

UNILORIN Projects with International Research Collaboration

Based on the University's documented research activities, CISP/MoU records, internationalisation reports, and the additional research information supplied by Faculties and research teams, the University of Ilorin can demonstrate more than 15 distinct international research collaboration programmes/projects with activity extending into the relevant/current reporting period. Research collaborations in UNILORIN demonstrate a substantial and multidisciplinary international research portfolio spanning:

- i. health and medicine;
- ii. epidemiology and public health;
- iii. immunisation;
- iv. health workforce planning;
- v. oncology;
- vi. global surgery;
- vii. climate change and methane emissions;
- viii. environmental pollution;
- ix. air-quality monitoring;
- x. agricultural and rural development; and
- xi. antimicrobial resistance.

Some of such projects include:

A. International Health and Medical Research Collaborations

The University's international research portfolio includes, among others:

- i. **African Research Group for Oncology (ARGO)** – international oncology research collaboration.
- ii. **Prostate Cancer Clinical Trial Consortium (PCCTC).**
- iii. **International Registry of Men with Advanced Prostate Cancer (IRONMAN).**
- iv. **NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery.**
- v. **iCCaRE for Black Men Consortium** – including collaboration with Mayo Clinic.
- vi. **Ponseti Clubfoot Treatment initiative.**
- vii. **Smile Train initiative** at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital.
- viii. **Stroke and Cardiovascular Research Training (S-CaRT)**, supported by the US National Institutes of Health/Fogarty International Center.
- ix. **University of Wisconsin collaboration** on ocular genetics and retinoblastoma.

These projects demonstrate that UNILORIN's international research engagement is not confined to institutional MoUs but includes substantive collaborative research, clinical research, capacity building and externally supported programmes.

B. International Research Collaborations in Epidemiology and Public Health

Additional evidence from the Department of Epidemiology and Community Health significantly strengthens the University's portfolio.

- i. **Immunisation Accelerator for Zero Dose Children Evaluation in Nigeria (2026–2027)** – in collaboration with Save the Children International, Sydani Group and Datharm PLC, with GSK sponsorship. The project evaluates digital solutions for childhood immunisation in Sokoto and Jigawa States.
- ii. **Nigeria Health Workforce Analytics Study (2025–2026)** – a major collaboration involving the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI), the Gates Foundation and Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Health and Social Welfare. The study developed a countrywide analytical framework for integrated health workforce pre-service training.
- iii. **BOOST – Better Opportunities for Optimal Services and Targeted Immunisation (2024–2027)** – a realist evaluation undertaken with Save the Children International and the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), focusing on equitable immunisation coverage in Kano and Lagos States.
- iv. **RESONATE – Research for Sustainable and Scalable Solutions for Under-immunisation in Ethiopia and Nigeria** – conducted with Save the Children International and LSHTM. Although the stated project period was 2023–2024, it is important evidence of the University's recent international research collaboration record.

C. Nigeria Methane Emissions Reduction Pilot Programme (NiMERP)

A particularly significant addition is the **Nigeria Methane Emissions Reduction Pilot Programme (NiMERP)**.

The University of Ilorin is participating in the internationally funded programme through its researchers, with **Prof. J. A. Adeniran identified in the supplied project information as Sectoral Lead for Oil and Gas and Co-Lead for the Urban Sector** in the baseline scientific study.

Queen Mary University of London confirms that its researchers are leading the baseline study under NiMERP and that the project began with a scoping phase in October 2024, followed by the launch of the full baseline study in December 2025. The study covers multiple sectors and Queen Mary describes it as the first multisector scientific study of anthropogenic methane emissions on the African continent.

The European Union's Nigeria Development Cooperation Dashboard independently records NiMERP as an **EU-funded project under implementation**, with project code **XI-IATI-EC_INTPA-2024-PC-34359** and an implementation period beginning in March 2024 and extending to 2027.

This collaboration is particularly valuable for ranking purposes because it demonstrates:

- i. international research leadership;
- ii. collaboration with a major UK university;
- iii. participation in a continentally significant environmental research programme;
- iv. externally funded research;
- v. climate and methane-emissions research;
- vi. research capacity building and scientific data generation; and
- vii. direct potential contribution to national environmental policy.

D. Unilorin-Led International Air-Pollution Research

The University also has an additional international research initiative led by **Prof. J. A. Adeniran** on:

“Air Pollutants Emission and Human Exposure Assessment from Selected Informal Sectors in Nigeria.”

According to the research information provided, UNILORIN is the lead and host institution, coordinating field sampling and analysis and working with researchers from Osun State University and international/industry partners, including **Northumbria University, United Kingdom, and Particles Plus, Inc., United States.**

The project has completed field sampling and is now focused on data consolidation and analysis, with stakeholder engagement and translating findings into practical recommendations planned for the next phase.

This is particularly important because it represents UNILORIN-led international research, rather than merely participating in a foreign-led project.

2. Contribution to SDG 17 and Three Other SDGs

The University's international partnerships provide particularly strong evidence for **SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals**, while the expanded research portfolio strengthens the case for **SDG 2 – Zero Hunger, SDG 4 – Quality Education and SDG 13 – Climate Action.**

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

SDG 17 remains the University's strongest area because UNILORIN's partnerships operate at multiple levels: continental, regional, bilateral, academic, research, governmental, development and industry.

AWAU

The **Association of West African Universities (AWAU)** was established at the University of Ilorin and promotes university linkages, research, capacity building and academic cooperation. UNILORIN has also played a leadership role within the association.

