF funds BEFORE starting the 28-day clock so the opening balance on Day 1 already shows the full amount cleanly.

6.3 The 5-Step UK Student Visa Execution Plan from Nigeria

1. Book Your IOM Tuberculosis (TB) Screening Early: As soon as you pass your university Zoom interview and receive your conditional/unconditional offer, book your TB test on the official IOM Nigeria Appointment Portal (Lagos: Isaac John Street, GRA Ikeja; Abuja: Haile Selassie Street, Asokoro). Take your international passport and 2 passport photos. Your certificate comes out the same day (or within 24 hours).
2. Start Your 28-Day Bank Statement Count: Ensure your maintenance funds (£10,539 for outside London or £13,761 for London, plus a 5–10% buffer for Naira/Pound OANDA fluctuations) sit untouched in your Nigerian Naira or Domiciliary GBP/USD account at a CBN-approved commercial bank (GTBank, Zenith, Access, UBA, First Bank, Stanbic, Fidelity, etc.) for 28 full days.
3. Receive Your CAS Number from Your Provider: Once your university verifies your degree transcript, references, and 28-day bank statement during their pre-CAS check, they issue your Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) reference number. Check every spelling on your CAS!
4. Submit Online at gov.uk/student-visa & Book VFS Global: Fill out your visa application form, pay the £776/yr IHS fee and £558 visa fee, upload your PDF documents cleanly, and attend your biometric fingerprint and photo appointment at VFS Global (Victoria Island/Ikeja Lagos or Abuja).
5. Prepare for a Possible UKVI Credibility Interview: Occasionally, UKVI invites Nigerian students for a 10-minute video interview at VFS or by phone. Know the exact name of your university, why you chose England's EYITT programme (reference the EYFS framework and England's birth-to-5 specialist training), how the £9,535 DfE grant covers your fees, and how your career will progress afterwards.

6.4 Important Truth About Student Dependants & How Families Navigate This Route

Since January 2024, UK immigration rules restrict international students on taught postgraduate courses (including PGCE and EYITT Graduate Entry) from bringing dependent spouses and children on their initial Student Visa (unless the course is a PhD or research-based Master's, or government-sponsored under specific bilateral scholarships).

HOW MARRIED NIGERIAN APPLICANTS HANDLE THIS STRATEGICALLY:

- If You Are Applying From Nigeria (Graduate Entry Route): The primary applicant travels alone for the 10-to-12-month training year (saving thousands of pounds in dependent IHS fees, visa fees, and maintenance proof of funds!). Upon completing the 1-year EYITT course and securing a sponsored Skilled Worker role (or transitioning onto an eligible long-term work route), you plan your family pathway according to current Home Office Skilled Worker threshold rules.
- If You Are Already in the UK as a Dependent Spouse: If your husband or wife is already in the UK on a Skilled Worker, Health & Care, or PhD visa and you hold a Dependent Visa with full work rights, you are in the luckiest position of all! You can enroll in EITHER the Graduate Entry route (£9,535 grant + up to £5,000 bursary) OR get a nursery job and take the Graduate Employment-Based route (£9,535 grant + £7,000 employer incentive + full salary) while living with your family!

6.5 Your Legal Work Rights While Studying in England

On your UK Student Visa for a full-time degree-level course at a recognised Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance, your eVisa grants you the legal right to work:

- Up to 20 hours per week during university term time (outside your scheduled nursery placement hours).
- Full-time (40+ hours per week) during official Christmas, Easter, and summer vacation periods!

CHAPTER 07 — THE MILLION-NAIRA DIRECTORY

The Master Directory of All 15 Accredited UK Providers: Separating the 7 Visa-Sponsoring Universities from the 8 SCITTs

> *"Other guides just dump all 15 providers in alphabetical order. That wastes months of your time because 8 of those 15 providers DO NOT offer the Graduate Entry Student Visa route! Here is the filtered truth."*

7.1 The Secret Most Applicants Learn Too Late

There are exactly 15 accredited Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) providers in England approved by the Department for Education. However, if you look closely at their official accreditation status:

- Only 7 of the 15 providers are full Graduate-Entry Universities / Higher Education Institutions (plus 1 National Provider, Best Practice Network) that run the full-time Graduate Entry route (£9,535 Grant + £5,000 Bursary)! Furthermore, only universities holding a UKVI Student Sponsor Licence can issue a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) to an applicant living in Nigeria.
- The other 7 providers only offer the Graduate Employment-Based Route! That means if you email them from Lagos asking for a Student Visa CAS, they will reject you immediately because they only train people who already live and work in a UK nursery.

To save you months of wasted effort, I have split all 15 official providers into TABLE A (The Priority Graduate-Entry & Visa-Capable Universities for Applicants in Nigeria) and TABLE B (The Employment-Based SCITT Providers for Applicants Already Living & Working in the UK).

7.2 TABLE A: The 8 Providers Offering the Full-Time Graduate Entry Route (£9,535 Grant + Up to £5,000 Bursary)

If you are applying from Nigeria (or need a full-time Student Visa CAS), focus 100% of your energy on the 7 Universities in this table first:

#	Accredited University / Provider	Region & UKVI POF Tier	Direct Admissions Email	Grad. Entry (£5k Bursary)	Emp-Based (£7k Grant)	Nigerian Applicant Insider Notes
1	University of Greenwich	London & South East (London POF: £13,761)	i.atkins@gre.ac.uk	YES	YES	Very popular with Nigerian graduates; strong international office and clear WAEC C6 acceptance.
2	Kingston University, London	London & South East (London POF: £13,761)	emsw@kingston.ac.uk	YES	YES	Holds full UKVI Student Sponsor licence; offers both Graduate Entry and Employment-Based routes.

#	Accredited University / Provider	Region & UKVI POF Tier	Direct Admissions Email	Grad. Entry (£5k Bursary)	Emp-Based (£7k Grant)	Nigerian Applicant Insider Notes
3	UCL Institute of Education (University College London)	Central London (London POF: £13,761)	eyitt@ucl.ac.uk	YES	YES	Ranked #1 in the world for Education. Accepts 2:2+ overseas degrees & equivalency tests. Closes visa applications 2 weeks early!
4	University of Reading	South East (Berkshire) (Outside London POF: £10,539)	Apply/Enquire via Reading Institute of Education portal	YES	YES	25 mins from London by train, but qualifies for the lower Outside-London POF (£10,539) — saving you £3,222 on your bank statement!
5	University of Sussex	South East (Brighton) (Outside London POF: £10,539)	maeytsadmin@sussex.ac.uk	YES	YES	World-renowned university; offers Graduate Entry EYITT (often paired with PGCE/MA pathways).
6	Sheffield Hallam University	Yorkshire & Humber (Outside London POF: £10,539)	s.gordon@shu.ac.uk	YES	YES	Low Cost of Living Champion! Sheffield rent is 40% cheaper than London, and you only need £10,539 POF.
7	University of Worcester	West Midlands (Near Birmingham) (Outside London POF: £10,539)	admissions@worc.ac.uk	YES	YES	Very welcoming to international trainees, low living costs, and close to Birmingham's large Nigerian community.
8	Best Practice Network (BPN)	National (Across England)	eyitt@bestpracticenet.co.uk	YES	YES	Largest national EYITT provider in England, but as a training organization (not a traditional university), does not sponsor overseas Student Visas. Ideal if you are already in the UK on a Dependent/Graduate visa!

