



EMPOWER LAGOS

CANADA STUDY TOUR 2025

IMPACT REPORT

Future
Perspectives



 Queen's
UNIVERSITY



EMPOWER LAGOS

CANADA STUDY TOUR 2025





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Executive Summary

In July 2025, Future Perspectives in collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development (MYSD) and Queen's University, led a groundbreaking International study tour to Canada, aimed at expanding global partnerships and equipping young leaders with the knowledge and tools to drive innovation and economic growth in Lagos.

The study tour themed **"Empower Lagos"**, was structured to provide the youth leaders with a comprehensive experience that integrated advanced academic exposure, leadership development, and cross-cultural engagement.

The study tour achieved several strategic objectives:

- Strengthened Nigeria-Canada relations through educational and entrepreneurial exchange.
- Empowered youth with global perspectives on leadership, innovation, and enterprise.
- Laid the foundation for future collaborations with Canadian institutions and innovation hubs.

This initiative aligns with Lagos State's broader commitment under the THEMES+ agenda to youth empowerment, global engagement, and inclusive economic development. The success of the tour underscores the importance of international exposure in shaping the next generation of leaders and entrepreneurs.



Who We Are

Elevating **Africa's Perspectives** Inspiring **Global Solutions**

Future Perspectives is a nonprofit organization founded by His Excellency Professor Yemi Osinbajo, the Immediate Past Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Inspired by his unwavering commitment to transformative leadership and sustainable development in Africa, the organization was established to address the continent's most pressing developmental challenges through the power of youth-driven innovation and action.

At the heart of our mission is the belief that Africa's future lies in the hands of its young people. Future Perspectives is dedicated to reshaping narratives by fostering inclusive, high-level policy dialogue that actively involves youth voices. We champion forward-thinking solutions to emerging issues through strategic action, thought leadership, and global partnerships aimed at transforming communities and societies from the ground up.

Our programs are designed to catalyze systemic change at the grassroots level, promoting inclusive growth and creating meaningful pathways for African youth to thrive. We are firmly convinced that Africa's youth must be central to global conversations about the future. Their participation, activism, and unique perspectives are not only essential to shaping a more equitable world but also to ensuring Africa's voice is heard on the global stage.

By equipping young leaders with the knowledge, skills, and tools they need and by ensuring they have a seat at the table, we are unlocking the potential for extraordinary transformation across the continent.

Strategic Priorities



Innovation

Climate Action

Education

Our Approach



Future Perspectives recognizes that addressing the pressing challenges of our time requires a multi-faceted approach. As advocates for a futuristic Africa, our organization fosters a collaborative ecosystem that values knowledge sharing.

We adopt a facilitatory approach in partnership and collaboration with governments, businesses, foundations, universities and other key stakeholders to design interventions geared at delivering Systemic, Scalable and Sustainable Impact.

Convene Spaces

01



Facilitate meaningful and inclusive dialogue as well as create platforms to spotlight innovations

Capacity building enhancement to drive youth leadership and action

Capacity Building

02



Thought Leadership

03



Provide cutting-edge thought leadership on key issues

Shape new narratives about the African continent and its innovators through immersive storytelling

Immersive Storytelling

04



Global Partnerships

05



Engage in mutually beneficial partnerships both locally & globally



Leadership Team



ABBY ASEKUN
CO-FOUNDER/ EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR



YEMI ASEKUN
CO-FOUNDER/GROWTH
& STRATEGY DIRECTOR



NIKE KAZALMA-MANTEY
POLICY & PROGRAM
DIRECTOR



DR. LORRAINE OTOIDE
CURRICULUM & RESEARCH
DIRECTOR



IKE OYEWOLE
PROJECT
DIRECTOR



NELBA AKINYEMI
PROGRAM
COORDINATOR



JULIUS ILORI
YOUTH LEAD AMBASSADOR



HIS EXCELLENCY

Babajide Sanwo-Olu

EXECUTIVE GOVERNOR, LAGOS STATE



From the outset, we have prioritized creating a supportive environment for youth engagement, capacity building, and representation in government.

This includes appointing young leaders to key roles in the Lagos State Government, demonstrating our commitment to giving our youth a platform to develop and exercise their leadership abilities while contributing meaningfully to the progress of our state and nation.



GOVERNOR'S REMARKS

Empower Lagos State Youth

Lagos State remains steadfast in its commitment to empowering young people by creating meaningful opportunities for them to contribute to the state's development.

The Ibile Youth Academy, established in 2017 by the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, is a testament to this vision. The Academy plays a pivotal role in nurturing a new generation of leaders across the state, leaders who are equipped to shape a prosperous and inclusive future.