U6+ Consortium

UNILORIN is a founding member of the **U6+ Consortium**, which provides a platform for research, innovation, academic mobility and capacity building involving African universities.

KU8+ Consortium

The **KU8+ Consortium** provides particularly strong evidence of practical partnership. Its activities include research collaboration, capacity development, resource sharing and joint grant development. By January 2026, the consortium had developed **11 joint research concept notes** towards TETFund National Research Fund proposals.

UNITAFRICA

UNILORIN's participation in **UNITAFRICA** connects it to a broad network of Italian and African universities and provides opportunities for research, academic mobility and capacity development. The University's records also identify an active relationship with the University of Udine involving doctoral mobility.

UNILORIN–Maripha/PHI

The **Maripha Empowerment Foundation–Passion of Hope International** partnership, recorded through the University's Faculty of Agriculture, provides an additional example of international/community-oriented collaboration relevant to sustainable agriculture and food security.

UNILORIN–GFSRD

The **Global Forum for Sustainable Rural Development (GFSRD)** partnership, formalised through an MoU in January 2025, covers research, capacity building, community development, student exchange, internships, staff exchange, joint research, curriculum development and professional activities.

European/Erasmus+ Partnerships

UNILORIN's European partnerships provide further measurable evidence of SDG 17.

For example, the University's collaboration with **Mykolas Romeris University, Lithuania**, has produced Erasmus+ KA171 staff and student mobility. UNILORIN's current records document the partnership's reactivation in May 2024, Erasmus+ academic staff exchange and staff training, and a doctoral student undertaking research training at MRU.

The partnership has continued: in April 2026, eight UNILORIN postgraduate students participated in a three-month Erasmus mobility programme at MRU, and in June 2026 an MRU scholar undertook Erasmus teaching mobility at UNILORIN.

UNILORIN also has an active Erasmus+ KA171 relationship with **Friedrich Schiller University Jena, Germany**. Two UNILORIN students received Erasmus mobility grants for academic exchange at Jena beginning in March 2025. Jena's own Erasmus+ documentation lists the University of Ilorin among its Nigerian partner universities for Erasmus+ International Credit Mobility.

Further European collaboration includes **University of Torino, Italy**, where the University's current records identify an active 2023–2028 MoU, and recent evidence confirms a four-week student exchange at UNILORIN in 2025.

Collectively, these partnerships show that UNILORIN's internationalisation strategy is producing real mobility, research, teaching, capacity-building, **and institutional outcomes**, rather than merely accumulating signed MoUs.

SDG 4 – Quality Education

UNILORIN's international collaborations contribute substantially to quality education through:

- i. student mobility;
- ii. postgraduate research mobility;
- iii. academic staff exchange;
- iv. non-teaching staff training;
- v. Erasmus+ teaching mobility;
- vi. joint research;
- vii. curriculum development;
- viii. international exposure;
- ix. visiting scholars; and
- x. institutional capacity building.

The Erasmus+ relationship with Mykolas Romeris University provides especially strong evidence. The University's records document doctoral research mobility and staff training, while the 2026 programme involved eight postgraduate students.

The Jena partnership similarly demonstrates student mobility and academic exchange.

UNITAFRICA, AWAU and U6+ further broaden the University's educational partnerships and mobility opportunities.

SDG 2 – Zero Hunger: 88/100

The University's Faculty of Agriculture provides strong evidence for SDG 2 through research, rural development and international knowledge exchange.

The **UNILORIN–Maripha/PHI** partnership and the **GFSRD** collaboration are particularly relevant. The GFSRD partnership includes sustainable rural development and community development, while the Faculty of Agriculture and GFSRD jointly organised an international webinar on “**Towards Attaining Food Security in Africa: Lessons from Asia.**”

This evidence supports the University's contribution to:

- i. food security;
- ii. agricultural innovation;

- iii. sustainable rural development;
- iv. community development;
- v. international knowledge exchange; and
- vi. research and capacity building.

SDG 13 – Climate Action: 90/100

The newly supplied **NiMERP evidence materially strengthens the University's SDG profile.**

Through participation in the Nigeria Methane Emissions Reduction Pilot Programme, UNILORIN researchers are contributing to the measurement and understanding of methane emissions in Nigeria. The collaboration involves Queen Mary University of London, UNEP's International Methane Emissions Observatory and the Nigerian government, with European Union funding.

The University's role, as documented in the supplied research information, includes leadership in the Oil and Gas component and co-leadership in the Urban Sector baseline work.

The air-pollution study led by Prof. J. A. Adeniran further strengthens the environmental dimension by generating locally grounded evidence on pollutant emissions and human exposure in informal economic sectors.

Together, these initiatives demonstrate that UNILORIN is contributing not only to climate-related scholarship but also to **national environmental measurement, evidence generation, policy-relevant research and international scientific cooperation.**

Overall Conclusion

The additional evidence substantially strengthens the University's case for the 2026 Nigerian Universities Ranking.

The University's international research and partnership portfolio now demonstrates a combination of:

1. Internationally funded research projects;
2. UNILORIN-led international research;
3. Participation in major international research consortia;
4. Research collaboration with European, American and African institutions;
5. Erasmus+ KA171 student, doctoral, academic and staff mobility;
6. International research leadership in climate and methane emissions;
7. International public-health and immunisation research;
8. Agricultural and food-security partnerships;
9. Research capacity building and joint grant development; and
10. Partnerships that generate direct societal and policy relevance.