7.3 TABLE B: The 7 Employment-Based Only Providers (For Applicants Already Working in a UK Nursery)

These 7 accredited providers ONLY offer the Graduate Employment-Based Route (£9,535 Tuition Grant + £7,000 Employer Incentive). Do NOT email them for a Student Visa from Nigeria — use them if you are already in England with the right to work (or in Year 2 after arriving):

#	Accredited Provider Name	Region Covered	Direct Contact Email	Grad. Entry	Emp-Based (£7k Grant)
9	Bright Futures SCITT	North West (Manchester / Greater Manchester)	admin@scitt.bright-futures.co.uk	No	YES
10	Cambridge Training Schools Network (CTSN SCITT)	East of England (Cambridgeshire)	CAbidham@ctsnscitt.org	No	YES

#	Accredited Provider Name	Region Covered	Direct Contact Email	Grad. Entry	Emp-Based (£7k Grant)
11	Equalitas	Nationally across England (Online + Placement)	earlyyears@equalitas.co.uk	No	YES
12	Essex and Thames Education	East of England / Essex	nicky@ete.org.uk	No	YES
13	Prestolee SCITT	North West (Bolton / Manchester)	training@prestoleescitt.org.uk	No	YES
14	Teesside University	North East (Middlesbrough)	ITTAdmin@tees.ac.uk	No	YES
15	University of Brighton	London & South East (Brighton)	ProfessionalCourseAdmissions@brighton.ac.uk	No	YES

7.4 Christian Ugo's "3+2 Golden Shortlist Strategy" for Nigerian Applicants

Because each provider manages its own application portal and has a fixed quota of Department for Education funded slots (and CAS allocations) each year, never apply to just one university! Follow my 3+2 Shortlist Formula:

Apply to 3 "Outside-London" Universities First

Target Sheffield Hallam University, University of Worcester, University of Reading, and University of Sussex. Why?

- Your UKVI Bank Statement Proof of Funds requirement drops from £13,761 to £10,539 (saving you over NGN 6.5 Million in POF!).
- Student rent in Sheffield or Worcester is £450–£580/month, which means your £400–£500/month tax-free bursary covers almost your entire rent!

Apply to 2 "London" Universities as Prestige Backups

Target University of Greenwich, Kingston University London, and UCL Institute of Education. Why?

- London universities have large international visa teams that process Nigerian WAEC and BSc transcripts very quickly.
- If you have relatives in London/Kent/Essex you can live with rent-free, your £400–£500 monthly bursary goes straight into your savings!

ALWAYS CONFIRM LIVE CAS SPONSORSHIP BEFORE SUBMITTING YOUR FORM:

While all 7 universities in Table A hold UKVI Student Sponsor licenses and offer the Graduate Entry route, individual university faculties review their international visa-sponsorship intake rules each academic cycle based on placement capacity. That is why Step 1 is always sending our 5-line verification email (Page 42) to all 7 universities in Table A so you apply to the exact ones actively issuing EYITT Student Visa CAS letters for your intake!

CHAPTER 08

The 6-Step Application Journey & The "Early International Visa Cut-Off" Calendar You Must Know

"Unlike standard PGCE courses that use the central DfE Apply portal, EYITT applications go directly to each university's own website — and there is NO application fee!"

8.1 Why You Will Never Find EYITT on UCAS or the General DfE Apply Portal

One of the biggest reasons 99% of Nigerians and travel agents never discover the funded EYITT route is because they search on UCAS or the general UK DfE Apply for Teacher Training portal. EYITT is NOT applied for through the central national portal! Every single one of the providers in Chapter 7 runs its own direct online application portal on its university website — and the application fee is £0.00 (100% Free to Apply).

8.2 The 6-Step Roadmap from Lagos/Abuja to Your First Day in England

Step	Action Phase	What You Do & Exact Deliverable
STEP 1	Qualification & Nursery Audit (Week 1)	Verify your BSc (2:2/2:1/1st Class) + WAEC C6 in English, Maths & Science. Start your 2-week Saturday/weekday volunteering at a local Nigerian nursery (Chapter 9).
STEP 2	Email the 7 Table-A Universities (Week 1–2)	Send the Pre-Application Enquiry Email (Page 42) to the 7 Graduate-Entry universities in Table A to confirm their international CAS deadline and WAEC/MOI policy.
STEP 3	Submit Direct Portal Applications (Week 3–4)	Upload your UK-format Early Years CV, custom EYFS Personal Statement, BSc certificate/transcript, WAEC result, and 2 referees directly on 3 to 5 university portals.
STEP 4	Pass the Zoom Interview & Written Task (Week 5–8)	Attend your 30-minute online interview and complete the short child-development/safeguarding reflective scenario task using our Chapter 12 answer vault.
STEP 5	Fulfil Conditions & Receive Your CAS (Month 3)	Complete any GCSE equivalency check, submit your 28-day bank statement and IOM TB test certificate, and receive your official CAS number showing £9,535 grant funding.
STEP 6	VFS Visa Biometrics, Arrival & Monthly Bursary	Submit your Student Visa on gov.uk, attend VFS Lagos/Abuja, fly to England up to 1 month before term starts, open your UK bank account, and receive your first monthly bursary on 1st October!

8.3 The Annual Application Calendar & The "2-Week Early Visa Cut-Off Trap"

Calendar Window	What Happens at the 15 Accredited UK Providers	Your Strategic Move
October – December (THE GOLDEN WINDOW)	Applications open for the following September intake. 100% of DfE-funded places and international CAS quotas are wide open.	Best time to apply! Admissions tutors have maximum flexibility and interview slots come fast.
January – March (STRONG WINDOW)	Main recruitment wave. Most universities still have funded Graduate Entry places available.	Submit across 3–4 providers immediately; ensure your 28-day POF and transcript are ready.
April – May (FILLING FAST)	Popular regional providers (Sheffield Hallam, Worcester, Reading) begin reaching capacity.	Email admissions first before applying to confirm funded overseas slots remain open.
June – Mid-July (INTERNATIONAL CUT-OFF!)	DANGER ZONE: Universities close applications for overseas visa-needing students 2 to 4 weeks BEFORE UK local students (e.g., UCL closes international visa applications on 17 July while UK students have until 31 July) to allow time for CAS and UKVI visa processing!	Never wait until August! If you miss the June/July visa cut-off, prepare your documents for the October opening of the next cohort.

CHAPTER 09 — SECRET COMPETITIVE ADVANTAGE

How to Get Real Nursery Experience in Nigeria in 14 Days (Even If You Currently Work in a Bank, Oil Firm, or Tech)

> *"You do not need a degree in Education to get funded — stretched UK admissions tutors just want proof that you have actually spent a few days in a real room with children aged 0 to 5."*

9.1 Why 90% of Career-Changer Applications Get Rejected (And How You Will Easily Beat Them)

Let me tell you what happens inside the admissions office at UCL, Kingston, or Greenwich when they open applications from Nigeria. An applicant with a BSc in Accounting, Microbiology, or Chemical Engineering submits an application saying: "I have always loved children since I was young and I want to become an Early Years Teacher in England." Yet on their CV, they have zero days of recent observation or volunteering in a nursery or creche.

