

Epsom's UCA hosts delegation from Nigeria

23 March 2026



A new Memorandum of Understanding has been signed between University for the Creative Arts (UCA), Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Arts, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy and the National Council for Arts and Culture (NCAC) from Nigeria, marking a strengthening collaboration between the UK and Nigeria's vibrant creative and cultural industries.

The signing of the agreement was the key event in a visit of UCA's Surrey campuses in Farnham and Epsom by a Nigerian delegation, which was part of the Nigerian President's week-long state visit to the Royal family in the UK.

Signing the agreement was the Honourable Minister of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Creative Economy of Nigeria, Hannatu Musa Musawa; the Director General of the National Council for Arts and Culture, Obi Asika; and UCA's Joint Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark Ellul.

Prof. Ellul remarked: "We're delighted to sign this agreement and strengthen our deepening relationship with Nigeria's creative and cultural industries.

"We're pleased to be able to join the rallying call for an institutional commitment that aligns our expertise in creative higher education with Nigeria's ambition to build lasting relationships that positions its creative economy as a central pillar to their economic diversification and youth empowerment."

The Honourable Minister, Hannatu Musa Musawa commented: "Nigeria is proud to formalise its partnership with the University for the Creative Arts (UCA), marking a significant milestone in advancing the nation's creative industry and creative economy.

"This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to innovation, talent development, and institutional exchange, building on sustained engagement with key stakeholders including the National Council for Arts and Culture and the Nigeria Governors Forum.

"The agreement underscores a forward-looking vision to strengthen bilateral ties between Nigeria and the United Kingdom, driving long-term growth and global competitiveness across the creative sector."

Joining the Minister and Director General were multiple creative leaders from Nigeria and the UK including the British Council, the UK Department for Business and Trade, Bank of Industry Nigeria, Nigerian Film Corporation, DG of National Institute for Hospitality and Tourism, Nigeria, Senior Special Advisers to the Minister, VC and Pro Vice from University of Abuja.

The delegation received a tour of UCA's industry-grade facilities in traditional and emerging arts at its School of Creative & Cultural Industries in Farnham and School of Creative Business, Fashion & Enterprise in Epsom. They also engaged in a panel discussion about UK-Nigerian Creative and Cultural Collaboration.

Director General, Obi Asika, added: "National Council of Arts and Culture (NCAC) is delighted to have convened the Honourable Minister Hannatu Musa Musawa, the Federal Ministry of Art, Culture, Tourism and the Creative Economy of Nigeria (FMACTCE), and UCA in the UK, to advance a bold global knowledge and curriculum partnership designed to unlock the full potential of Nigeria's creative industry and creative economy.

"Strengthened by our ongoing collaboration with the Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF) established in 2025 and aligned with the UK-Nigeria co-working group under Enhanced Trade and Investment Partnership (ETIP), where I serve as Co-Chair for Nigeria with Hon Florence Eshalomi, Mp, as Co-Chair for the UK, this milestone moment brings together influential leaders across the public and private sectors to drive innovation, talent development, and sustainable growth across the creative ecosystem."

Many talented creatives from Nigeria are already studying at UCA, across disciplines such as film, fashion, design, animation, and digital media, and making a lasting impact across UCA's three campuses - bringing fresh perspectives, cultural richness, and creative excellence that continue to enrich the university's global community.

By recognising Nigeria's ambition to promote its nation's cultural and creative industries, UCA will utilise its expertise to further help it grow and sustain the next generation of creative talent and cultural leaders globally.

University for the Creative Arts



Photo: Nigerian delegation at The Wells, UCA in Epsom