



SPECIAL EDITION

Registration exercise for the academic year 2023/2024



Registration Exercise



First-ever MSc.BME class



Admission Ceremony



White Coat Ceremony

**Congratulations and welcome to MUST.
Succeed we MUST**

VOLUME 11

A warm Welcome to our first year students of the academic year 2023/2024 at MUST



On September 25th, 2023, MUST received 1st year undergraduate and postgraduate students for the 2023/2024 academic year. The registration process was spearheaded by the Academic Registrar Dr. Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko and her deputies Mr. Solomon Agum in charge of the City Campus and Mr. Dickson Kalungi in charge of the Kihumuro Campus.

The postgraduate registration took place at the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training (DRGT) headed by Assoc. Prof. Vincent Batwala and assisted by Mr. Ismail Bahati Mutabazi.

According to the registration guidelines shared with all students both online and in hard copies, for one to be registered he/she had to have the registrars verify their biodata, academic documents and other relevant documents (academic documents, payment slips, identification cards of the former school or the national one, birth certificate and a copy of the admission letter).



Biodata and document presentation



Verification of Academic documents



E-Photography and Signature

According to Mr. Solomon Agum the Assistant Registrar in charge of Admissions, the registration statistics were as below

Undergraduate for the Academic year 2023/2024

Faculty N	o. o f Applicants	Enrolled	Registered
FoM	2548	508	385
FoS	1485	419	364
FAST	850	240	203
FIS	174 1	20	106
FCI	534	320	271
FoBMS 6	45 4	30	391
Total number of Students	6236	2037	1720

Postgraduates for the academic Year 2023/2024

Faculty N	o. o f Applicants	Enrolled	Registered
FoM	552	141	116
FoS	155	68	57
FAST	31 1	5	13
FIS	33 6		2
FCI	72	35	20
FoBMS 6	3	27	11
Total number of Students	906	292	219





L-R Guild Minister of Information Hon. Edgar, the 35th Speaker, Rt Hon. Johnathan Anyine



L-R Head of security Mr. John Innocent Muhereza helping out new students as they seek guidance at the main gate



Kyoshaba Twinamasiko, the exercise was carried out over one week to make it flexible for students. She also appreciated the support of the guild officials and the University security team who helped a great deal in directing the first year students and keeping away unscrupulous people who would take advantage of the new students. "I thank the entire registration team for the commitment to see our students settle in" said Dr. Kyoshaba.

Help out teams with online registration



International Relations Officer helping out International students

Banking services during registration



Associations at MUST welcoming First year students



Leading by example. Dr. Martha Kyoshaba helping out during the registration process

Orientation Exercise

After the week long registration exercise, the students were oriented by their respective faculties and the key departments and units in the University. This also involved other stakeholders like the Ugandan Police Force, AIDS Information Centre and business entrepreneurs around the city.

The Dean of Students, Mr. Emmanuel Kyagaba spearheaded the orientation program assisted by the Deputy Dean of Students Ms. Maureen Kahima and the administrative assistants. This was done at the two campus with alternation of facilitators.



The orientation covered the following;

Day I: Campus orientation by the Students' Guild office

The guild office headed by the Guild President, H.E Musa Kiyemba shared insights about the role of the Students' Guild, the existing associations in the University, and career opportunities. This was followed by a campus tour to the Hospital, University Clinic, Library, lecture rooms, laboratories, Guild offices, Academic

Day II: Health talks/Life skills

Peer educators, clinic services, safety and security

Peer Educators leadership led by the administrative Assistant Mr. Hakim Bukenya shared information about life at campus in relation to sexual and reproductive health.

