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Office of the Registrar
Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board, Bwari, Abuja
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Professor ‘Dibu Ojerinde OON
Registrar/Chief Executive
July, 2015
JOINT ADMISSIONS AND MATRICULATION BOARD

OFFICES OF THE BOARD

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
SULEJA ROAD, BWARI,
P.M.B. 189, GARIK,
ABUJA, NIGERIA.
PHONE: 08072522813, 07031283713, 07031283662, 08080116631
Website (1) http://www.jambng.com
(2) http://www.jambonline.org
(3) http://www.jamb.ng.org.ng
(4) http://www.jamb.gov.ng
E-mail: enquiries@jambng.com

HEADQUARTERS ANNEXES

LAGOS
11 OJORA ROAD, IKOYI,
P.M.B. 12748, LAGOS, LAGOS STATE.
PHONE: 08033051253
E-mail: jambnhalagos@yahoo.com

KADUNA
79, TAFWA BALEWA WAY,
P. M. B. 2200, KADUNA,
KADUNA STATE.
PHONE: 08033338039
E-mail: jambanexkaduna@yahoo.com

LIAISON OFFICE

FCT
Federal Secretariat Complex
Phase 1, 2nd Floor, Block 4B
Rooms 254-6/264-8
Shehu Shagari Way, Abuja.
Tel: 08035769697
E-mail: jambfct@yahoo.com
## ZONAL OFFICES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Phone Numbers</th>
<th>Email Address</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ADAMAWA</td>
<td>Former Min. of Education, P.M.B. 2014, Yola.</td>
<td>08035895815, 08034522681</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambbyola@yahoo.com">jambbyola@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BAUCHI</td>
<td>Off Ahmadu Bello Way, Opposite State Treasury, Bauchi, Bauchi State.</td>
<td>08034865258</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambbauchi@yahoo.com">jambbauchi@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BENUE</td>
<td>47, Kashim Ibrahim Road, P.M.B. 102299, Makurdi.</td>
<td>08036414090</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambbenue@gmail.com">jambbenue@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BORNO</td>
<td>Opposite Govt. House Roundabout, Shehu Laminu Way, P.O. Box 1093, Maiduguri.</td>
<td>08023531934</td>
<td><a href="mailto:maidjamb@yahoo.com">maidjamb@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CROSS-RIVER</td>
<td>100, Marian Road, P.M.B. 1086, Calabar.</td>
<td>08023338478</td>
<td><a href="mailto:calabarjamb@gmail.com">calabarjamb@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDO</td>
<td>Plot 21B’, Ikpokpan Road, GRA, P.M.B. 1169, Benin City.</td>
<td>08034522681</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambbedo@yahoo.com">jambbedo@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ENUGU</td>
<td>Anang Street, Ogui New Layout, Enugu.</td>
<td>08055360643, 08057144906</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambzonalofficeenugu@yahoo.com">jambzonalofficeenugu@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IMO</td>
<td>Ministry of Commerce Building, Orlu Road Secretariat, P.M.B. 1020, Owerri.</td>
<td>08023554474, 08170899599</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambimoooffice@yahoo.com">jambimoooffice@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KANO</td>
<td>Rumfa College, B.U.K. Road, Kano.</td>
<td>08070619766, 08028451385</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambkano@yahoo.com">jambkano@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KWARA</td>
<td>Ground Floor, ADP Building, Jebba Road, Zango-Ilorin, P.M.B. 1371, Ilorin.</td>
<td>08036064840</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambkwara@yahoo.com">jambkwara@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NIGER</td>
<td>Former Min. of Information Building, Niger State Old Secretariat, P.M.B. 185, Minna.</td>
<td>08034947169</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambnigerminna@yahoo.com">jambnigerminna@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ONDO</td>
<td>Quarters 92, Alagbaka Esate Near C.B.N. Office, IBB Avenue, Akure.</td>
<td>08039711272</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambondo@yahoo.com">jambondo@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OYO</td>
<td>Quarters 845, Opposite I Kolaba Grammar School, Agodi G.R.A., P.M.B. 58, Agodi Post Office, Ibadan.</td>
<td>08037016020</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambibadan@yahoo.com">jambibadan@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RIVERS</td>
<td>9, Ozuzu Close, D Line, Port Harcourt.</td>
<td>08029543954</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jambiversph@yahoo.com">jambiversph@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOKOTO</td>
<td>3rd Floor, Block 19, Shehu Kangiwa Secretariat, Sokoto.</td>
<td>08036288915</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jamboksokoto@yahoo.com">jamboksokoto@yahoo.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
STATE OFFICES

ABIA
38, Mission Hill Road, Umuahia.
Tel: 08061103634, 08184493787
jambabia@yahoo.com

AKWA-IBOM
Atiku Abubakar Avenue, P. M. B. 1095, Uyo.
Tel: 08037881477
jambakwaibom@yahoo.com

ANAMBRA
Amaembia By-Pass, P.M.B. 6046, Awka.
Tel: 08093945449, 07065041957
jambanambra@yahoo.com

BAYELSA
3, Police Headquarters Road, Yenagoa.
Tel: 080794956
jammbayelsa@yahoo.com

DELTA
Okpanam Road, By NTA Junction, P.M.B. 95093, Asaba.
Tel: 08033704445
jammbedelta@yahoo.com

EBONYI
No. 1, Amogu Street, Near Unity Square, Abakiliki.
Tel: 08037108507
jambebonyi@yahoo.com