As UCL states directly on its official EYITT course page: we strongly recommend that applicants spend some time observing, volunteering, or working in an early years setting (birth to age 5) before applying.

You do not need 3 years of paid teaching experience! Even 10 to 14 days of structured volunteering or observation (or 4 consecutive days/mornings during annual leave) at a registered Montessori nursery, creche, or church/community early childhood centre in Lagos, Abuja, Port Harcourt, Ibadan, or Enugu transforms you from a "random visa seeker" into a serious, committed Early Years practitioner!

9.2 The 4-Step Nigerian Nursery Volunteering Blueprint

1. Day 1 — Pick a Registered Local Creche / Montessori Nursery Near Your House: Look for a clean, registered private nursery or primary school in your neighbourhood that has a Creche (0–2 years), Playgroup/Toddler room (2–3 years), and Nursery/Reception class (3–5 years). Bonus points if the school uses the British / Montessori Early Years Curriculum (thousands of private schools in Nigeria already advertise "British/Nigerian Curriculum"!).
2. Day 2 — Introduce Yourself to the Proprietress / Head of School: Walk in politely dressed, show your BSc certificate or work ID, and say: "Good morning Ma/Sir. I am a graduate applying for a postgraduate Early Years Teacher Training programme in England. As part of my preparation, I need 10 to 14 days of unpaid classroom observation and volunteering assisting your lead nursery practitioners with circle time, story reading, and play-based learning for children aged 0 to 5. I would love to volunteer here for free and obtain a reference letter upon completion." 95% of school owners in Nigeria will gladly say YES on the spot!
3. Days 3 to 14 — Log Specific "EYFS-Style" Observations in a Notebook: While volunteering, do not just sit on a chair looking at your phone! Write down 3 specific real moments (without using children's real surnames) to use in your Personal Statement and Zoom Interview:

- Moment A (Communication & Language): How you helped a 2-year-old expand a single word ("ball!") into a short phrase ("throw the red ball") during outdoor play.
- Moment B (Personal, Social & Emotional Regulation): How you observed a practitioner calm a 3-year-old's frustration over sharing building blocks before it became a tantrum.
- Moment C (Child-Led Play & Fine Motor Development): How children aged 3–4 used water play, sand, or counting beads to learn early maths concepts naturally.

4. Day 14 — Collect Your Official Reference Letter & Official School Email Contact: Hand the Proprietress/Head Teacher our Ready-to-Sign Nigerian Nursery Reference Letter Template (see Chapter 16, Page 42) so she can print it on the school's official letterhead and act as your 2nd Referee!

CHAPTER 10

Writing a Winning EYFS Personal Statement (Plus 3 Complete Nigerian Sample Statements)

"Your Personal Statement is the single most decisive document in your application. Providers use plagiarism & AI detectors — use our 4-Part Formula and 3 tailored models to craft an authentic winner."

10.1 The 4-Part "EYFS-Ready" Personal Statement Formula (500–750 Words)

Every EYITT provider asks for a Personal Statement (or Supporting Statement). Admissions tutors read hundreds of essays that start with the boring cliche: "For as long as I can remember, I have loved children." Delete that sentence forever! Instead, structure your essay into these 4 high-scoring blocks:

1. Paragraph 1 (The Concrete Spark — 15%): Open with a specific, real-life moment observing a child aged 0–5 experimenting, learning through play, or developing language, and why the birth-to-five brain development window fascinates you.
2. Paragraphs 2 & 3 (Your Nursery Volunteering + Transferable Degree Skills — 50%): Describe your hands-on experience in an early years setting in Nigeria (using Chapter 9) AND show how your first degree (whether Engineering, Accounting, Microbiology, or Psychology) gives you valuable analytical, observation, or communication skills.
3. Paragraph 4 (Understanding of England's EYFS Framework & Safeguarding — 20%): Explicitly mention England's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, the Teachers' Standards (Early Years), play-based child-led learning, and safeguarding/child protection.
4. Paragraph 5 (Why England & Your Long-Term Career Goal — 15%): State clearly why you want to train at this specific UK university and how earning Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) fits your professional career trajectory.

BONUS TEMPLATE — SAMPLE STATEMENT #1

10.2 For STEM, Engineering, IT, Finance & Business Graduates (Career-Changers)

Applicant Profile: Emeka Okafor — BSc (Hons) Chemical Engineering (2:1), University of Benin / NYSC Volunteer

The moment that reshaped my career direction did not happen in a laboratory, but in the toddler discovery room of a Montessori nursery in Benin City, watching a three-year-old girl try four different ways to balance a wooden bridge across two water tubs. Nobody gave her instructions; through trial, cause, and effect, she was testing gravity and spatial reasoning on her own. Having trained in Chemical Engineering, where we study how systems behave under changing conditions, witnessing how rapidly a young child's brain constructs logic, language, and emotional resilience between birth and age five convinced me that early childhood education is where I want to dedicate my

professional career.

During my National Youth Service Corps (NYSC) year and over the past three months volunteering on weekdays and Saturdays at Little Scholars Early Years Centre in Lagos, I have supported practitioners working with children aged eighteen months to four years. Rather than simply supervising play, I learned to observe developmental milestones systematically: using open-ended questions during sand and water play to introduce early mathematical language ("full," "empty," "heavier"), supporting circle-time phonics songs, and helping a two-year-old transition calmly from parent drop-off by building a predictable morning routine. My engineering degree trained me in structured observation, patience, and evidence-based problem-solving — skills that translate directly into tracking individual children's progress and adapting activities for diverse learning needs.

I am applying for the Graduate Entry Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) programme because it bridges rigorous academic grounding in the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) with sustained, mentored placement practice. In preparing for this application, I have studied England's Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework, particularly how the three Prime Areas — Communication and Language, Physical Development, and Personal, Social and Emotional Development — underpin the four Specific Areas of learning. I also recognise that safeguarding, child protection, and inclusive practice for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are the non-negotiable foundation of every safe nursery environment.

Choosing to train in England allows me to learn inside one of the world's most structured, research-led early childhood systems. My goal is to qualify with Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS), progress into an Early Years Room Leader and curriculum leadership role, and champion structured, play-based STEM and language curiosity in the early years. I bring strong academic discipline, genuine classroom readiness, and complete commitment to the demands of your programme.

BONUS TEMPLATE — SAMPLE STATEMENT #2

10.3 For Social Sciences, Humanities, Mass Comm & Science Graduates

Applicant Profile: Chiamaka Eze — BSc (Hons) Psychology / Sociology (First Class), University of Lagos

While volunteering at a community nursery in Surulere, Lagos, I watched a two-year-old boy who spoke very little at home point excitedly at a picture book of animals during small-group story time. Instead of forcing him to repeat words, the lead practitioner followed his gaze, named the animal gently, and waited five seconds for him to respond. Within three weeks of that patient "serve-and-return" interaction, he was combining two- and three-word phrases confidently. Seeing how responsive adult attachment unlocks early communication confirmed my decision to train professionally as an Early Years Teacher.

