

# **Expanding Access & Enhancing Quality in TVET via ODFeL**



COMMONWEALTH  
*of* LEARNING

**Implementation of Standards and Accreditation Tools  
for Open, Distance, and Flexible e-Learning (ODFeL)  
in TVET Institutions**

## What is ODFeL?

Open, Distance, and Flexible e-Learning (ODFeL) is a model designed to enhance access to quality technical and vocational education through online, blended, and virtual learning. It broadens learning opportunities by integrating technology-driven education and making it accessible to a diverse range of learners.

In 2021, approval was granted for the implementation of the ODFeL initiative, marking its introduction into the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector.

ODFeL differs significantly from traditional instruction methods. It is learner-centered, placing students at the core of the educational process. This model is characterized by the separation of teacher and learner in terms of time and/or space, the use of multimedia for delivering instructional materials, and two-way communication. Occasional face-to-face sessions for tutorials and learner-teacher interaction are also incorporated.

ODFeL accommodates various types of learners, including visual, auditory, kinesthetic, and peer-group learners. It is especially beneficial for individuals who cannot, or prefer not to, engage in full-time classroom-based education. ODFeL enables them to learn in a way that suits their unique needs.

This model allows secondary school graduates to enroll in TVET programs and complete much of their coursework remotely through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

## Why ODFeL?

- Expands access to TVET programs across Nigeria.
- Addresses the skills gap by offering flexible, competency-based training.
- Aligns with global best practices in distance education.

## ODFeL Quality Standards

The National Board for Technical Education (NBTE), with support from the Commonwealth of Learning (COL), has developed comprehensive standards and accreditation tools to ensure the quality assurance of Open, Distance, and Flexible e-Learning (ODFeL) programs. These standards are designed to guarantee that institutions delivering ODFeL programs meet the required benchmarks for excellence, accessibility, and learner outcomes in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The development of these quality standards reflects NBTE's commitment to fostering a learning environment that leverages modern technology to expand access to education while maintaining high standards of delivery. The accreditation tools serve as a framework for evaluating institutions, ensuring they provide not only a flexible learning environment but also a robust and reliable system of support for learners.

### **Key Accreditation Requirements:**

- **Governance & Leadership:** Institutions must establish an ODFeL center, headed by a qualified director.
- **Program Design & Delivery:** Programs must adhere to competency-based learning models.
- **Staffing & Capacity Building:** Instructors must undergo mandatory training in e-learning facilitation.
- **Assessment & Evaluation:** Must include formative and summative competency-based assessments.
- **Infrastructure & ICT Support:** Institutions need a robust Learning Management System (LMS) with real-time progress tracking.
- **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E):** Continuous evaluation of student outcomes, program effectiveness, and quality assurance is required.

### **Accreditation Process & Standards**

#### **Accreditation Ensures:**

- Institutional compliance with ODFeL policies.
- High-quality curriculum, staffing, and infrastructure.
- Standardized assessment and certification processes.

#### **Steps to Accreditation:**

- Submit an application to NBTE.
- Provide a comprehensive needs assessment report.
- Demonstrate the availability of qualified, digitally competent staff, ICT infrastructure, and LMS.
- Ensure the presence of student support services and inclusive learning environments.

## **Vision**

*The Vision of the Board is “To be a world-class regulatory body for the promotion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Nigeria”.*

## **Mission**

*The mission statement of NBTE is “To promote the production of skilled technical and professional manpower for the development and sustenance of the national economy”.*

**Join the ODFeL Initiative Today and Transform Learning!**

**National Board for Technical Education (NBTE)**

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