

OFFICE OF THE VICE-CHANCELLOR



**ADDRESS BY THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA
JULY 2026 CONGREGATION CEREMONIES**

**ADDRESS BY:
PROFESSOR NANA ABA APPIAH AMFO
VICE-CHANCELLOR, UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**SATURDAY, JULY 25, 2026
GREAT HALL
UNIVERSITY OF GHANA, LEGON**

HE, the President of the Republic of Ghana
Chair of Council,
Members of the University Council,
Pro Vice-Chancellors,
Registrar,
Provosts, Deans and Directors,
Distinguished Guest Speaker,
Members of Convocation,
Staff and Students,
Alumni,
Graduands,
Invited Guests,
Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

Welcome and Celebration of Achievement

I extend warm greetings to you all and I am delighted to welcome you to this Congregation Ceremony for the 2025/2026 graduating cohort.

Today, we celebrate the accomplishments of our students who have successfully completed their programmes. On behalf of University Management, I warmly congratulate all our

graduating students on reaching this important milestone.

For the July 2026 Congregation Ceremonies, a total of **1,884 students** are graduating, comprising **157 PhDs, 1,429 Master's degree graduates and 298 undergraduate degree graduates.**

This morning's ceremony is dedicated to our PhD graduands.

Today marks the conclusion of one important phase of your lives and the beginning of another. Your time at the University of Ghana has equipped you with knowledge, critical thinking capacity, discipline and values. You now carry the responsibility of using these attributes to serve Ghana and the global community with distinction.

Strategic Vision and Institutional Excellence

The University of Ghana continues to pursue its vision of global impact through innovative research, teaching and learning, anchored in technology and human-centred values.

Our work is guided by five strategic priorities:

- Transformative Student Experience;
- Impactful Research;
- Commitment to our Faculty and Staff;
- Engagements and Partnerships; and

- Sustainable Resource Mobilisation and Stewardship.

These priorities shape our institutional direction and inform the initiatives we undertake. In a rapidly changing global environment, they position the University to respond with agility while maintaining academic rigour, ethical grounding and meaningful engagement with our stakeholders.

I am pleased to report that the University has successfully concluded the Ghana Tertiary Education Commission (GTEC) Five-Year Cyclical Institutional Review. The Commission commended the University for significant progress in governance, research, policy development, academic quality and institutional growth.

The review assessed our quality assurance systems, governance structures, academic delivery, student support services and overall institutional performance, as well as our response to recommendations from the previous review. This outcome demonstrates the University's continued commitment to institutional excellence and continuous improvement.

Technology, Innovation and the Student Experience

The University continues to embrace advances in information

and communication technology to enhance teaching and learning. Our Centre for Teaching and Learning Innovation and the Academic Quality Assurance Directorate are working to equip students and faculty with competencies in contemporary educational technologies, including Artificial Intelligence.

Earlier this year, the University Council approved the Policy on the use of Artificial Intelligence, which provides guidance for the responsible and ethical use of AI in teaching, learning, research and administration. The policy promotes inclusive access, ethical and accountable use, teaching and learning excellence, and compliance with data security and privacy requirements.

A new Teaching and Learning Policy has also been approved to provide an enabling framework for innovative and quality teaching and learning. It promotes inclusivity and equitable access to relevant resources, continuous professional development for faculty, and stronger library and ICT support for effective teaching and learning.

We are also expanding digital access through the One Student, One Laptop initiative. To date, 777 laptops have been distributed out of 1,196 laptops donated by various partners. The

University has received 500 laptops from the Ministry of Communication, Digital Technology and Innovation to support the training of students in IT skills under the Government's One Million Coders programme.

We are grateful to our partners, including Ecobank Ghana, which has contributed 300 laptops over three years; Telecel Ghana, which has provided a fully equipped 43-unit computer laboratory with an interactive touchscreen and dedicated internet connectivity; and ClemsHigh Business Solutions Ltd., which has donated an interactive screen and modern podium to the School of Public Health.

The University, with support from our partners, has expanded student-friendly learning spaces through four Hotspot Comfort Zones, equipped with Wi-Fi connectivity and seating to provide spaces for study, peer collaboration and social interaction. Additional Hotspot zones are under construction.

At the School of Engineering Sciences, a new STEM Centre, established in collaboration with STEMpower, is enhancing practical training and providing students with hands-on experience in modern tools and digital technologies.

We appreciate all our partners whose support continues to help

us strengthen the student experience and our academic and research capacity.

Scholarships and Student Support

The University has also scaled up scholarship support, awarding 1,358 scholarships to new and continuing students for the 2025/2026 academic year.

This reflects our commitment to our first strategic priority of delivering a transformative student experience and expanding access to higher education. It builds on more than two decades of institutional commitment to supporting brilliant students who require financial assistance.

We are deeply grateful to all sponsors whose generosity enables our students to pursue their academic programmes without the additional burden of financial hardship. We warmly welcome others to join us in supporting this important cause.

Partnerships and Impact

Partnerships remain central to the University's efforts to create impact beyond our campuses.

The School of Performing Arts recently delivered a powerful dramatic re-enactment of the transatlantic slave trade at

Christiansborg Castle as part of Ghana's Juneteenth celebrations. The production formed part of the "Next Steps 2026" High-Level Consultative Conference, a global gathering focused on advancing the recognition of slavery as the gravest crime against humanity.

I join His Excellency the President of the Republic in applauding the School for producing such impactful artistic works that engage contemporary issues while preserving and interpreting important aspects of our history and culture.