The peer educators highlighted student's right to a healthy body and their autonomy in regard to sexual health while at campus. They also shared with students tips on how to avoid sexually transmitted infections or unintended pregnancy among other sexual and reproductive health challenges. They further highlighted their two flagship projects MUST Peer Project and MUST HIP Roar which provide a platform for students to share information to become confident and empowered and make responsible decisions about their sexuality, habits, attitudes and lifestyles that make them less vulnerable to life's challenges. MPP and MUST HIP Roar disseminate behavioral change information to University students through;



Mr. Hakim Bukenya

1. Organizing voluntary counselling and testing with partners like TASO, RHU, Medical students among others.
2. Outreaches to students' residential areas
3. Focus and Interest group discussions
4. Movie nights
5. Distribution of free condoms to protect against sexually transmitted infections
6. Offering guidance on access to SRH services
7. Organizing the "Hot seat" (Guild presidential aspirant's debate) to ensure the incoming guild government is aware of sexual reproductive health challenges faced by students.
8. Talent nights
9. Radio and TV talk shows, Among others

University clinic services

The students were informed that the University Clinic provides healthcare services to students while at campus. The clinic is managed by a doctor and full time nurses. The facility has a sick bay, pharmacy and triage room. The students were informed that in case of any health emergency while on campus, they should go to the clinic as a first point of contact. This was especially important since the University management relies on the report from the clinic where the medical emergency occurs during exams or assessment.

University Hospital Services/MRRH

The hospital is accessible to students and provides the following services for student, staff and the general community:

- General outpatient services
- Inpatient care services
- Consultant-driven outpatient clinics
- Pharmacy services
- HIV care services
- Sports Medicine & Physiotherapy

Safety and security Orientation

The Security department of the University headed by Mr. John Innocent Muhereza, and the Uganda Police force shared safety tips with the students. They shared on;

- a. Personal security, on and off campus
- b. Cybercrime, they shared the Common Cyber Crimes as below

1. Phishing and Scam: This targets the user and tricks them by sending fake messages and emails to get sensitive information about the user or trying to download malicious software and exploit it on the target system.

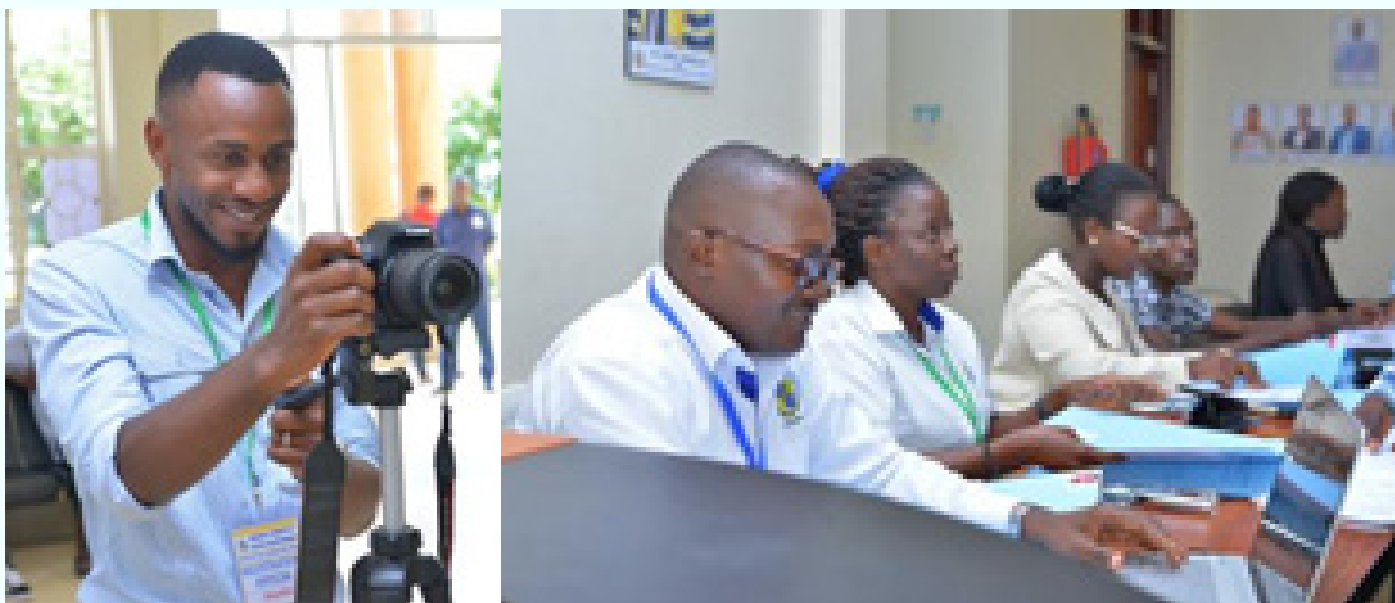
2. Identity Theft: The cyber criminal uses another person's personal data like credit card numbers or personal pictures without their permission to commit fraud or a crime.