Over the past year, I have volunteered weekly with children aged two to four at Sunshine Early Years Nursery in Lagos, assisting with outdoor sensory play, story circles, and observation logs. I learned how to read a toddler's non-verbal frustration before it escalates into a meltdown, how to scaffold cooperative turn-taking among three-year-olds, and how to design simple play stations around children's emerging interests. My First-Class Bachelor's degree in Psychology gave me a strong theoretical foundation in cognitive development and attachment theory, and I am eager to translate that academic knowledge into high-quality daily classroom practice.

England's Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) programme appeals to me because it evaluates trainees directly against the Teachers' Standards (Early Years) across diverse age placements from birth to five. I am particularly drawn to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework's focus on the Characteristics of Effective Teaching and Learning — playing and exploring, active learning, and

creating and thinking critically — alongside strict safeguarding and welfare standards. My ambition is to earn Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS), build deep leadership experience in UK nursery settings, and contribute to raising early childhood literacy and inclusion standards.

BONUS TEMPLATE — SAMPLE STATEMENT #3

10.4 For Parents, Caregivers & Experienced Primary/Nursery Teachers

Applicant Profile: Funke Adeyemi — BSc (Hons) Economics (2:2), Ahmadu Bello University + Nursery Assistant / Parent Experience

Supporting young children through their earliest milestones — first as a mother observing how differently my two children acquired language and motor confidence, and subsequently as a part-time Early Years Assistant at BrightSteps Montessori in Abuja — taught me that no two children between birth and age five develop on the exact same timetable. While primary education focuses on formal subject instruction, the birth-to-five stage is where the emotional security, curiosity, and self-regulation that make all future learning possible are built.

In my role supporting twenty children aged eighteen months to four years in Abuja, I have worked closely with lead teachers to set up tactile numeracy corners, phonics play, and safe outdoor exploration. When a three-year-old joined our setting speaking only her home dialect, I used visual timetable cards, gesture songs, and bilingual peer pairing to help her settle safely and begin using English words within her first month. That experience showed me the importance of inclusive practice for children learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) and sparked my desire to gain formal postgraduate certification.

Although my first degree was in Economics, my practical work in early years settings has shown me that effective nursery leadership requires both warm emotional attunement and structured planning. Training on the Graduate Entry EYITT route in England will equip me with formal mastery of the EYFS statutory framework, rigorous safeguarding protocols, and evidence-based assessment across birth-to-five placements. I am fully prepared for the academic and placement rigour of this course and excited to qualify with Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS).

6 FATAL PERSONAL STATEMENT MISTAKES THAT CAUSE INSTANT REJECTION:

1. Copying any sample statement word-for-word (universities run Turnitin similarity checks across all applications).
2. Writing about teaching secondary school teenagers (ages 11–18) instead of focusing specifically on birth to age 5!
3. Focusing 80% of your essay on why you want to leave Nigeria or relocate to the UK instead of your passion for early childhood development.
4. Forgetting to mention Safeguarding / Child Protection and the EYFS Framework.
5. Listing job duties without explaining what you learned about how young children develop.
6. Submitting an essay with spelling errors or American English ("program," "kindergarten," "mom") instead of British English ("programme," "nursery/reception," "mum").

CHAPTER 11

Your UK-Standard Early Years CV: How to Reformat Your Nigerian CV So UK Universities Shortlist You Immediately

"A typical 4-page Nigerian CV with your Date of Birth, State of Origin, Local Government Area, Marital Status, and Passport Photo screams 'unfamiliar with UK standards.' Here is how to fix it in 20 minutes."

11.1 The 6 Non-Negotiable Rules of a UK Early Years CV

- Rule 1 — Delete Personal Bio-Data: Under UK Equality Act norms, NEVER include a photo, Date of Birth, Gender, Religion, Marital Status, State of Origin, or Local Government Area on a UK CV. Only put your Full Name, Professional Email, Phone Number (with +234), City/Country (e.g., Lagos, Nigeria), and a 1-line Visa Route tag (Applying via the UK Student Visa Route).
- Rule 2 — Keep It to 1 or Maximum 2 Pages: Concise, reverse-chronological (most recent role first), clean sans-serif font.
- Rule 3 — Put Your Early Years Volunteering / Teaching Experience at the Top: Even if your main full-time job is in a bank or engineering firm, create a dedicated section right under your Personal Profile titled EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION EXPERIENCE so the admissions tutor sees your nursery hours in the first 5 seconds!
- Rule 4 — Translate Nigerian Terms into UK-Recognizable Language: Use the translation table below so UK admissions tutors don't have to guess what your Nigerian qualifications mean:

What Nigerians Write on Local CVs (DO NOT USE ALONE)	What You Must Write on Your UK EYITT Application CV (USE THIS!)
"NYSC Corps Member at Command Day School"	Graduate Teaching & Classroom Assistant (National Youth Service Scheme)
"Worked in a Creche / Daycare / Playgroup"	Early Years Practitioner / Nursery Assistant (Ages 0–5 / EYFS-Aligned Setting)
"Primary 1 / Nursery 2 Teacher"	Reception & Key Stage 1 Classroom Teacher (Ages 4–6)
"WAEC / WASSCE Certificate (6 Credits)"	WASSCE (Assessed as UK GCSE Grade 4 / C Equivalent in English, Mathematics & Biology/Science)
"BSc Chemical Engineering (Second Class Upper)"	BSc (Hons) Chemical Engineering, Second Class Upper (2:1) — UK 2:1 Honours Degree Equivalent

BONUS TEMPLATE — WORKED 1-PAGE UK CV

11.2 Worked UK CV Template (For Career-Changers & Nigerian Graduates)

EMEKA OKAFOR

emeka.okafor@email.com • +234 803 XXX XXXX • Lagos, Nigeria • Applying via the UK Student Visa Route (Graduate Entry EYITT)

PERSONAL PROFILE

Analytical and child-focused Second-Class Upper (2:1) Chemical Engineering graduate with hands-on volunteering experience in early childhood settings (ages 0–5), seeking a Graduate Entry place on an Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) programme in England. Experienced in supporting play-based numeracy, phonics, and emotional regulation in alignment with the EYFS framework and safeguarding standards.

EARLY YEARS & EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

Volunteer Early Years Assistant — Little Scholars Montessori & Early Years Centre, Lagos (Jan 2026 – Present)

• Support lead practitioners across the Toddler (ages 18–36 months) and Preschool/Reception (ages 3–5) rooms for 12 hours weekly.

• Facilitate child-led sensory play, story circles, and early mathematical discovery (measuring, sorting, and spatial awareness).

• Assist with daily observation records tracking Prime Areas (Communication & Language, PSED, and Physical Development) and uphold strict child safeguarding and health-and-safety sign-in/out procedures.

Graduate Classroom & STEM Teaching Assistant (NYSC) — Community Junior School, Benin City (2023 – 2024)

• Supported classroom learning, small-group literacy/numeracy intervention, and pastoral welfare for 35 pupils; organized interactive science and play clubs.

ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Process & Quality Operations Analyst — Meridian Industrial Ltd, Lagos (2024 – Present)

• Maintain rigorous health, safety, and compliance logs; collaborate across multi-disciplinary teams and mentor 4 junior interns.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

• BSc (Hons) Chemical Engineering, Second Class Upper (2:1) — University of Benin, Nigeria (2023) [Assessed as equivalent to a UK 2:1 Honours Degree, 300+ HE credits including Level 6]

• West African Senior School Certificate (WASSCE / WAEC) — [UK GCSE Grade 4/C Equivalent Achieved in English Language (B3), Mathematics (B2), Chemistry (B3), and Biology (C4)]

CORE EARLY YEARS SKILLS: EYFS Framework Awareness • Child Safeguarding & Protection • Play-Based Learning • EAL & SEND Inclusion • Observation & Record-Keeping.

