FOCUS LEARNING SUPPORT

- Support for students to study in the UK
- Educational projects and programmes
- Research and consultancy

www.focuslearningsupport.org
Our work

Focus Learning Support provides home and international students, in Further and Higher Education, with enriching educational experiences by helping them to bridge gaps and overcome barriers in order to realise their fullest potential.

We do this through a combination of linked activities:
• Supporting international students to access study opportunities in the UK
• One-to-one tutorials
• Saturday school
• Seminars
• Motivational speakers
• TV programmes
• Research in education

“Making education count” since 2003

Focus Learning Support has been helping students to overcome barriers and succeed in their careers since 2003, when we supported our first group of 15 students from Nigeria to study in UK Universities.

In 2007 Focus Learning Support established its Saturday School to support international students in their studies.

By 2009/10 Focus Learning Support had been invited by the Rivers State Government to support government-sponsored students and the total number of students recruited to study in UK universities and colleges steadily grew.

To date, working with universities and colleges in UK and abroad, we have helped recruit over 600 students to life-changing study opportunities.

Each year Focus Learning Support hosts award ceremonies for the students we have supported to gain their first degrees in UK universities. Between 2012 and 2015 we held over 10 different award ceremonies for over 280 recruited students.

The work of Focus Learning Support, and the good practice we have developed, has been shared at international conferences in the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Nigeria to mention but a few.
Dr Elizabeth Achinewhu-Nworgu is the CEO and founder of Focus Learning Support. Her success in bringing in consultancies for different educational and training organisations, as well as NGOs, in the UK motivated her to set up FLS in 2003, with the primary aims of Making Education Count for young people, promoting student retention, achievement and widening participation. Dr Achinewhu-Nworgu writes:

“The principles and standards of Focus Learning Support revolve around the advancement of community cohesion and integration via education and training and professional development activities.

We recognise that collaboration is important in bringing about positive changes for all in the community and therefore value our partnerships, our members, various organisations, local councils and education institutions.

Since 2003, Focus Learning Support has made great progress in spite of the many challenges that come with this kind of work and the capital-intensive nature of it.

FLS is extremely grateful to all the UK universities and colleges we work with for their support, the Rivers State Government in Nigeria and parents, EVO Dioceses, Bulgarian Comparative Education and to all those who contribute in any way in helping our recruited students to achieve their career aspirations and to the entire FLS team for their devoted work to ‘make education count’ for all.

However, our work so far has barely scratched the surface of what is needed to assist overseas students to grow and develop and to have academic success. We are therefore committed to continuing the work that we have started and to supporting even more students to succeed in their academic endeavours.”

Dr. Elizabeth Achinewhu-Nworgu
EdD, LLM, MBA, PGCE, PGDMS, MCMi, ACIPD
Support for students to study in the UK

FLS support package
Focus Learning Support works with institutions in Nigeria, in particular in River State and Bayelsa State, to recruit students to high quality degree courses in UK universities and to organise and deliver motivational seminar and conferences. The support provided by FLS to our students includes:

- Assisting overseas students in seeking entry into a programme of their choice in an established UK-based educational institution.
- Offering advice on visa requirements.
- Giving students guiding support throughout their study period in the UK – from entry into the UK through to the end of their studies.
- Offering academic counselling services, IT and English classes through our Saturday school
- Securing accommodation for overseas students by working with universities and colleges.
- Providing psychological support to help students deal with ‘cultural shock’.
- Assisting with information on visa applications in accordance with UKBA criteria.
- Arranging ‘social welfare services’ for students.

Affiliated Universities
FLS is affiliated with the following universities and colleges:

- University of East London
- University of Portsmouth
- Anglia Ruskin Cambridge University
- University of Liverpool
- Bath University
Outcomes
The invaluable support that FLS gives to all students has greatly contributed to their academic success. Completion rates for our students have consistently been in the 95-100 per cent range. In addition to academic success, FLS has also greatly supported students in their personal and professional development. The students receive assistance in these areas:

- Integration to the system of the UK
- Psychological support
- Academic support
- Managing finances
- Accommodation
- General welfare and financial support

Postgraduate study
FLS has seen increasing numbers of our students progress to postgraduate programmes of study, at Masters and PhD level. Around 1 in 6 of our students are on postgraduate courses.

Celebrating success
Each year FLS holds award ceremonies for all of our recruited students who have finished their degrees and graduated in their various universities. The majority of them go back to Nigeria and apply their skills and knowledge to support their home communities.
Educational projects and programmes

The main aim of FLS is to provide home and international students with an enriching educational experience by helping them to bridge educational gaps so that they can realise their fullest potential. No single bridging activity can bring about the lifelong learning experience and the overall development opportunities that learners need to help them to achieve and be the best that they can be. FLS therefore utilises a combination of educational activities. Each activity is linked in some way to another or other activities. Consultants, tutors and presenters use their expertise to ensure that learners have a well-rounded, successful educational journey with FLS.

FLS Bridging Activities
Research and consultancy

Research
Focus Learning Support is committed to continually learning and developing our knowledge and understanding in order to better support the students that we work with to achieve academic success. FLS has been engaged for more than 13 years in education research in a wide range of topics, including:

- Strategies for improving student retention
- Diversity and gender inequality in education
- E-Learning in an African context
- Practical tips to support student success
- The impact of changing immigration rules on overseas students
- Youth crime
- Managing Change in tough times
- Experiences of international students studying overseas
- Mitigating circumstances in education
- Child protection from internet abuse etc.

The Focus Learning Support team have presented their research and findings internationally at education conferences in the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Turkey, Greece and Nigeria.

Consultancy
The FLS staff have extensive experience and expertise in a wide range of fields, including student support, academic success, supporting and engaging disadvantaged learners, leadership and management, law, human resources and more.

We are always interested in working with partners on projects where our expertise can contribute to your work and/or where there are links to our core activities. Get in touch using the contact details overleaf to find out more.
Focus Learning Support on TV

Since 2007, FLS has been working with Ben TV, aired on Sky 182, and River State TV Port Harcourt Nigeria to produce educational programmes on various topics. The topics chosen for discussion are suitable for a cross-section of the society, not just for the recruited students.

The topics are discussed via a selected panel of knowledgeable presenters and guest speakers, and have included subjects such as: Tips for academic achievement, Developing your talents, Challenges that youths face, Managing cultural differences, Integration into academic life and the UK education system, Developing your own business and tips for success. We also support pageant events, giving young people the opportunity to showcase their talents in music, dance and drama and more.

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