The transformative program is designed to instill core values that are essential for outstanding leadership, including patriotism, volunteerism, discipline, integrity, resilience, collaboration, communication, and innovation. These core values are the foundation of well-rounded leadership, empowering participants to thrive in diverse fields, whether within their local communities or on the global stage.

Lagos State recognizes the importance of youth participation in decision-making processes. Through the appointment of Ibile Youth Ambassadors, the Academy ensures that young voices are heard. These ambassadors advocate for youth-centered policies, drive social change, and promote inclusivity across all sectors of society.

Canada – Nigeria Relations

Diplomats are not only government envoys assigned to work in foreign Embassies or High Commissions. They are also the story tellers, the conveners, facilitators and the connectors.

We were pleased to meet with some of these envoys from the Lagos State Ministry of Youth & Social Development, Future Perspectives and student delegates leading the Canada study tour in July 2025.

In collaboration with Queen's University, in Kingston, Ontario, Canada, they will contribute to the Canada – Nigeria economic growth story, and underscore Canada world class education value proposition. Great opportunity to share experiences, lessons learned, network and co-create. Great things can happen when we embrace partnership, vision, and invest in our youth.

Les diplomates ne sont pas seulement des envoyés gouvernementaux affectés à des ambassades ou des hauts-commissariats étrangers. Ils sont aussi des conteurs, des rassembleurs, des facilitateurs et des agents de liaison. Nous avons eu le plaisir de rencontrer certains de ces envoyés du ministère de la Jeunesse et du Développement social de l'État de Lagos, de Future Perspectives et des délégués étudiants qui dirigeront le voyage d'études au Canada en juillet 2025.

En collaboration avec l'Université Queen's de Kingston, en Ontario, au Canada, ils contribueront à la croissance économique entre le Canada et le Nigéria et souligneront la proposition de valeur du Canada en matière d'éducation de calibre mondial. Une excellente occasion de partager des expériences, des leçons apprises, de réseauter et de co-crée. De grandes choses peuvent se produire lorsque nous misons sur le partenariat, la vision et l'investissement dans notre jeunesse.



Carlos Rojas-Arbulú

CANADA DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER
TO NIGERIA



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

JANURARY 10, 2025



Gov. Sanwo-Olu meets with Deputy High Commissioner Rojas-Arbulú



APRIL 28, 2025



Courtesy visit to Canada Deputy High Commission, Lagos





COMMISSIONER'S REMARKS

Build the Youth, Build the Nation

Study tours are strategic interventions. They not only broaden our youth leaders' global perspectives, but also equip them with relevant skills to contribute meaningfully to policymaking, innovation, and community impact.

Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development's study tour and cultural exchange program is a practical demonstration of the unwavering commitment of the administration of His Excellency, Governor Babajide Olusola Sanwo-Olu, to youth empowerment under the THEMES+ agenda.

It reflects our belief that when our youth are given the right exposure and opportunities, they rise to become exceptional changemakers. The Canada Study Tour stands as a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to empower the young people of Lagos State.

Our Youth Ambassadors have engaged deeply with leading minds, cutting-edge ideas, and global best practices in leadership, innovation, and sustainable development. They have demonstrated the immense potential of the Nigerian youth on a global platform.

I extend a heartfelt appreciation to our partners at Future Perspectives and Queen's University in championing this initiative together. Their dedication to building youth capacity aligns perfectly with our Ministry's mission to nurture a generation of innovative, resilient, and globally-minded leaders.

Mobolaji Ogunlende

HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER
LAGOS STATE MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



PERMANENT SECRETARY'S REMARKS

Innovate and Inspire Lagos Youth

"Empower Lagos" is not just a call to action, it is a movement, a bold declaration that are young people are not just the leaders of tomorrow, but the changemakers of today.

Through this initiative, we are not merely opening doors, we are building bridges to a future where Lagos shines even brighter on the global stage driven by the energy innovation and leadership of its youth.

This Canada Study Tour, the third in our ongoing series, is a transformative journey, one designed to expand minds, ignite dreams, and sharpen the leadership skills that will shape Lagos State's destiny.

By learning from the best global practices in leadership, governance and enterprise, our youth leaders return equipped to innovate, inspire, lead and make a change in ways we can only begin to imagine.

To our youth leaders, this initiative is about you. It is about your journey, your vision, and limitless capacity to transform not only your lives but the future of millions. You are the heart of Empower Lagos, and through your dreams, determination, and leadership, Lagos State will continue to thrive and lead.

The Study Tour promises a future filled with hope, courage and endless possibilities. We are building a legacy, a Lagos where youth empowerment is not just a promise, but a lived reality.