3 Internet fraud: This involves use of the internet. It happens over the internet like spam, banking fraud, theft of service etc.

- c. Conmen and women around the city and on campus,
- d. Staying alert – awareness is your best defense. Read information shared by the university authorities.
- e. Group security, move with friends wherever possible avoid the danger zones (golf course at night, the river Rwizi bank and other areas.)
- f. Caution on the dark spots. Try to stay in well-lit areas. These also shared the hotlines in case of trouble
- g. Be confident – even if you don't feel it.
- h. Travel as if you know where you are going.
- i. Take the most direct route and try to stay within areas where other people are around.
- j. Trust your instincts – if you think something is wrong then act on it.
- k. Have your keys available when you reach your hostel.

Registration process at Kihumuro Campus: This was supervised by Mr. Dickson Kalungi. The entire exercise was conducted in the FAST building lounge





Day III: Library, Academic Affairs and Computing Services

Library services

The University Librarian Dr. Robert Stallone Buwule shared with the students the functions of MUST Library as supporting teaching, learning, and research through the provision of information resources and services. They were informed that the University has two libraries one at the city campus while the other at Kihumuro campus.

MUST Libraries and their services a presentation by Dr. Robert stalone Buwule the University Librarian



Dr. Robert welcomed the first year students and urged them to use the University services. He pointed out that MUST has two Libraries one at each campus. He said the Library offers a range of library services such as

- Reference Services
- Book borrowing services
- Library ICT Services
- E – Resources and Periodicals
- News papers and magazines
- Institutional Repository
- Online Public Access Catalog
- Sitting Space
- Discussion Rooms
- Research Carrels

Details about the referencing services. Dr. Robert said one can access a number of reference materials from the library such as:

- Encyclopedias
- Dictionaries
- Handbooks
- Almanacs
- Atlases

Book Borrowing Procedure and process

Robert said that a registered library user can borrow a book both on short loan and long term.

Short loan is for highly demanded books and a user can borrow a book for 6-8 hours to be used within the library.

Books on the open shelf can be borrowed out for a period of two weeks.

The loan period can be renewed only once if no other user has asked for a reservation for that same book or resource.

Resources in the book bank can be borrowed out for a whole semester

He made a presentation about Library ICT Services. He said the Library has computer laboratory where one can:

- Word process assignments and coursework
- Search the internet
- Receive training on library ICT tools
- Attend LMS lectures
- Access e-resources

Dr Robert shared the details of the Library E-Resources

He said the MUST library provides e-resources through the Consortium of Uganda University Libraries (CUUL)

One can access these resources by clicking on this link

<https://cuul.or.ug/e-resources-a-z/3/>

You have to use the University internet (both Ethernet and WiFi) or MyLOFT

He went ahead and shared that the library subscribes to a number of e-resources databases

Open any browser of one's choice

In the URL type in

<https://www.tandfonline.com/>

<https://www.jstor.org/>

<https://search.ebscohost.com/>

<https://www.emerald.com/insight/>

Academic Registrar's Department:

The department did both online and physical orientation. This was to guide students on all academic matters while at the university. The Online information can be accessed on all the university digital platforms (Facebook, twitter, YouTube and Instagram). Physically the department shared as below:

Admissions Records and alumni engagements by Mr. Solomon Agum



Admission and Enrollment: : The students were informed that all admitted students download their admission letters from the applications portal. They were further informed that they were required to enroll such that the University is aware of their presence. It was emphasized that enrollment was done every semester.