REFERENCES: Academic and Early Years Setting References available upon request.

CHAPTER 12

Cracking the UK Zoom Interview & Written Task: 12 Real Questions, Model STAR Answers & Your EYFS Cheat Sheet

> *"When a UK university invites you to an online interview from Nigeria, you already meet the academic rules. The interview tests two things: your grasp of birth-to-five practice and safeguarding."*

12.1 The 3 Elements of a Standard EYITT Online Interview

1. Element 1 — The Short Written / Reflective Task (20–30 Minutes): Completed either by email before the interview or live on Zoom. You are given a short scenario (e.g., "A 3-year-old child is struggling to settle at nursery and refuses to share toys. How would you support the child and work with the parents?") to assess your written English and child-centred reasoning.
2. Element 2 — The 1-to-1 or Panel Interview on Zoom/MS Teams (25–35 Minutes): Two admissions tutors ask 6 to 8 structured questions covering your motivation for ages 0–5, safeguarding, inclusion (EAL/SEND), and relocation readiness.
3. Element 3 — Group Discussion or Short Story/Activity Presentation (At Select Providers): You may be asked to share a 3-minute age-appropriate activity or picture book you would use with a 3-year-old and explain what learning it promotes.

12.2 The 1-Page "EYFS & Safeguarding Vocabulary Cheat Sheet" (Memorize These Terms!)

When you naturally use these official UK early years phrases during your Zoom interview, the panel will immediately score you in the top 5% of applicants:

Official UK Term	What It Means & How to Use It in Your Interview
The 3 Prime Areas of the EYFS	(1) Communication and Language, (2) Physical Development, and (3) Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSED). Tip: Say "For babies and toddlers under three, the three Prime Areas are the foundation before we build the four Specific Areas."
The 4 Specific Areas of the EYFS	(1) Literacy, (2) Mathematics, (3) Understanding the World, and (4) Expressive Arts and Design.
The Key Person Approach	Every child in an English nursery is assigned a dedicated Key Person (practitioner) who builds a secure attachment with the child and acts as the primary point of contact for the parents.
Safeguarding & Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)	Protecting children from maltreatment, preventing impairment of health/development, and ensuring safe care. Golden Rule: In an interview, NEVER say you would investigate abuse yourself or promise a child "I will keep it a secret." Always say: "I would listen calmly, observe, record the exact facts objectively, and report immediately to the setting's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)."

Official UK Term	What It Means & How to Use It in Your Interview
EAL & SEND	EAL = English as an Additional Language; SEND = Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (supported by the setting's SENCO — Special Educational Needs Coordinator).

12.3 Top 6 Real EYITT Interview Questions + High-Scoring Model Answers

Q1: "Why do you want to train specifically with children from birth to five (Early Years), rather than primary school teaching?" Model Answer Framework: "Between birth and age five, a child's brain develops faster than at any other stage of life. Unlike primary school, which focuses on formal subject delivery, early years practice is about building the foundational architecture — secure attachment, emotional self-regulation, early language, and physical confidence — through purposeful, child-led play under the EYFS framework. During my volunteering with 2-to-4-year-olds in Lagos, seeing how a small sensory activity unlocked a toddler's vocabulary showed me that shaping the first five years has the highest lifelong impact."

Q2: "What do you understand by 'Safeguarding' in an early years setting, and what would you do if you noticed unexplained bruising on a two-year-old?" Model Answer Framework: "Safeguarding means protecting children's health, wellbeing, and human rights so they grow up free from harm, abuse, or neglect. Because babies and toddlers from birth to five are often pre-verbal or have limited vocabulary, practitioners must be vigilant to non-verbal signs, physical marks, or sudden changes in behaviour. If I noticed unexplained bruising, I would ensure the child is safe and comfortable, make an accurate, dated written record of what I observed using a body map without asking leading questions, and report it immediately to our setting's Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) following the nursery's safeguarding policy."

Q3: "Tell us about a time you supported a young child's learning or behaviour. What did you do and what was the outcome?" (Use the STAR Method!) Model Answer Framework: "During my volunteering at [Name of Nigerian Nursery], a 3-year-old boy frequently knocked over other children's block towers during free play because he wanted to join in but lacked the words to ask (Situation/Task). Instead of scolding him, I sat beside him at eye level, validated his excitement about the blocks, and modelled simple turn-taking phrases like 'My turn next, please' while introducing a sand-timer so he could visually see when his turn was coming (Action). Within two weeks, he was using the sand-timer independently and building towers collaboratively with two peers, demonstrating real growth in Personal, Social and Emotional Development (Result)."

Q4: "How would you support a 3-year-old child who arrives at the nursery speaking no English (EAL)?" Model Answer Framework: "Coming from a multilingual society in Nigeria, I understand how overwhelming a new language environment can feel for a young child. First, I would work closely with the parents and the child's Key Person to learn a few comforting words and phonetic pronunciations in the child's home language, valuing their home culture. Second, I would use visual timetables, Makaton/gestures, picture cards, and repetitive action songs so the child can follow routines without anxiety. Third, I would use parallel play and commentary — narrating simple actions during water or block play without pressuring them to speak until they feel secure."

Q5: "Your first degree was in [Engineering / Business / Accounting / Microbiology]. Why are you switching into Early Years Teaching now?" Model Answer Framework: "My first degree gave me strong analytical, observation, and communication skills, which I value deeply. However, whenever I mentored

younger students during NYSC and volunteered in our community nursery, I realised my strongest fulfilment came from facilitating early childhood discovery. In fact, my background in [STEM/Business] is an asset in an early years room because early numeracy, curiosity about how the physical world works, and structured observation of developmental milestones are central to the EYFS framework."

Q6 (The International Candidate Question): "As an international applicant applying from Nigeria, do you understand the visa timeline, accommodation, and financial requirements to start in September?"
Model Answer Framework: "Yes, completely. I have already verified all UKVI Student Visa requirements. While the £9,535 DfE Training Grant covers the course tuition fee, I have already prepared my full UKVI 28-day maintenance living funds, my IHS surcharge, and my IOM Tuberculosis screening in Nigeria so that as soon as my CAS is issued, I can submit my visa application immediately and arrive in England two to three weeks before September enrolment."

12.4 How to Ace the 20-Minute Written Reflective Scenario Task

THE 3-PARAGRAPH FORMULA FOR ANY EYITT WRITTEN INTERVIEW TASK:

If given a scenario about a child struggling to settle, hitting another child, or showing delayed speech:

1. Paragraph 1 (Child-Centred Empathy & Observation): State that all behaviour in ages 0–5 is a form of communication. Explain how you and the Key Person would observe the triggers (hunger, tiredness, sensory overload, transition anxiety) and comfort the child at eye level.
2. Paragraph 2 (Partnership With Parents & Inclusive Scaffolding): Explain how you would speak warmly and non-judgmentally with the parents at pick-up/drop-off to ensure consistency between home and nursery, and adapt the environment using visual cues or small-group play.
3. Paragraph 3 (Professional Support & Safeguarding/SENCO): Mention that if developmental concerns persist over time, you would share objective observation logs with the Room Leader and the setting's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) or DSL to put targeted early support in place.