Thank you to our visionary partners, Future Perspectives, Queen's University and the the Canada Deputy High Commission, Lagos for the success of the initiative.

Pharm. (Mrs.) Toyin Oke-Osanyintolu

PERMANENT SECRETARY
LAGOS STATE MINISTRY OF YOUTH & SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT





EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REMARKS

Youth Empowerment through Global Partnerships

Future Perspectives played a pivotal role in the successful delivery of the Lagos State Canada Study Tour 2025, serving as a strategic partner in the design, coordination, and execution of the program.

In close collaboration with the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development (MYSD), and Queen's University, our organization helped craft a transformative experience that introduced young leaders to global best practices in education, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

One of the standout elements of the tour was the partnership with Queen's University, which began with participants enrolling in the Explore Entrepreneurship Program ahead of their travel. This preparatory phase laid the foundation for a rich, hands-on experience in Canada, where the youth engaged in intensive sessions focused on business development, innovation strategy, and leadership.

The program equipped them with practical skills and entrepreneurial mindsets needed to drive economic growth and create meaningful social impact in their communities. This initiative directly aligns with Future Perspectives' mission to encourage young people to reimagine their potential, take bold steps toward creating impact in their communities, and become active contributors to the nation's economic development. By fostering international collaboration and creating pathways for youth leadership, Future Perspectives continues to champion inclusive growth and global citizenship, one transformative experience at a time.

We express our deep appreciation to our valued partners, Lagos State MYSD, Queen's University and Canada Deputy High Commission, Lagos for their unwavering commitment to empowering Lagos State youth.

Abimbola Asekun

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FUTURE PERSPECTIVES

**Future
Perspectives**

CHIEF OF STAFF'S REMARKS

Advancing Queen's Global Engagement Strategy & SDGs

I had the pleasure of meeting with a remarkable group of post-secondary students from Lagos, Nigeria, who were visiting Queen's University as part of a focused training initiative on leadership, innovation, and entrepreneurship.

These students demonstrated not only academic excellence but also a deep commitment to extra-curricular engagement and community impact. Their professionalism and drive were impressive, and I trust that their time at Queen's offered valuable insights and inspiration. It was a heartening experience to meet such positive, successful, and ambitious students.

In my remarks, I highlighted Queen's longstanding history of producing leaders and its evolving vision to be a globally engaged institution. I also noted that we have aligned our work with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which serve as a framework for making meaningful contributions to communities both locally and globally.

This delegation's visit, and the program as a whole, embodies all three of these institutional priorities: leadership development, global collaboration, and a shared commitment to the SDGs. I was also pleased to welcome representatives from the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development, whose presence reflects strong governmental support for youth empowerment.

Special thanks go to Abby and Yemi Asekun of Future Perspectives, whose continued leadership has been instrumental in building and sustaining Queen's engagement with Nigeria.

Dr. Nick Mosey

CHIEF OF STAFF AND SPECIAL ADVISOR
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL AND VICE-CHANCELLOR



Queen's
UNIVERSITY



MYSD

INITIATIVES



EMPOWER
LAGOS
CANADA STUDY TOUR 2025



EMPOWERING LAGOS YOUTH



#AGreaterLagosRising

THEMES+ AGENDA



Youth development is a cornerstone of the THEMES+ strategy, reflecting the administration's commitment to equipping young people with the tools and opportunities needed to thrive in a modern economy.

Governor Sanwo-Olu's vision positions young people as central to Lagos State's future, ensuring they are not only beneficiaries of development but active contributors to it. Through THEMES+, the administration aims to build a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous Lagos driven by empowered youth.

The initiative also delivers targeted empowerment programs and provides seed funding, enabling young people to acquire practical skills and launch sustainable ventures.

The Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development advances the 'No One Left Behind' principle which ensures that all policies are thoughtfully designed to be inclusive, addressing the diverse needs of individuals regardless of age, gender, or social status.



HIGHLIGHT

Ibile Youth Academy



Since its inception in 2017, the Ibile Youth Academy, an initiative of the Lagos State Ministry of Youth and Social Development has been committed to cultivating the next generation of leaders.

Through immersive leadership training, practical challenges, and personal growth opportunities, the program empowers young people across Lagos to thrive and become catalysts for positive change in their communities.



Be part of a life changing leadership program.

FEBRUARY 10, 2025

Ibile Youth Academy Bootcamp Graduation

On Monday, February 10, 2025, the Ibile Youth Academy Bootcamp Graduation Ceremony for the 2024/2025 cohort took place at the prestigious Banquet Hall, Lagos House, Ikeja. The event was graced by the presence of the Governor of Lagos State, His Excellency Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and the Deputy Governor, Dr. Obafemi Kadri Hamzat, underscoring His Excellency's dedication to youth development.