Registration: The students were informed that they will be required to register to become bona-fide students of the University. For registration, they would be required to present the documents listed on their admission letters for verification by the Academic Registrar's department and pay the required fees.

Change of program: The University gives a chance to change programme to programmes that still have available places and selection is based on the weights of applicants. Applications for change of programme can be accessed from the registration venue after registration.

Alumni engagement: : On completion of

course at MUST, every graduate becomes a member of the MUST Convocation, an association that brings together all MUST alumni and staff. MUST Convocation is the platform for alumni to stay in touch with the University and build professional networks as well as work collaboratively in support of the University.

Students' Identification, Teaching and learning by Mr. Dickson Kalungi

"Upon registration, I am responsible for ensuring, on behalf of the Academic Registrar, that you receive your students' ID card and that you are being taught. I do this by coordinating with the faculties to publish teaching and examination timetables and monitoring

to ensure that teaching is taking place according to the guidelines put in place." Said Mr. Kalungi

Mr. Kalungi emphasized the need to always check out the timetable portal, <http://timetable.must.ac.ug> for teaching and examinations timetables. He informed the students that this is always published on time and in case of any issues, they should raise them to his office such that they are addressed.



Mr. Solomon Agum during the registration Exercise



Misplaced my Identification card

A student who misplaces his or her Identification card, will report to police. This is to avoid impersonation. After reporting to the police, one is required to present the police report to office 6 and then pay for the new Identification card using a reference number generated from the student's portal. The student is informed when to pick up the card.



Mr. Dickson Kalungi during the registration exercise, Kihumuro campus

Examinations, Results and Academic Information Management System by Mr. Raymond Amany

“Most of the processes in the Academic Registrar’s office have been automated. One is able to access the services through the Academic Information Management System (AIMS). It is on AIMS where you are expected to enroll, register for courses (both core and electives), access results and get payment reference numbers to be used to pay fees in the bank” said Mr. Raymond Amany.

Results

The students were informed that after the University Senate has approved results, a student can access their results on AIMS. He stated that after faculties have approved results, students are able to access provisional results on AIMS.

He concluded by informing the students about the procedures to follow when one does not see their marks for the courses registered and assessed. He stated that in such cases, the student first addresses the issue with the course lecturer and if it is not resolved within reasonable time then the student can channel their complaint to the Head of Department then Dean of faculty, Academic Registrar and finally to Senate.

Academic documents while at MUST and after MUST by Ms. Mary Amongi

“Academic Documents are given at the end of one’s completion of their programme. However, some students may require to get results along the way to show progress to their sponsors or pursue other opportunities. You are required to pay in the bank using reference number then submit the receipt to Records Office and the documents shall be processed for you to pick”

On completion, dates of picking up transcripts are communicated through all university communication channels giving details when our office is ready.

At the graduation ceremony everyone goes away with their transcript and certificate.”



