

Professor Hakeem Babatunde Fawehinmi: Personal Profile



I am Hakeem Babatunde Fawehinmi (Ph.D) (born 29 September 1969), a Nigerian academic, medical doctor, and university administrator, with professional specialization in Clinical Anatomy and Biomedical Anthropology. In December 2025, I formally assumed office as the 8th substantive Vice-Chancellor of the University of Abuja (now Yakubu Gowon University), following my appointment by the University's 11th Governing Council after a rigorous and transparent selection process.

Assumption of Office and Leadership Commitment

I was appointed Vice-Chancellor during the 80th Extraordinary Meeting of the Governing Council held on 7 November 2025, succeeding Professor Mathew Adamu, who had served diligently in an acting capacity since August 2025. My appointment takes effect from 10 February 2026 and is for a single, non-renewable tenure of five years.

Upon assuming duty, I expressed deep appreciation to the Governing Council, Senate, Management, staff, students, and alumni for their support and warm reception. I entered office with a clear resolve to lead collaboratively, strengthen academic excellence, expand research output and innovation, enhance institutional stability, and improve the overall student experience.

Under my leadership, the University is actively exploring strategic collaborations, diversified funding opportunities, and programme expansion aimed at widening access to quality education within the Federal Capital Territory and beyond, while positioning the institution firmly on the path toward world-class status.

Previous Vice-Chancellorship and Foundational Leadership

Before my appointment at the University of Abuja, I served as the Pioneer Vice-Chancellor of the Nigerian British University, Asa, Abia State, where I was entrusted with establishing the university's academic vision, governance structures, administrative systems, and external partnerships. That experience further strengthened my capacity for institution-building and reform-driven leadership.

Educational Background

My academic journey began at the University of Port Harcourt, where I earned a Bachelor of Medical Sciences (BMedSc) in Anatomy and the Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree. I later obtained an MSc in Medical Anthropology from the University of London, an experience that broadened my interdisciplinary engagement with medicine, culture, and society. I also hold a Doctor of Medicine (MD) degree from the University of Port Harcourt, the highest academic qualification in the medical profession.

Academic Career and Administrative Experience

I began my professional career as a medical intern at the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital in 1992, and was appointed Lecturer II at the University of Port Harcourt in 1995, rising through the ranks to become a Professor in May 2010.

Over the course of more than three decades, I have served the University of Port Harcourt in multiple academic and leadership roles, including:

- Head, Department of Anatomy
- Associate Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences
- Dean, Faculty of Basic Medical Sciences
- Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic) (2016–2020)

In these roles, I gained extensive experience in academic planning, governance, curriculum development, quality assurance, and institutional reform, while serving on numerous statutory and ad hoc committees.

Professional Service and National Engagement

Beyond university administration, I have remained deeply engaged in professional and national service. I have served as:

- Secretary-General and National Executive Council Member, Nigerian Medical Association (Rivers State)
- President, Society of Experimental and Clinical Anatomists of Nigeria
- Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Anatomical Sciences*
- External Examiner and Academic Assessor to several first- and second-generation Nigerian universities
- Leader and Member of accreditation and visitation panels for the National Universities Commission (NUC) and the Medical and Dental Council of Nigeria (MDCN)

Research, Innovation, and Scholarly Impact

My scholarly work spans Clinical Anatomy, Biomedical Anthropology, and applied medical research. I have authored over 100 peer-reviewed journal publications, produced 37 conference abstracts, and participated in over 70 international conferences and training programmes across Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North America.

I have supervised over 100 undergraduate projects, 15 MSc dissertations, and 13 PhD/MD theses, a mentorship legacy I consider one of my most enduring contributions to academia.

In 2014, I delivered the 111th Inaugural Lecture of the University of Port Harcourt, titled “*Different Tailors for the Same People; Same Surgeon for Different People.*”

One of my notable innovations is the AMRG Anthropometry Chair for Dimensional Body Measurement, for which I hold a Federal Government patent, reflecting my commitment to translating research into practical scientific tools. I have also attracted national and international research grants and facilitated industry–university partnerships within and outside Nigeria.

In recognition of my scholarly impact, I was listed in the 2021 Africa Scientist Rankings by the Alper-Doger Scientific Index.

Fellowships and Professional Recognition

I am honoured to hold fellowships from several prestigious professional bodies, including:

- Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland (FRAI)
- Fellow, Anatomical Society of Nigeria (FASN)
- Fellow, Experimental and Clinical Anatomists of Nigeria (FECAN)
- Fellow, Academy of Medicine Specialties of Nigeria (FAMedS)

These affiliations reflect a scholarly career recognised both within Nigeria and internationally.

Leadership Philosophy and Institutional Outlook

While my appointment generated public discourse, I remain firmly committed to inclusive leadership, transparency, discipline, academic substance, and stakeholder engagement. Since assuming office, I have commenced extensive consultations with principal officers, faculty leadership, unions, student representatives, and alumni to ensure a smooth transition and alignment of priorities for the University’s next phase of growth.

I believe strongly that sustainable university development is built on dialogue, shared purpose, and collective responsibility.

Personal Life

I am married to Dr. Hadeezat Omotayo Fawehinmi, a lecturer at the University of Port Harcourt, and we are blessed with five children. My family remains a constant source of strength and grounding throughout my academic and administrative journey.