EKITI
Opposite Christ School, Iworoko Road, Ade-Ekiti,
Tel: 08033871105
jambekiti@yahoo.com

GOMBE
Plot No. 2, Doctors' Quarters, C/o General Buhari Housing Estate, G.R.A. New Layout, P. M. B. 133, Gombe.
Tel: 08125191480, 08036254581
jambgome@yahoo.com

JIGAWA
Mechanics Village, Plot No. 269/270, Off By-pass Road, Dutse.
Tel: 08033760715
jambjigawa@yahoo.com

KATSINA
Dikko Road, Opp. Katsina College, Kolar Sauri, P. M. B. 2144, Katsina,
Tel: 08033832671
jambkatsina@yahoo.com

KEBBI
1, Justice Usman Mohammed Road, Off Murtala Mohammed Way, Tudun Wada, P. M. B. 1134, Birnin - Kebbi.
Tel: 08033334678
jambkebbi@yahoo.com

KOBI
Block 574 Salau Atima Housing Estate, Opposite Lokongoma Phase II, P. M. B. 1057, Lokoja.
Tel: 07039803092, 08052106082
jambkogi@yahoo.com

NASARAWA
Former Studio of Nasarawa Broadcasting Service, Near Deputy Governor's Office, Jos Road Secretariat, P.M.B. 107, Lafia.
Tel: 08037261078
jambnasarawa@yahoo.com

OGUN
Premises of Ogun State Staff Development Centre, Ibrahim Babangida Boulevard, Abeokuta.
Tel: 08037261078
jambojun@yahoo.com

OSUN
Technical College Premises, Iwo Road, P. M. B. 4330, Osogbo.
Tel: 08033080175
jambosun@yahoo.com

PLATEAU
56, Murtala Muhammad Way P.M.B. 02065, Jos.
Tel: 08036200819, 0802379053
jammbplaateau@yahoo.com

TARABA
Former Teachers’ College Quarters, Jalingo.
Tel: 08033149722
jambtaraba@yahoo.com

YOBE
No. 15, Commissioners’ Quarters, Damaturu.
Tel: 08065682139
jambyobe@yahoo.com

ZAMFARA
8, Sokoto Road, Opposite Wambai House, P.M.B. 01120, Gusau.
Tel: 08037479116
jambzamfara@yahoo.com
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INTRODUCTION

The Joint admissions and Matriculation Board was established by an Act of 1978, subsequently amended in 1989 and 1993. By the virtue of the Act, the Board is empowered to be responsible for the:

i) general control over the conduct of matriculation examinations into all Universities, Monotechnics, Polytechnics and Colleges of Education;

ii) appointment of examiners, moderators, invigilators, members of the subject panels and committees and other persons with respect to matriculation examinations;

iii) placement of suitably qualified candidates in the tertiary institutions in collaboration with those institutions.

In furtherance of these functions, the Board conducts a matriculation examination for candidates seeking admissions to tertiary institutions within the country. This examination is known as the Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME).

ELIGIBILITY FOR THE EXAMINATION

Those eligible to sit the UTME are holders of the following qualifications or their equivalents:

i) the West African School Certificate (WASC)

ii) the Senior Secondary School Certificate (SSCE)

iii) the National Technical Certificate or the National Business Certificate (NTC/NBC)

iv) Teachers’ Grade II Certificate

Candidates who have sat or are scheduled to sit for examinations in any of these qualifications in the year of application may also sit for the UTME

STRUCTURE OF THE EXAMINATION

The UTME is conducted once a year in the computer based test mode. The test is a three-hour multiple-choice in four subjects, with a compulsory paper - the Use of English and three other subjects of a candidate’s choice. Prospective candidates are advised to seek the advice of their teachers, parents/guardians or career counselors in their choice of elective subjects for the UTME.
Candidates are advised to visit the JAMB practice test window on its website: www.jamb.org.ng/practice to familiarize themselves with features of the computer-based test at no extra cost.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Prospective candidates for the UTME are to note that for them to secure admissions into tertiary education programme, they have to:

i) attain an appreciable standard of pass in the UTME in the relevant subjects;
ii) have credit passes in five relevant subjects in the appropriate WAEC/NECO SSCE/Teachers’ Grade II examination.

The credit/merit passes in question should be attained at not more than two sittings. Normally, credit passes Mathematics and English Language are required for all tertiary education courses except where it is stated otherwise. In addition to the general entry requirements specified above, candidates must meet any other specific entry. Candidates are therefore advised to consult the appropriate sections of the UTME/DE brochure for information about the specific entry requirements for different programmes. It is also important to note that admissions are subject to general guidelines enunciated from time to time by the proprietors of higher educational institutions. Such guidelines may set out admissions quotas or implementation principles which the Board and the institutions are expected to uphold.

BEWARE OF EXAMINATION MALPRACTICE

Increasingly, candidates, examination officials and other persons are yielding to the temptation to cheat in examinations. Cheating (or aiding or abetting cheating) in examinations is criminal act punishable in law. The Examination, Malpractices Decree 1999 provides penalties for persons convicted of examination malpractice. Punishment provided include imprisonment for 3-5 years or a fine of ₦50,000 or more, or both prison sentence and fine. By provision of the decree, the following are considered criminal acts:

Cheating, use of electronic device, impersonation, collusion with others with the intent to cheat or secure unfair advantage for self or for another, disturbance at examinations, misconduct in the course of an examination, failure to obey lawful orders of supervisors, proctors or agents of the examination body, forgery of result notification, breach of duty, conspiracy, aiding, multiple application, etc.