



John Onuigbo

Masters Student in Education, admitted Autumn 2026

Bio

BIO

John Onuigbo is an education innovator and social entrepreneur whose work focuses on helping students in vulnerable communities gain the skills and confidence to thrive in the future workforce, regardless of the limitations of their environment. His mission lies at the intersection of education, entrepreneurship, and technology, where he creates transformative learning opportunities that bridge access and possibility for young people across Nigeria and beyond.

John is the founder and chief executive officer of Foris Labs, a virtual science laboratory that enables secondary school students to perform experiments in physics, chemistry, and biology through interactive digital simulations. Built in response to the limited access to functional laboratories in many Nigerian schools, Foris Labs is redefining how science is taught and experienced. The platform has been adopted by leading schools across the country, helping students understand core scientific concepts and teachers deliver more engaging lessons.

Alongside this, John founded Stemnovo NG, an initiative that empowers young people in rural and semi-urban communities with practical skills in coding, robotics, and entrepreneurship. Since its inception, the program has reached over 17,000 students, providing them with the tools to turn curiosity into innovation. Many participants have gone on to win national and international innovation competitions and develop technology-driven solutions to local challenges.

In recognition of his impact, John became the first African to win the Stanford Center on Longevity Design Challenge in 2021, a global innovation competition that celebrates creative solutions advancing learning, health, and wellbeing. His leadership has also guided students to victories in major programs, including the Diamond Challenge, Beyond School Community Challenge, the World Affairs Challenge, and the UK–Nigeria Debate Championship. He won The Future Awards Africa Prize for Education 2025 and was named a Dalai Lama Fellow for the year 2026.

John served as the youngest member of the South East Development Commission's Venture Capital Advisory Committee, where he contributed to developing a framework for a \$50M VC fund focused on youth-focused innovation and entrepreneurship development across the region. In 2025, he was named a Social Shifters Fellow and appointed to the Social Shifters Global Youth Council, where he works alongside young leaders around the world to promote inclusive and sustainable innovation.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Prize for Education, The Future Awards Africa (2025)
- Africa Edtech 50, HolonIQ (2024)

- Most Impactful Young Person of the Year, Anambra Man of the Year Awards (2024)
- Shifters 100, Social Shifters (2024)
- Global Winner, Social Shifters x Fitch Group Global Education Innovation Challenge (2023)
- Startup Battlefield 200, TechCrunch (2023)
- Winner, Zenith Bank Tech Fair (2023)
- Top Young African Entrepreneurs Prize, Regional Universities Forum for Capacity Building in Agriculture (2022)
- Global First Prize, Stanford Centre on Longevity Design Challenge (2021)
- HeForShe Champion, British Deputy High Commission in Nigeria (2018)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

- Member, South East Development Commission Venture Capital Advisory Committee (2025 - 2025)
- Board Member, Solace Hub for Health and Rights Initiative (Solace Hub) (2024 - present)
- Board Member, Empowered Initiative for the Promotion of Community Right (EIPCR) (2024 - present)
- Community & Partnerships Coordinator, Social Shifters (2024 - present)
- CEO & Co-founder, Foris Labs (2020 - present)
- Head, Entrepreneurship and Digital Skills Training, Stemnovo NG (2019 - present)
- State Debate Coach, Anambra State Debate Team (2019 - present)