Research and Innovation

Research and innovation remain at the heart of the University's mission. The Research and Innovation Directorate recently marked 15 years of advancing research excellence, reflecting on its contribution to research governance, interdisciplinary collaboration, grant management and partnerships with industry, government and international institutions.

The work of the Directorate has strengthened the visibility, quality and impact of research at the University while supporting evidence-based responses to national and global challenges. As we celebrate these achievements, we look forward to even greater accomplishments as we pursue our

strategic priority of Impactful Research.

Wellbeing of Faculty, Staff and Students

The University remains committed to the wellbeing and development of its faculty and staff. The inaugural UG Employee Week Celebration honoured the contributions of academic and administrative personnel through wellness activities, professional development and community-building initiatives.

The reintroduced UG Staff Awards recognise outstanding members of staff whose contributions advance the University's mission in teaching, research, administration and service.

The University has reviewed its Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, with emphasis on strengthening reporting mechanisms and enforcement, while extending its jurisdiction and improving cooperation with relevant external authorities. These measures are intended to foster a safer, healthier and more respectful environment for every member of the University community.

Global Visibility, Rankings and Recognition

I am pleased to note that the University of Ghana continues to strengthen its global visibility. The University has maintained its position as the leading university in Ghana and West Africa and remains among the top universities in Africa in the QS World University Rankings 2027.

These achievements reflect the University's growing reputation for excellence in research, innovation, teaching and learning and demonstrate the progress being made in implementing our 2024-2029 Strategic Plan.

The University was also honoured with the Africa Heritage Award for Academic Excellence at the African Heritage Awards 2026, in recognition of its outstanding contribution to higher education, research and national and continental development.

Our faculty, staff, students and alumni continue to distinguish themselves nationally and internationally. A Doctoral student Ms. Elizabeth Abbey was recognised for the best Poster Presentation at the 28th Congress of the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology, while students of the School of Nursing and Midwifery emerged winners of the maiden Inter-University Nursing Quiz Competition.

We have also celebrated the achievements of our former

international exchange student, Ms. Christina Koch, who was a member of the crew for the historic Artemis II mission. She notes that her experience at the University of Ghana contributed greatly to her global perspective and intellectual growth.

Her achievement is a reminder of the enduring impact of the University and the strength of our global community.

I am also pleased to announce that I have been appointed Board Chair of the Worldwide Universities Network. Last month, I delivered the 2026 Distinguished Africa Lecture at Warwick University in the United Kingdom on the theme, *"Whose Language Counts? African Voices, Knowledge Systems, and the Future of AI."* The lecture examined the implications of language exclusion in emerging technologies and challenged prevailing assumptions about whose knowledge is represented in AI systems.

The University of Ghana School of Law continues to distinguish itself as a centre of excellence in legal education. The 2026 Times Higher Education World University Rankings by Subject ranked the School of Law number one in Ghana and West Africa and sixth in Africa, placing it in the prestigious 251-300 global band.

The School has also retained its title as national champions of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition for the second consecutive year, earning the honour of representing Ghana at the international championship in the United States of America.

I congratulate our faculty, staff, students and alumni on these achievements and urge all of us to continue working hard as we strive to do even better.

Legal Education Act 2026

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, this year marks a historic watershed for legal education in Ghana.

The passage of the Legal Education Act, 2026, introduces significant reforms that will reshape the development of legal professionals and the regulation of legal education in the country.

As Ghana's premier legal training institution, the University of Ghana School of Law is well positioned to deliver the decentralised practical legal training through the Law Practice Training Course, thereby contributing to expanding access to professional legal training, while maintaining rigorous national standards.

Your Role as Graduates

To our graduating students, this is a moment of significant transition, as you end one chapter of your lives and begin another.

The knowledge, discipline and values you have acquired at the University of Ghana should guide you in your professional and civic contributions.

You carry with you the reputation and values of an institution that has shaped leaders across generations. We expect you to uphold the principles of excellence, integrity, professionalism and service in your careers and communities.

As ambassadors of the University of Ghana, you will represent this institution throughout your lives and work. Wherever your journeys take you, remember that you remain part of the University of Ghana family.

I encourage you to remain connected to the University by registering on the UG Global Alumni Network App, which seeks to unite and mobilise our global alumni community.

I also urge you to contribute your expertise, experience and resources to sustaining the institution that shaped you and to mentor the students who will follow your path.

Graduands, we are immensely proud of you. We wish you courage to embrace new opportunities, resilience in the face of challenges, and the wisdom to use your knowledge for the greater good.

The world you are entering is changing rapidly. Artificial intelligence and new technologies are transforming the workplace and reshaping industries. Global challenges require innovative thinking, collaboration and responsible leadership.

You have been prepared not simply to find jobs, but to create value, solve problems and make a difference. I therefore challenge you to remain curious and committed to lifelong learning.

Wherever you find yourselves, remember that your education comes with a responsibility to contribute to society. Use your knowledge not only for personal advancement, but also to improve the lives of others and to contribute to the development of Ghana and the wider world.

On behalf of the University of Ghana, I offer my warmest congratulations on your achievements and wish you every success in all that you do.

Your Excellency, My Lady Chair, Distinguished ladies and

gentlemen, before I take my seat permit me one final acknowledgement. These congregation sessions mark the final graduation ceremonies of our Registrar, Mrs. Emelia Agyei-Mensah. Since assuming office in August 2021, she has led the University's operations with quiet competence, humility and distinction. Mrs. Agyei-Mensah, thank you for your dedicated service to the University of Ghana. We are deeply grateful and wish you God's richest blessings in retirement.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen, I thank you for your kind attention.

Prof. Nana Aba Appiah Amfo
Vice-Chancellor
July 2026