The ceremony was officially declared open by the Honourable Commissioner for Youth and Social Development, Mr. Mobolaji Ogunlende, who reaffirmed the state's unwavering commitment to nurturing leadership and empowering young people, ensuring that no one is left behind.

A key highlight of the event was the unveiling of the five divisional youth ambassadors, each representing one of the five IBILE divisions of Lagos. The momentous occasion culminated in the Governor's declaration of the Lagos State Youth Ambassador, symbolizing the rise of a new generation of visionary leaders poised to drive positive change across the state.

— ” —

The Ibile Youth Academy is not just a program, it is a platform for grooming young leaders who will shape the future of Lagos. We remain committed to its growth and impact.

—Gov. Babajide Sanwo-Olu





Ibile Academy is the foundation that shaped me into who I am today. The training and experiences gained here will remain with me forever, guiding my journey ahead.

– **Zainab Aderounmu**

Lagos State Ibile Youth Ambassador
2023/2024 Cohort





MEET THE 2024/2025 COHORT



Ibile Youth Ambassadors



FAIZAH ADEDIRAN

**IKEJA DIVISON
AMBASSADOR**



BUKOLA ALADESULU

**BADAGRY DIVISION
AMBASSADOR**



DOLAPO OSHIKOYA

**IKORODU DIVISION
AMBASSADOR**



MUHAMMAD SHERIFF

**LAGOS DIVISON
AMABASSADOR**



OBADARE ADENEKAN

**LAGOS STATE
AMABASSADOR**



DIVINEFAVOUR APATA

**EPE DIVISION
AMABASSADOR**



Transformational Leaders



IBRAHIM ADIGUN
CHAIRMAN, NATIONAL YOUTH
COUNCIL OF NIGERIA
LAGOS CHAPTER



ADEOGO OJEKUNLE
OFFICE OF THE
DEPUTY GOVERNOR
LAGOS STATE



DAVID OLANIYAN
LAGOS STATE
YOUTH PARLIAMENT
IFAKO IJAIYE CONSTITUENCY 1



JOSEPH DANIELS
LAGOS INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE



PASCAL AJANDE
TRANSFORMATIONAL
LEADER



AWWAL ALAMUTU
TRANSFORMATIONAL
LEADER



MYSD Leadership Team



MOBOLAJI OGUNLENDE
HONOURABLE
COMMISSIONER



TOYIN OKE-OSANYINTOLU
PERMANENT
SECRETARY



ABDUL-LATEEF SAKA
DIRECTOR
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



RASHIDAT UMAR
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



BUKOLA AKINDAYOMI
ASST. CHIEF YOUTH
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



OPEYEMI ALABI
SSA TO THE GOVERNOR
ON YOUTH MOBILIZATION





ACADEMIC

TOUR





Orientation



As part of their academic and leadership development, the MYSD youth delegates participated in an orientation session at Queen's University, led by Dr. Nick Mosey, Chief of Staff and Special Advisor, Office of the Principal and Vice-Chancellor.

Dr. Mosey welcomed the delegates and provided an overview of Queen's commitment to fostering inclusive excellence and innovation. The orientation introduced participants to the university's values, resources, and support systems.

The session also featured interactive discussions, setting the tone for a meaningful and impactful experience at Queen's. Dr. Mosey underscored the university's dedication to supporting students not just at the start, but throughout their journey.

Queen's University in Kingston sits on Indigenous land of the Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee peoples. The university recognizes its responsibility to further Indigenize its campus and continues to engage with Indigenous knowledge and culture.



Queen's University Team



ANN TIERNEY
VICE-PROVOST
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



HEATHER KINCAIDE
DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC INITIATIVES
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



MICHAEL GREEN
COORDINATOR
GLOBAL ENGAGEMENT



GREG BAVINGTON
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DDQIC



PROF. JIM MCCLELLAN
ACADEMIC DIRECTOR
DDQIC



JOANNA TINUS
PROGRAM MANAGER
DDQIC



MEGAN SIEROKA
INTL. PROGRAM MANAGER
DDQIC



CLOEY ACONLEY
STUDENT COORDINATOR
DDQIC

DDQIC Micro-credentials in Innovation and Entrepreneurship



**DUNIN-DESHPANDE
INNOVATION CENTRE**
at Queen's University

Design Thinking

- Self Paced
- Human Centered
- Brainstorm and develop prototypes
- Create a polished pitch

Customer Discovery

- Learn key research and interviewing strategies
- Walk in the shoes of your customer
- Interact with your solution

High Performance Teamwork

- Evidence based team building knowledge
 - Stages of team development
 - Knowing yourself
 - Diversity in teams
- Introduction to commonly used tools



Building Changemakers & Catalyzing Potential

Dunin-Deshpande Queen's Innovation Centre (DDQIC) believes everyone has the potential for creative problem-solving to address pressing issues facing people in our society.

