

PESTLE Desk Based Review Complete

Political Factors

Regulatory Uncertainty and Bureaucracy

The Nigerian National Universities Commission (NUC) is responsible for regulating universities and approving TNE collaborations. However, the approval process is unknown and there is a gap in knowledge in relation to local accreditation standards. UK HEIs must navigate multiple layers of regulation, which can delay or even prevent partnerships from materializing.

In the UK, regulatory frameworks such as the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) play a significant role in maintaining the standards of TNE partnerships. The QAA provides guidance on academic quality, governance, and risk management, which UK institutions must adhere to when setting up international collaborations.

The British Council supports UK HEIs by providing policy guidance and facilitating partnerships through various TNE programmes. They are currently seeking to break down barriers to TNE to support new opportunities as part of their wider TNE strategy.

Political Stability and Security Risks

Nigeria is experiencing political instability due to regional conflicts, terrorism, insecurity and governance challenges. Institutions in areas affected by security threats are inaccessible for UK HEIs, restricting partnership opportunities. This could pose an issue in both establishing partnership as well as carrying out standard QA processes. Additionally, political transitions in Nigeria leads to policy shifts that affect foreign institutions operating in the country.

Based on electoral instability, the insecurity in Nigeria is limited mostly to hinterland not the capital cities or developed towns.

Diplomatic Relations and Government Support

Strong UK-Nigeria diplomatic ties are crucial for sustaining TNE collaborations. While both governments have expressed support for educational partnerships any changing policies in both countries can impact student and staff mobility, a key component of successful TNE models.

Economic Factors

Funding and Financial Sustainability

The **financial viability** of TNE partnerships in Nigeria is a key concern. HEIs often operate under financial constraints. UK institutions are currently facing financial difficulties, which could prompt reconsideration of attempting to establish TNE in new unpredictable areas, or areas where no initial partnerships exist.

Foreign Exchange Volatility and Tuition Affordability

Nigeria's currency, the Naira (NGN), has historically been volatile. This poses risks for UK HEIs in terms of pricing tuition fees and maintaining financial stability. Additionally, high tuition fees associated with UK-affiliated degrees may be unaffordable for many Nigerian students, limiting participation in TNE programs. Being able to predict ongoing income could be difficult for both UK and Nigerian HEI's.

In 2023, the Federal Government of Nigeria withdrew fuel subsidy and introduced market driven forces to rule the Foreign Exchange rate which subdued the Volatility and affordability of the Foreign Exchange.

Resource costs associated with courses

Some courses require greater investment than others in order to be adequately resourced. e.g. certain school of technology courses require specific software/versions of software that require large setup or ongoing costs to keep in place.

Infrastructure and Operational Costs

Setting up TNE programs requires investment in infrastructure, faculty training and administrative support from both partners. The cost of establishing campuses, equipping classrooms and ensuring reliable utilities (such as electricity and internet) can be prohibitively high, especially in rural areas. As part of the operational costs that could be a challenge, the high cost of UK visas and the current prohibitive immigration policies and regulations could be a problem for prospective Nigerian Students as part of exchange or top-ups.

Social Factors

Cultural and Pedagogical Differences

UK HEIs could operate with different teaching methodologies compared to Nigerian institutions. Link tutor support will be critical in ensuring the successful delivery of content and models.

UK HEIs could operate with different teaching methodologies compared to Nigerian institutions with varied cultural, social and economic diversities

The issues of cultural and pedagogical challenges notwithstanding, the provision of foundational programme that take into consideration these differences and cultural shock could help encourage high number of TNE partnerships between UK-HEIs and Nigerian HEIs.

Recognition of UK degrees

The recognition and acceptance of UK-affiliated degrees in Nigeria could vary across industries and employers. Some employers may prefer graduates from local universities, perceiving foreign-affiliated programs as less rigorous or not aligned with Nigerian labour market needs.

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Technological Factors

Digital Infrastructure Challenges

Nigeria faces significant challenges in internet connectivity, power supply, and digital literacy. Students and institutions will need have reliable access to technology.

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Legal Factors

Recognition and Accreditation of UK Degrees

For a UK-awarded degree to be recognized in Nigeria, it must comply with NUC accreditation requirements. This often requires curriculum modifications and partnership agreements that align with local higher education standards.

This is not the case as it is only in Law degree that graduates of UK HEI will have to attend a programme that introduces them to Nigerian law before being called to Nigerian Bar.

Environmental Factors

Travel involved

Setting up and maintaining TNE partnerships involves travel to partner institutions. This is a clear environmental factor.