CHAPTER 13

Two Real Application Walkthroughs: Applying to UCL (London) vs. University of Worcester & Sheffield Hallam (Low-Cost Regional Route)

"Reading theory is good; seeing the exact portal steps for a London powerhouse vs. a low-cost regional university makes your application effortless."

13.1 Walkthrough #1: Applying to UCL Institute of Education (London — Graduate Entry EYITT)

University College London (UCL) is one of the world's most prestigious universities and one of the 7 universities offering the Graduate Entry (Mainstream) EYITT route. Here is how an application works on UCL's portal:

1. Search the Exact Course Page: Go to UCL's Graduate Teacher Training prospectus and open "Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) — Graduate Entry (Mainstream)" (or email eyitt@ucl.ac.uk).
2. Verify Your Entry Basics: Minimum 2:2 UK degree equivalent (any subject) + English, Maths, and Science at GCSE Grade 4/C equivalent (UCL accepts Equivalency Testing and A Star Equivalency if you need to top up a GCSE subject).
3. Click "Apply Now" on UCL's Direct Portal (Not DfE Apply!): Create a free account on UCL's online applicant portal. There is £0 application fee.
4. Upload Your 5 Core Files: (a) BSc Degree Certificate & Transcript, (b) WAEC/NECO Certificate, (c) Your EYFS Personal Statement (Chapter 10), (d) Your 1-page UK Early Years CV (Chapter 11), and (e) Contact details of 2 Referees (1 Academic + 1 Nursery/Professional).
5. Beat UCL's Early International Visa Cut-Off: While UCL's general deadline for UK home students is usually 31 July, UCL closes applications for international students needing a Student Visa around 17 July (and often earlier if places fill up). Submit between October and March!

13.2 Walkthrough #2: Applying to University of Worcester / Sheffield Hallam (The Smart Nigerian Budget Route!)

As someone who studied outside London at the University of Nottingham, I always advise budget-conscious Nigerian applicants to apply to Sheffield Hallam University, University of Worcester, or University of Reading alongside London schools. Look at the financial difference:

Cost Comparison Factor	London University (UCL / Kingston / Greenwich)	Regional University (Sheffield Hallam / Worcester / Reading)	How Much Money You Save!
Course Tuition Fee	£0 (Covered by £9,535 DfE Grant)	£0 (Covered by £9,535 DfE Grant)	Both 100% Free Tuition!

Cost Comparison Factor	London University (UCL / Kingston / Greenwich)	Regional University (Sheffield Hallam / Worcester / Reading)	How Much Money You Save!
Tax-Free Monthly Bursary	Up to £5,000 (£500/mo for 1st Class; £400/mo for 2:1)	Up to £5,000 (£500/mo for 1st Class; £400/mo for 2:1)	Exact same bursary cash!
UKVI 9-Month Bank Statement POF Required	£13,761 (£1,529/mo x 9)	£10,539 (£1,171/mo x 9)	You need £3,222 (approx. NGN 6.5M+) LESS on your bank statement!
Average Student Room Rent	£750 – £980 / month	£420 – £550 / month	Your £400–£500 monthly bursary pays almost 100% of your rent in Worcester or Sheffield!

CHAPTER 14

Money in Your Pocket & Your First 90 Days in England: Bursary Payout Dates, Bank Accounts, NI Number & Part-Time Work

"Your £9,535 tuition grant goes straight to your university, but your £2,000–£5,000 bursary lands in your personal UK bank account in 10 equal monthly payments."

14.1 Your 10-Month Tax-Free Bursary Payout Schedule (October to July)

On the full-time Graduate Entry Route starting in September, the Department for Education releases your training bursary through your university in 10 equal monthly instalments from October through July, provided you are actively enrolled on the 1st day of each month:

Month	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Total Tax-Free Cash
Tier 1 (1st Class / PhD)	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500	£500	£5,000
Tier 2 (2:1 / Master's)	£400	£400	£400	£400	£400	£400	£400	£400	£400	£400	£4,000
Tier 3 (2:2 Honours)	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£200	£2,000

Important Protection Rule: Your bursary is 100% tax-free and requires zero repayment. Even if a personal or medical emergency forces you to pause or withdraw mid-year, official DfE guidance states you keep every monthly bursary instalment already earned up to the month of withdrawal.

14.2 Your First 10 Days in England: The 5-Step Arrival Sequence

Every one of these steps unlocks the next — complete them in your first 10 days after landing at Heathrow, Gatwick, Manchester, or Birmingham Airport:

1. Step 1 — Activate Your UKVI Digital eVisa & Share Code: Physical BRP cards have been replaced by the digital UKVI eVisa linked to your passport. Log into your UKVI account before and upon arrival so you can generate a Right to Study and Right to Work Share Code in 60 seconds.
2. Step 2 — Complete In-Person University Enrolment & Enhanced DBS Check: Attend international orientation at your university with your original passport, BSc certificate, WAEC certificate, and Nigerian Police Character Certificate (obtained from Alagbon Lagos or Louis Edet House Abuja before flying!) so your university can process your UK Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) child-protection clearance for your nursery placement.
3. Step 3 — Open Your UK Bank Account in 48 Hours: Download Monzo, Revolut, or Chase UK on day one using your UK SIM card (Giffgaff/Lebara/VOXI) and university accommodation address, AND open a student account at HSBC, Barclays, Lloyds, or Santander using your university's Bank

Introduction Letter. Give your UK Sort Code and Account Number to your university finance office immediately so your October 1st bursary lands on time!

4. Step 4 — Apply for Your National Insurance (NI) Number Online (Free): Visit gov.uk/apply-national-insurance-number. You need this for part-time work and future full-time employment.
5. Step 5 — Register With a Local NHS GP & Claim Full-Time Student Council Tax Exemption: Because you paid the Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS), NHS doctor visits are free. Also download your Student Status Letter from your university portal and send it to your local council so you pay £0 Council Tax (saving £1,200+/year!).

CHAPTER 15

Life After Qualification: The Graduate Route Visa, Skilled Worker Sponsorship & Your UK Career Ladder

"Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) is not a ceiling — it is your launchpad into UK education leadership, post-study work rights, and long-term Skilled Worker sponsorship."

15.1 The 5-Rung UK Early Years Career & Salary Progression Ladder

Once you complete your 12-month training and are awarded Early Years Teacher Status (EYTS) by the Department for Education, you hold a permanent, nationally recognized UK professional qualification. Here is where EYTS graduates progress across England:

Rung 1: Qualified Early Years Teacher (EYTS)

Leading birth-to-five curriculum delivery across private nursery groups (e.g., Busy Bees, Bright Horizons, Fennies), school nurseries, and pre-schools.

Rung 2: Room Leader / Senior Early Years Practitioner / SENCO

Managing a staff team, leading safeguarding (DSL) or Special Educational Needs (SENCO), and mentoring new trainees.

Rung 3: Deputy Manager -> Nursery Manager / Head of Early Years

Full operational, budget, Ofsted-inspection, and strategic leadership of an early years setting (£32,000–£48,000+ salary bands).