Their mission is to catalyze this potential, developing entrepreneurial mindsets and fostering a culture of innovation across Queen's University, the Kingston community, and globally. They build changemakers by encouraging and supporting their entrepreneurial initiatives through incubators, workshops, programs, courses, and pitch competitions.

Micro-Credentials



Program Participation

As part of this initiative, youth leaders were enrolled in the Explore Entrepreneurship course. The program is designed to help participants develop an entrepreneurial mindset and learn practical strategies for identifying and testing ideas that address real-world needs.

Pre-Departure Training

In the two months leading up to their departure to Canada, participants engaged in over 60 hours of structured learning and project development. During this period, they worked on developing their own venture ideas while completing foundational training in the following areas: Entrepreneurial Mindset, Systems & Design Thinking, Customer Discovery, Lean Development and Minimum Viable Products (MVPs), Pricing Strategies and Financial Viability, Business Model Canvas and Social Business Model Canvas.

Application of Learning

Participants synthesized their learning by creating a Business Model Canvas that articulated the key components of their venture ideas. This exercise enabled them to apply theoretical concepts to practical, real-world scenarios.

In-Person Skill Development

The program concluded in Canada with four in-person workshops designed to complement the online training. These sessions focused on deepening participants' practical skills and enhancing their ability to work collaboratively in high-performance teams.

Credentials Earned

Each youth leader earned four micro-credentials, issued by Queen's University, in the following areas: Design Thinking, Customer Discovery, High-Performance Teamwork and Explore Entrepreneurship.

These digital certificates are secured with unique IDs encrypted on the blockchain, ensuring authenticity and verifiability. In addition, participants received a Certificate of Completion at the end of the study tour.

Workshops



Centre for
Entrepreneurship,
Innovation & Social Impact

Strategic Innovation & Entrepreneurship



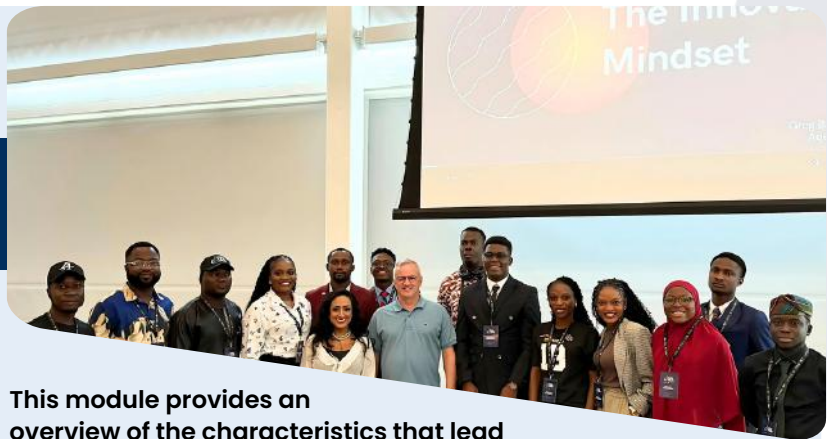
JP Shearer
Associate Director
CESI, Smith School of Business



Specifically designed for those who will start, grow or drive new ventures whether in a startup or inside a corporation. Special skills, strategies and strengths are needed to turn an idea into a viable and thriving business.

It was wonderful to host this incredible group of youth leaders at Smith School of Business at Queen's University. The week was kicked off by delivering a session on how Entrepreneurship and Innovation can impact community and economic development. The energy and enthusiasm of each individual to make the world a better place were inspiring.

Innovator's Mindset



Greg Bavington
Executive Director
DDQIC



This module provides an overview of the characteristics that lead people to become successful entrepreneurs: coachable, committed, and curious. Executive Director of DDQIC, Greg Bavington, discusses the importance of understanding and being comfortable with failure and risk, and how to manage your mental health as an entrepreneur

During the workshop the youth leaders learned frameworks that identify and describe various aspects of the mindsets and skillsets that are prevalent among successful innovators and leaders. They will be better equipped to have the self-awareness to determine when they are drifting away from their most effective mindset and need to take action to recentre themselves.

Workshops



**DUNIN-DESHPANDE
INNOVATION CENTRE**
at Queen's University

Design Thinking



Aqeela Somani
Program Coach
DDQIC

Design Thinking facilitates a collaborative approach to problem-solving that offers creative, iterative, and practical solutions. This course provides participants with an overview of the Design Thinking process, and then guides them through an example where all the elements can be applied.

