

BIOGRAPHY OF PROFESSOR NGOZI FRANCA OKOYE PhD

Professor Ngozi Franca Okoye is an accomplished and visionary academic and leader with over 16 years of experience across higher and further education, research, public engagement, governance, and international policy diplomacy. She has published over 50 peer-reviewed journal articles and built a sustained record of excellence in biochemistry, education leadership, and interdisciplinary innovation spanning science, technology, and global development. Her work bridges academia, industry, and multilateral institutions, with a strong commitment to advancing equity, sustainability, and evidence-based policy.

Professor Ngozi Franca Okoye currently serves as a Director and Trustee on the Board of an Educational Trust in the UK, providing strategic leadership and robust governance. In this role, she contributes to board-level decision-making on strategy, safeguarding, performance, financial oversight, and compliance, ensuring effective stewardship of public resources while upholding high standards aligned with Ofsted and ESFA expectations. She is also a grant reviewer for the La Caixa Foundation, serving on an international panel of scientific experts evaluating health and social research proposals for scientific rigor, feasibility, ethics, and societal impact.

In academia, Ngozi Franca Okoye is Professor and Academic Personnel at the Institute for Public Diplomacy London, UK, where she has developed climate change education programmes and contributes to global policy engagement as the institute's delegate to international forums including the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), United Nations, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, and World Bank. She also holds a Visiting/Adjunct Professorship in Biochemistry at Godfrey Okoye University, where she contributes to teaching, research supervision, and academic development.

Professor Ngozi Franca Okoye is the founder of Young Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (YWISET), an initiative that has supported over 500 women globally through scholarships, mentoring, and STEM empowerment programmes.

Her governance experience extends to elected roles within Sigma Xi, where she served on the Nominations Committee for three years, contributing to leadership selection, member engagement, and the promotion of research integrity and scientific excellence. She was also appointed and served in the outreach committee.

Previously, Professor Ngozi Franca Okoye worked for over 16 years at the University of Port Harcourt, teaching undergraduate, postgraduate, medical, and health science students, alongside research and administrative leadership. She supervised over 70 BSc theses, 20 MSc theses and 4 PhD dissertations. Her earlier industry roles include Project Manager and Systems Integration Engineer at British Telecommunications Plc (BT) UK, Data Migration Scientist at GlaxoSmithKline UK, and Environmental and Quality Control Officer at Agip Oil and Gas, providing a strong foundation in systems integration, data governance, and applied science in industry settings.

Educationally, Ngozi Franca Okoye holds a PhD (2008), MSc (1992), and BSc (1989) in Biochemistry, as well as an MSc/PGD in Information Technology from the University of Liverpool, UK. She has further enhanced her leadership and interdisciplinary expertise through certificates from Harvard University (Health Effects of Climate Change, 2023), University of Oxford (Economics Leadership, 2023), and University of Cambridge (Digital Productivity and Wellbeing, 2023).

Her core competencies include strategic leadership and governance, education policy development, curriculum design, DEI advocacy in STEM, public diplomacy and international relations, research leadership, science communication, and digital transformation including data migration and systems integration. She brings a unique blend of academic rigor, technological expertise, and global policy engagement, underpinned by a strong commitment to ethical leadership, innovation, and inclusive excellence in education and research systems worldwide.

Professor Ngozi Franca Okoye is married to Professor Ifedi Peter Okoye and she has five children with him.