15.2 How International Graduates Transition Visas After Completing EYITT

1. Pathway A — The UK Graduate Route Visa (Post-Study Work Visa): Upon successfully completing your eligible full-time postgraduate qualification at a licensed UK Higher Education Provider with a track record of compliance, you can apply for the Graduate Route Visa (gov.uk/graduate-visa), allowing you to stay and work full-time in the UK for up to 2 years (or 18–24 months subject to current Home Office review) without needing immediate employer sponsorship.
2. Pathway B — Direct Skilled Worker Visa Sponsorship (New Entrant Discount Secret!): Here is a massive immigration advantage most people miss: If you switch from a UK Student Visa (or Graduate Visa) directly into a Skilled Worker Visa, you qualify under the UK Home Office "New Entrant" rule for up to 4 years! Under the New Entrant rule, the salary threshold required for an employer to sponsor your Skilled Worker visa is discounted by 20% to 30% compared to overseas applicants — making it vastly easier for large UK nursery groups, independent schools, and academies to sponsor you!
3. Pathway C — What If Your Placement Nursery Offers You a Job During Training? Over 60% of trainees receive job offers directly from one of the two nurseries where they complete their practical placements during the course, because the nursery manager has already watched you work for months!

CHAPTER 16 — YOUR 6-BONUS TOOLKIT (WORTH NGN 130,000)

The 6 Bonus Workable Tools Vault: Copy-and-Paste Emails, Reference Letters, MOI Waiver & 30-Day Tracker

"Every template below is ready for immediate execution. Copy, fill in your bracketed details, and deploy them today."

BONUS #1 — ADMISSIONS & CAS VERIFICATION EMAIL

Pre-Application Email Script to Send to the 7 Visa-Sponsoring Universities (From Nigeria)

Copy, fill in the bracketed words, and send this today to the 7 universities in Chapter 7 (Table A):

Subject: International Applicant Enquiry — EYITT Graduate Entry (Full-Time), September [2026 / 2027] Intake

Dear Admissions Team,

My name is [Your Full Name], and I am an international graduate from Nigeria preparing my application for your Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT — Graduate Entry Full-Time) programme for September [Year] entry.

I hold a [BSc / BA Honours Degree in Subject, Class: e.g., Second Class Upper 2:1] from [Name of Nigerian University], alongside WASSCE (WAEC) credits at Grade C6 or above in English Language, Mathematics, and Biology/Science, as well as practical volunteering experience in an early years nursery setting (ages 0–5).

Before I submit my online portal application, could you kindly confirm:

1. Are Department for Education (DfE) funded Graduate Entry places and Student Visa (CAS) sponsorship currently open for international applicants for the September [Year] cohort?

2. What is the exact application cut-off date for international applicants who require a Student Visa CAS?

3. Does your admissions team assess Nigerian degree transcripts and WASSCE (WAEC) certificates internally for UK equivalence, or should I attach an Ecctis statement?

Thank you very much for your time and guidance. I look forward to submitting my application.

Kind regards,

[Your Full Name]

Phone / WhatsApp: +234 [Your Number] • Email: [Your Email]

BONUS #2 — HND + PGD / 2:2 + MASTER'S UPGRADE EMAIL

Pre-Assessment Email Script for HND+PGD Holders or 2:2 + Master's Bursary Upgrade

Send this if you hold an HND + PGD/MSc (to confirm Level 6 equivalence) OR a 2:2 BSc + MSc (to confirm your Tier 2 £4,000 Bursary upgrade):

> **Subject: Qualification Equivalency & Bursary Tier Confirmation — EYITT Graduate Entry [Your Full Name]**
>
> **Dear EYITT Admissions Tutor,**
>
> I am preparing my application for your full-time Graduate Entry EYITT programme for September [Year] entry. I hold a [state qualification: e.g., Second Class Lower 2:2 BSc + Master's Degree (MSc) / OR Higher National Diploma (HND) + Postgraduate Diploma (PGD)] from [University/Polytechnic Name, Nigeria], alongside WASSCE Grade C6+ in English, Mathematics, and Science.
>
> Could you kindly confirm that my combined postgraduate qualification satisfies the UK Level 6 degree requirement (and qualifies for the Tier 2 £4,000 Master's bursary rate under the DfE EYITT funding guidance)? I have attached my degree certificates and transcripts for your quick review.
>
> **Kind regards,**
>
> [Your Full Name] • +234 [Your Number] • [Your Email]

BONUS #3 — NIGERIAN NURSERY REFERENCE LETTER

Ready-to-Sign Nigerian Creche / Nursery Volunteering Reference Letter Template

After completing your 2-week volunteering at a local nursery in Nigeria (Chapter 9), give this template to the Head Teacher / Proprietress to print on the school's official letterhead and sign:

> **[PRINT ON OFFICIAL NIGERIAN NURSERY / MONTESSORI SCHOOL LETTERHEAD]**
>
> **Date: [Insert Date]**
>
> **To: The Admissions Tutor, Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT), United Kingdom**
>
> **RE: EARLY YEARS CLASSROOM OBSERVATION & VOLUNTEERING REFERENCE FOR [YOUR FULL NAME]**
>
> I write in my capacity as the Head of Early Years / Proprietress of [Name of Nursery School, City, Nigeria], a registered early childhood education setting catering for children aged 3 months to 5 years.
>
> I am pleased to confirm that [Your Full Name] completed structured classroom observation and practical volunteering in our Baby/Toddler Room (ages 0–3) and Preschool/Reception Class (ages 3–5) from [Start Date] to [End Date].
>
> During this placement, [First Name] worked alongside our lead practitioners to support play-based learning, phonics and story circles, early numeracy activities, outdoor physical exploration, and daily observation logging. [He/She] demonstrated exceptional warmth, patience, natural rapport with young children, and a clear understanding of child safeguarding, hygiene, and emotional regulation.
>
> I have no hesitation in recommending [Your Full Name] as a mature, reliable, and highly suitable candidate

for postgraduate Early Years Initial Teacher Training (EYITT) in England. Please feel free to contact me at the official school email or phone number above should you require any further verification.

Yours faithfully,

[Signature & Official School Stamp]

[Name of Head Teacher / Proprietress] • [Official School Email & Phone Number]

BONUS #4 — NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY MOI IELTS-WAIVER LETTER

Official Medium of Instruction (MOI) Letter Template (To Save NGN 550,000+ on IELTS)

Request this letter from your Nigerian University Registrar or Faculty Officer on official university letterhead to pair with your WAEC/NECO C6 English result:

[PRINT ON OFFICIAL NIGERIAN UNIVERSITY LETTERHEAD — OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR]

Date: [Insert Date] • Ref: [University Reference Number]

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN / UK UNIVERSITY ADMISSIONS & UKVI

CONFIRMATION OF ENGLISH AS MEDIUM OF INSTRUCTION FOR [YOUR FULL NAME — MATRIC NO: XXXXX]

This is to officially certify that [Your Full Name] attended [Name of Nigerian University] from [Start Year] to [Graduation Year] and was awarded a Bachelor of [Science / Arts / Engineering / Education] in [Department/Course] with [Degree Classification: First Class / Second Class Upper 2:1 / Second Class Lower 2:2].