The youth leaders shared that they feel a profound responsibility to craft bold responses to the country's most pressing challenges and improve the lives of its citizens. Participants learned to empathize with their users, define problems, brainstorm ideas, prototype, and test their concepts, equipping them to design practical, impactful innovations for Nigerians.

Business Model Canvas



Aqeela Somani
Program Coach
DDQIC

The Business Model Canvas is a strategic management and lean startup template for developing new or documenting existing business models. It is a visual chart with elements describing a firm's or product's value proposition, infrastructure, customers, and finances.

During and after the workshop, youth leaders critically examined their ventures, analyzed each component, and explored how these elements interact. This experience showed how the BMC can empower Nigerian youth leaders to refine their projects, make informed decisions, and shape the future of their ventures and their country.

Graduation Ceremony ▶▶▶



The graduation ceremony for the MYSD youth delegates marked the successful completion of an intensive and transformative learning journey.

Held at Queen's University, the event celebrated the achievements of all the delegates and their exceptional dedication to innovation, leadership, and social impact.

Throughout the program, the youth leaders engaged in rigorous training, developed venture ideas, and earned micro-credentials. These credentials, issued by Queen's University, are digitally secured and reflect the delegates' mastery of essential entrepreneurial competencies.



This tour is designed to expose young changemakers to global innovation ecosystems, help build skills, confidence, and networks to lead change in Nigeria.

The 12 outstanding youth leaders from Lagos State were carefully selected for their passion for community impact, leadership potential and commitment to personal and professional growth.

They represent a new generation of bold, creative thinkers in Nigeria.

- Prof. Jim McLellan
Academic Director, DDQIC

During the ceremony, university officials, faculty members, and program partners recognized the delegates not only for their academic accomplishments but also their commitment to applying entrepreneurial thinking to real-world challenges.

Each delegate received a certificate of completion, symbolizing their readiness to lead initiatives that contribute to sustainable development in their communities.

This graduation marks the beginning of a new chapter for the MYSD youth leaders, as they return equipped with the skills, mindset, and networks to drive meaningful change.



Graduation Ceremony ▶▶▶



TOP 3



The top three youth leaders were selected based on their exceptional academic performance in the Explore Entrepreneurship course.

Their dedication, and leadership throughout the program distinguished them among their peers. They were formally recognized during the graduation ceremony for their outstanding contributions and commitment to excellence.



Youth Remarks



My recent trip to Canada for the Youth Leadership Program at Queens University was truly transformative. The experience broadened my perspective on cultural exchange, entrepreneurship, and design thinking, equipping me with practical skills to drive youth development initiatives in Lagos State. I look forward to applying my knowledge to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among our youth.

- Opeyemi Alabi: Lagos State Govt



The study tour program was excellent and insightful, it was a mind-shifting, lifetime experience I won't forget anytime soon. I'm taking the lessons and memories from the journey home, and I will share them to inspire others. Thank you to MYSD, Future Perspectives, and the Governor of Lagos State.

- Dolapo Oshikoya: Ikorodu Youth Ambassador

Being part of the Canada Study Tour has been such an eye-opening experience for me. Starting with our study sessions at the Queen's University and Learning about entrepreneurship and building an innovative mindset was exciting, but what really stuck with me was the idea of having an internal locus of control, knowing that I'm responsible for shaping my own path. It's something I now hold close and try to practice daily.

- Bukola Aladesulu: Badagry Youth Ambassador



Breathtaking. That's the only adjective that befits my experience in Canada. Many beautiful experiences. But the biggest takeaway for me, is that "I can't afford to think small." That greatness fits me too. That average isn't a choice. That excellence is a must, it's the only option. That's the seed the study tour planted in me, and I'd nurture it till fruition. Breathtaking!

- Muhammad Sheriff: Lagos Youth Ambassador



Youth Remarks



One of my best highlights was visiting and learning at Queen's University, from the in-depth course at the Smith School of Business with J.P. Shearer, to The Innovator's Mindset and Innovator's Skillset taught by Greg Bavington, and diving deeper into developing a Business Model Canvas. At the Ignition Café, I gained valuable insights from Ryan Correia on the Top 5 Tips for Acquiring Capital Early. This experience strengthened my confidence in building myself, my ideas, and, in turn, contributing to my nation.

- Divinefavour Apata: Epe Youth Ambassador

The entire trip was fascinating, and every agenda, activity, and mini-trips that we took was well thought out and well planned for us to experience as complete of a cultural exchange as possible. My experience at Queens University was wonderful as well. It was very eye-opening and insightful to experience a university hundreds of years old, in touch with the modern, 21st century world, and just as deeply connected with its foundations and roots. The classes were extremely immersive and explanatory and felt very personally curated.

