

Professor Abejide Ade-Ibijola

Professor: Artificial Intelligence and Applications, Johannesburg Business School

Background

Professor Abejide Ade-Ibijola holds a PhD in Computer Science (Artificial Intelligence — *program comprehension*) from the University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg in 2016. Prior, he had bagged a Bachelor's Honours degree (with **First Class Honours**) in Computer Science, and a Master's in Advanced Computer Science (with **Distinction** in Research) — *serious games and AI*. He is currently a **Full Professor of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Applications** at the **Johannesburg Business School (JBS), University of Johannesburg (UJ)**, South Africa. He is rated by the National Research Foundation (NRF) of South Africa, and he has published 80+ articles in recognised outlets on AI algorithms, and innovations for solving real-world problems. In his 15 years of experience, he has taught several modules at all levels and supervised master's and doctoral candidates to completion. Outside of academia, Abejide has worked in the software industry (across domains such as financial markets, serious games in public health and education, and technology consulting), and created several innovations for the government of South Africa.

Awards, Recognitions, and Funding

Abejide has won 65 major teaching, research and innovation awards and secured over R12 million rands in funding towards research, innovation, and social development (training of youth technopreneurs, and unemployed graduates). He is the winner of the **UJ CBE Dean's Top Senior Lecturer Award 2018** (in a faculty of 338 academics), a Two-time Winner of the UJ Vice-Chancellor's Distinguished Awards for the **Innovation of the year 2019 (Valued at R500,000.00)**, and **Teacher Excellence 2020 (Valued at R150,000.00)**.

Abejide is also a winner at the South Africa's Department of Public Service (DPSA) **Ignite Hack Innovation Award 2018**, the winner of **SA Department of Communications Living 4IR Hackathon Overall Best Innovation of 2019**, **Two South Africa's State IT Agency (SITA) Public Service Innovation Awards in 2019**. In 2020, he secured software licenses for the entire UJ community, worth over \$1.5 Billion US Dollars.

In 2023, he was named twice as a finalist of the: **Africa Tech Leader of the Year Award** and his social project (GRIT Lab Africa), as **Africa Educational Technology Award** at the Africa Tech Week Awards in Cape Town, South Africa. *Abejide's career is decorated with over 100 awards and recognitions.*

International Positions and Activities

Abejide is a **Visiting Distinguished Professor of Artificial Intelligence at the School of Business, Woxsen University, Hyderabad, India** (also an advisory board member of the AI Research Centre at Woxsen), and holds several academic, consulting, and advisory positions around the world. He has recently given **invited talks at University of Oxford, United Kingdom** and at **Cornell University, New York, USA** on Artificial Intelligence and Applications.

Institutional Positions

At the JBS, Abejide is the Founder and Lead of the **Research Group on Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Innovations for Digital Transformation**, the Director of the Postgraduate Diploma Programme, and the Chairperson of the Centre for Entrepreneurship's Advisory Board. He also heads the Innovation Lab of the JBS, known to produce immersive experiences, video games, mobile/web app solutions, and a range of algorithmic solutions. At UJ, he is a member of the Academy of Distinguished Teachers, he serves on the Teaching Portfolio Assessment Committee (TPAC), and he is also a member of the Senate's Teaching and Learning Committee.

Intellectual Properties and Commercialisation

Abejide has invented several technological tools across the spectrum (virtual reality experiences, video games, AI algorithms, mobile and web applications, etc). Two notable commercialised products from his inventions are:

Learn and Earn Mobile App: This App allows students to sell products for three companies (Tupperware, Table Charm and Avon Justine). In the 2019 academic year, 390 students used this App, generating a turnover of R3 million. This resulted in R750 000 paid out to the students in the form of commission. This App has made more returns year-on-year thereafter.

Teaching and Module Evaluation Web App: This App saves the University of Johannesburg exactly R2 million rands annually in software license that was previously paid to a company in the Netherlands. The App facilitates the teaching and module evaluation for the entire UJ community, 50,000 students and about 10,000 staff members use this App.

Abejide has authored over 50 proprietary technological tools, with some undergoing commercialisation at UJ.

Social Project and Impact

Abejide is the Founder and Chairman of **GRIT Lab Africa (a social project for training young Africans in Grit and programming)**. At GRIT Lab Africa, Abejide mentors 116 young people across 38 higher institutions of learning in 11 African countries (Ghana, Kenya, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, South Africa, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe). In June 2023, he received an **Africa Impact Award** at the **Deep Learning IndabaX Nigeria** for this social project.

At the University of Johannesburg, he currently mentors 60+ students, and has directly mentored 1000+ students in the last seven years. In 2022, he paid out R1, 111, 587.38 in wages to 33 students for work-integrated learning, while training these students to become software engineers across diverse range of technologies. Abejide is the publisher of **The Kingsman Academic Magazine**, a publication that showcases the technological innovation of his mentees.