We confirm that the entire curriculum, lectures, coursework, research project, and final examinations for this degree programme were taught and assessed 100% in the English Language, which is the official language of instruction and academic assessment in the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Yours faithfully,

[Official Signature & University Registrar Stamp]

[Name & Title of Registrar / Academic Secretary] • [Official University Email & Phone]

BONUS #5 — 30-DAY UK FUNDED APPLICATION TRACKER

Your Personal 30-Day UK Funded Application Tracker & Self-Check Worksheet

Done?	Milestone Action Item	Your Personal Details / Target Notes
[ ]	1. My Degree Class & Bursary Tier Confirmed: (Tier 1 = £5,000 | Tier 2 = £4,000 | Tier 3 = £2,000)	My BSc/MSc: _____ My Bursary Tier: _____
[ ]	2. My WAEC / NECO C6+ Audit Completed: (English, Mathematics & 1 Science Subject at C6+)	English Grade: ____ | Maths Grade: ____ Science Subject & Grade: _____
[ ]	3. My Top 5 Target Universities (Chapter 7 Table A): (Pick 3 Outside London + 2 Inside London)	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____

Done?	Milestone Action Item	Your Personal Details / Target Notes
[ ]	4. Pre-Application Emails Sent to All 5 Providers:	Date Sent: _____ Replies Logged: [ ]
[ ]	5. 14-Day Nigerian Nursery Volunteering Completed:	School Name: _____ Reference Letter Signed: [ ]
[ ]	6. UK-Format CV & EYFS Personal Statement Written:	Checked against Chapters 10 & 11 rules: [ ]
[ ]	7. Official University Transcript & MOI Letter Ready:	Scanned in single PDF under 5MB: [ ]
[ ]	8. 28-Day UKVI Maintenance Bank Statement Started: (£10,539 Outside London or £13,761 Inside London)	Bank Name: _____ Day 1 Start Date: _____
[ ]	9. IOM Lagos / Abuja TB Test Booked ($94 USD):	Appointment Date: _____

BONUS #6 — OFFICIAL GOV.UK & EQUIVALENCY DIRECTORY

Official GOV.UK & Verification Links Directory (Bookmark These!)

- Official DfE EYITT Funding Guidance (2026 to 2027): https://www.gov.uk/guidance/early-years-initial-teacher-training-2026-to-2027-funding-guidance
- Official List of All 15 Accredited EYITT Providers in England: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/early-years-initial-teacher-training-itt-providers--2
- Official UK Get Into Teaching Portal (Early Years & Secondary STEM Bursaries): https://getintoteaching.education.gov.uk
- Official UK Student Visa Rules, Fees & Maintenance Funds: https://www.gov.uk/student-visa
- Official UK Graduate Route (Post-Study Work Visa): https://www.gov.uk/graduate-visa
- Ecctis (Formerly UK NARIC — Overseas Degree & WAEC Comparability): https://www.ecctis.com
- Approved UK GCSE Equivalency Test Providers (Online from Nigeria): https://www.equivalencytesting.com & https://astarequivalency.co.uk

CHAPTER 17 — OPTIONAL VIP FAST-TRACK SERVICES

Too Busy to Apply Yourself? Let Christian Ugo & The AFRYTRAV Admissions Team Handle Your UK Application From Start to CAS!

> *"You now hold the complete DIY blueprint. You can apply 100% by yourself using Chapters 1–16. Or, if you want zero guesswork and maximum speed, our team can do the heavy lifting for you."*

Every week, Nigerian professionals — bankers, engineers, teachers, healthcare workers, and busy parents — read this guide and tell me: "Christian, this UK Government Funded EYITT route is incredible, but between my job and family, I don't have time to rewrite my CV to UK standards, draft an EYFS-compliant Personal Statement, chase 7 separate university portals, or risk failing the Zoom interview. Can your team at AFRYTRAV handle my admission for me?"

Yes, we can. And because you are already a verified buyer of this guide, we will deduct your NGN 9,800 book purchase price when you upgrade to any of our Done-For-You packages below!

Option 1: Our "Middle-Tier" Application Boosters (For DIY Applicants Who Want Expert Documents)

PACKAGE A: Done-For-You UK CV + Custom EYFS Personal Statement Makeover

Investment: NGN 49,000 ($49) (Save NGN 9,800 as a book buyer!)

- Full audit of your BSc transcript & WAEC/NECO result.
- We rewrite your Nigerian CV into a 1-page UK Early Years CV.
- Our editorial team writes a 100% custom, Turnitin-safe EYFS Personal Statement tailored to your degree and nursery experience in 72 hours.
- Custom shortlist of the top 3 CAS-sponsoring UK universities for your profile.

PACKAGE B: 1-on-1 UK University Zoom Interview & Written Task Coaching

Investment: NGN 75,000 ($75)

- 60-minute live mock interview on Zoom with an AFRYTRAV UK Admissions Coach.
- Custom STAR answers tailored to your degree background and safeguarding questions.
- Live practice and grading of the 20-minute EYITT Written Reflective Scenario Task so you pass your interview with confidence.

Option 2: Our Flagship "Done-For-You" Full Admission & Visa Concierge Packages

VIP PACKAGE 1 (MOST POPULAR): DONE-FOR-YOU UK FUNDED TEACHER ADMISSION — WE APPLY FOR YOU! (NGN 195,000 / $199)

Instead of struggling with university portals by yourself, hand your documents to our team and let us manage your entire admission from start to Offer & CAS:

- Complete Qualification & Bursary Tier Audit (verifying your £9,535 grant + £2,000–£5,000 bursary eligibility).
- Done-For-You UK CV & Bespoke EYFS Personal Statement written from scratch by our UK admissions specialists.
- Nigerian Nursery Volunteering Placement Guidance & Reference Letter Formatting.
- Complete Portal Applications Submitted For You to Up to 4 Accredited UK Universities (e.g., Greenwich, Kingston, UCL, Reading, Worcester, Sheffield Hallam, Sussex).
- 1-on-1 Zoom Interview & Written Task Coaching once shortlisted until you receive your Offer & CAS!

VIP PACKAGE 2 (ALL-INCLUSIVE): ADMISSION + UK STUDENT VISA & DUAL-BACKUP GUARANTEE (NGN 295,000 / $299)

Includes everything in VIP Package 1 PLUS: Full 28-Day Bank Statement & Proof of Funds (POF) structuring, online UKVI Student Visa filing + VFS Biometric & IOM TB booking, AND a Free Backup Admission Application into either our 100% Non-Collateral Study Loan Master's/HND-to-Canada Route OR our Low-Tuition (€900–€2,500/yr) Schengen Europe Route — ensuring you have a 100% guaranteed relocation pathway this intake!

HOW TO CLAIM YOUR BOOK-BUYER DISCOUNT & SPEAK WITH CHRISTIAN UGO'S TEAM TODAY:

Send a WhatsApp message or email right now with the code "UK GRANT UPGRADE" + a screenshot of your PDF receipt:

WhatsApp / Call (AFRYTRAV Official Desk): +234 904 886 0359

Email: info@afrytrav.com • Web Portal: afrytrav.com

Thank you for reading, and I look forward to welcoming you to the United Kingdom! — Christian Ugo (BSc Chemical Engineering, University of Nottingham)