- Faizah Adediran: Ikeja Youth Ambassador



For me this study tour was not just a trip, it was a turning point. From the moment we landed in Toronto to our final goodbyes in Kingston, I was constantly learning, growing, and being stretched in ways I didn't expect. The sessions at Queen's University challenged me to think bigger, not only about entrepreneurship, but about leadership, mindset, and the kind of impact I want to make. Beyond the academics, it was the people that made this tour unforgettable.

- Obadare Adenekan: Lagos State Youth Ambassador

Youth Remarks



I am deeply grateful to the Lagos State Government for sponsoring the Canada Study Tour. It has been a truly life-changing experience, one that provided invaluable exposure and broadened my perspective in remarkable ways. The tour featured a well-structured and enriching itinerary, offering deep insights and hands-on learning opportunities that have significantly influenced how I approach both personal and professional growth. Thank you for this incredible opportunity

- Ibrahim Adigun: Transformational Leader

The program offered an immersive blend of academic learning, practical case studies, and cross-cultural exchange, giving me a global perspective on innovation and business creation. Beyond the classroom, I explored the beauty of Canada, its rich and diverse culture, efficient transportation systems, remarkable infrastructure, and unique cuisine, each leaving a lasting impression. For me, it was more than a study program; it was a journey of inspiration, self-discovery, and collaboration, equipping me with fresh strategies to create meaningful impact back home in Lagos.

- Adeogo Ojekunle: Transformational Leader



The Canada tour and study experience was more than just a tour, it was an adventure that reshaped my perspectives and thinking as a leader. Through cultural exchange, rigorous study on innovators' mindset, leadership training, and personal development skills, the knowledge I acquired has enabled me to discover opportunities around me, which is benefiting me today. As they say, "The world is like a book, and those who travel have the opportunity to open a new page.

- Pascal Ajande: Transformational Leader

Youth Remarks



The Canada Study Tour was transformative for me and I'm grateful to be found worthy of joining the program. It was an experience filled with valuable lessons many of which I have already started implementing. I wore two caps on this trip both as a participant and as the face of my brand, Lagos Junction, which served as a media partner for the tour. It was exciting to showcase the journey to people across Nigeria and around the world, giving youth in Lagos timely updates and making them feel connected to the experience.

- David Olaniyan: Transformational Leader

I engaged in immersive sessions on strategic innovation, entrepreneurship, design thinking, and business model development, alongside enriching socio-cultural exchange activities and visits to research hubs like Ingenuity Labs and the Queen's University Biological Station. These experiences deepened my ability to transform ideas into impactful ventures, strengthened my leadership capacity, and broadened my global perspective. I am committed to channeling these skills into empowering young entrepreneurs, promoting youth inclusion in governance, and driving sustainable, scalable solutions

- Awwal Alamutu: Transformational Leader



The BMC study tour in Canada was such a memorable experience for me. I got to see firsthand how businesses there run, explore new ideas, and learn from industry experts in a very practical way. Meeting new people, sharing ideas, and visiting different companies really opened my mind to new possibilities. Plus, getting to experience Canada's beautiful cities and culture made it even more exciting.

- Joseph Daniels: Transformational Leader

MYSD Remarks



Our study tour to Canada was an enlightening experience, offering a unique blend of academic exposure and cultural immersion. We explored Queen's University, learned about innovative teaching methods and research opportunities. From interactive workshops to insightful lectures, the youth gained valuable knowledge in field work. Visiting iconic landmarks like the Niagara Falls, and experiencing the vibrant city of Toronto broadened their perspectives. This tour enriched our horizon and personal growth.

- Abdul-Lateef Saka: MYSD

My recent Canadian study tour with twelve inspiring young leaders was an absolute whirlwind of excitement. From the moment we arrived, we were captivated by the beauty and vibrancy of Canada. Queen's University, with its historic charm, also provided a beautiful backdrop for our explorations. I learned so much about this incredible country, but perhaps the most rewarding aspect was witnessing the energy and innovative ideas of these young individuals. Their potential is truly remarkable, and I'm confident that this experience will have a lasting positive impact on them.

- Rashidat Umar: MYSD



My cultural exchange visit to Toronto and Kingston in Canada was an unforgettable and eye-opening experience. In Toronto, I had the unique opportunity to visit the Mayor's office, where we learned how the city's government operates. I also explored the vibrant city, with a highlight being the breathtaking trip to Niagara Falls. In Kingston, I enjoyed a scenic boat cruise through the beautiful 1000 Islands, gaining insight into the region's history and natural beauty. The experience in Canada broadened my perspective and inspired me personally.

- Bukola Akindayomi: MYSD





CULTURAL

TOUR





Toronto City Hall



The delegation was received at Toronto City Hall, an architectural landmark that has served as the civic heart of the city since its opening in 1965. Recognized for its innovative design, the building stands as a symbol of Toronto's progressive spirit.

During the visit, the delegation explored the hall's distinctive features, and gained a deeper understanding of the city's governance, including how municipal services function and residents engage in shaping their community.



Lavazza IncluCity Festival



[icff] ITALIAN
CONTEMPORARY
FILM FESTIVAL
DU FILM ITALIEN
CONTEMPORAIN

**LAVAZZA
INCLUCITY
FESTIVAL**



Inaugurated as a grassroots non-profit film festival in 2012, ICFF has developed into a multidisciplinary and multicultural organization that embraces all facets of the arts.

Every year, ICFF proudly brings together a vibrant community to celebrate movie magic, multiculturalism and diversity. Boasting an incredible lineup of outdoor glamorous screenings, insightful conferences and jaw-dropping special events.

The delegation proudly participated in the festival with the support of African Women Acting, further amplifying the presence and voices of African creatives.



African Women Acting Centre



Renowned Nigerian vocalist, actress, and activist Sonia Aimy graciously hosted the delegation at the African Women Acting (AWA) Centre, at Niagara Falls.

AWA, a non-profit organization, is dedicated to empowering women and preserving African heritage by promoting African arts and supporting female artists and creatives who express African cultural narratives.

The delegation also received a warm welcome from City Councillor Mona Patel, who shared insights into the rich cultural tapestry of Niagara Falls, further enhancing the team's experience.



Niagara Falls



Niagara Falls is a stunning natural wonder located on the border between Ontario, Canada, and New York, USA, known for its breathtaking beauty and powerful waterfalls.

Revered for centuries by Indigenous peoples and first chronicled by European explorers in the 17th century, Niagara Falls has long captivated the imagination with its sheer power and natural grandeur.

As millions of gallons of water plunged into the gorge below, shrouding the air in mist and echoing with a deafening roar, delegates stood in awe of a site that has inspired poets, powered cities, and drawn travelers from around the world for over 300 years.



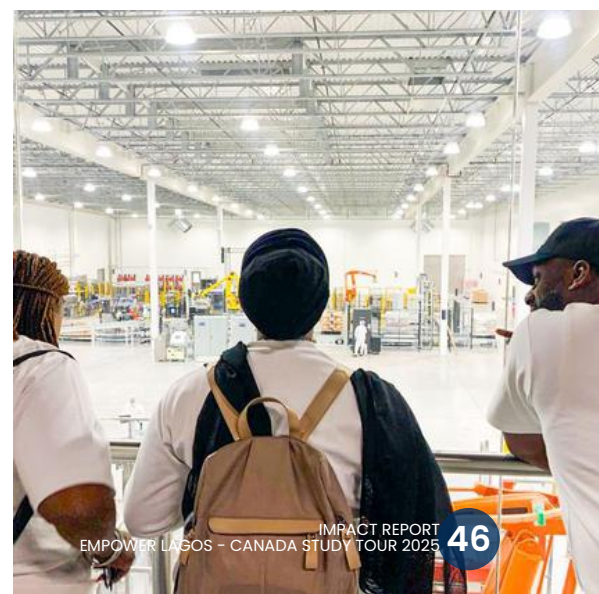
Canada Royal Milk



The delegation visited Canada Royal Milk in Kingston to learn more about its operation of a 320,000 square foot state-of-the-art facility that employs more than 150 skilled professionals.

The inaugural launch of Niuriss, a baby formula is designed to provide Canadian parents with a reliable and sustainable source of high-quality nutrition for their little ones.

Niuriss is the only infant formula made in Canada, with the capacity to produce enough formula to meet the needs of the Canadian market entirely.



Queen's University Biological Station



The delegation visited the Queen's University Biological Station (QUBS) at the Elbow Lake Environmental Education Centre. It is one of the premier scientific field stations in Canada.

For almost 70 years, researchers and students have gathered at QUBS to conduct leading-edge research and participate in courses spanning ecology, evolution, conservation, geography, and environmental science.



SEPTEMBER 15, 2025



Future Perspectives & Queen's University Courtesy Visit to MYSD





THANK YOU



A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to making the study tour a success. Your support and participation are truly appreciated.

A special thanks to Lagos Junction for the outstanding media documentation, your work beautifully captured the spirit of the experience.

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Future Perspectives

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