Mr. Raymond Amanyangwa during the Registration Exercise

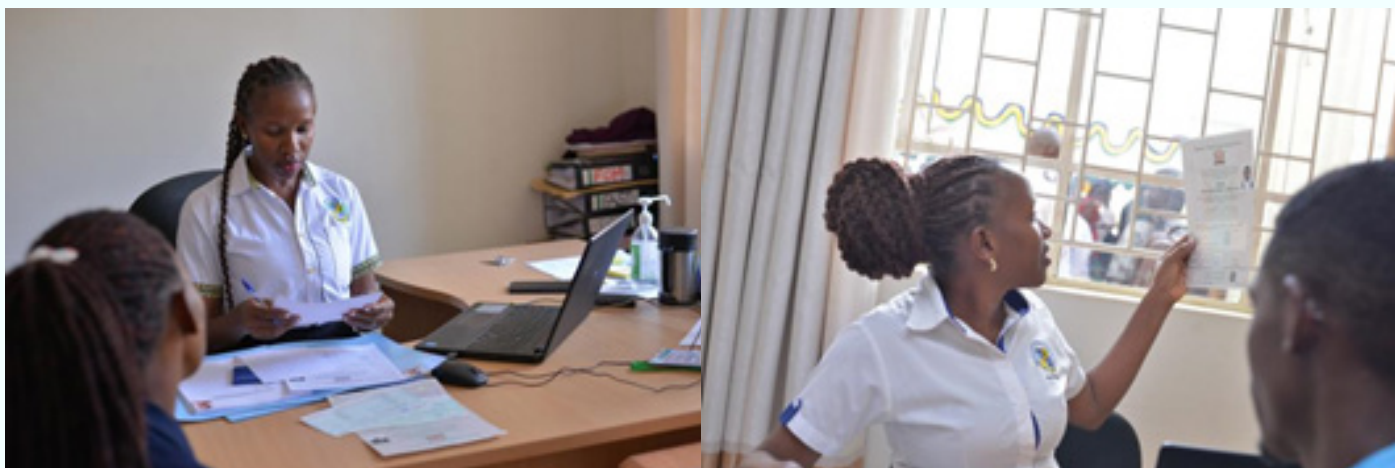
.”Certification of academic documents

Certification of academic papers: This is when a student brings copies of their university documents to be verified as a true copy of the original.

Payments are made to the bank (currently certification of a copy is 3000/= three thousand shillings). One can pay for as many copies as they want. After payment you are required to submit the photocopies, the original document and the payment slip to the front desk at the Academic Registrar’s department.

Can someone pick for me my academic documents?

Yes, they can, on the following terms: letter of authorization to the Academic Registrar’s office, attaching a copy of your identification card and the person picking it up should submit a copy of their identification card. They will sign the register of academic documents and an authorization slip. All this information is kept on the student’s file



Computing Services at MUST

Insights shared with 1st year students of 2023/2024

University ICT services and how to access them while on campus and off campus

- University wifi
- Learning Management System(elearning platform)
- University mailing system(Student emails)
- Student portal

Students were informed on how to access these services and were informed that to get these services each student needed to have a username and password, which were provided through the university ICT department. Apart from the student portal (AIMS) there rest were to be accessed using the provided username and password. For AIMS, student portal students were to access the system with the help of the AIMS help desk lead by the team from Academic Registrar's office.

Students were informed on how to locate and use hot spots for Wi-Fi on both campuses (Kihumuro and town campus).

Students were further informed that there would be offices where they could get help in case they get stuck while trying to access these services at both campuses.

All this was done in collaboration with the student's guild office specifically Minister of Information and ICT. Demonstrations on how to login to the services (eLearning, Wi-Fi, email and AIMS) was done with the help of the guild minister.



Student's Welfare and co-curricular activities: Dean of student's department

The Dean of Students department shared information about student's welfare mainly about;

Accommodation: University Halls of Residence, private hostels, MoU between the university and private hostel owners.

Details of residences. Students are required to share information about their residences. This is for easy location if anyone needed to reach them.

Meals: Different accredited service providers serve meals within the university premises at affordable prices.

Sports, Recreation and Games - the Department has a sports unit that caters for both in and out doors sports Participation at Regional, National and International levels

Cross cutting issues

HIV institutional policy: This spells out the key principles underlying its implementation namely: non-discrimination; confidentiality; HIV testing; greater involvement of people living with HIV/AIDS at MUST; promotion of prevention; treatment, care and support; and gender concerns at MUST.

Special needs policy: This talks about Special Needs Services at MUST for an inclusive enabling environment for both students and staff with impairments

Drug and alcohol policy: This provides a longstanding commitment to provide a safe, quality-oriented and productive work environment. Alcohol and drug misuse poses a threat to the health and safety of MUST students, Staff and to the security of MUST equipment and facilities. For these reasons, MUST is committed to the elimination of drug and alcohol use and misuse in the workplace/ study areas.

Sexual harassment policy: This Promotes social integrity for a healthy, productive and motivated labor-force and student population at Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

The Gender Policy: his aims at achieving social inclusion, gender equality and freedom from any form of discrimination for all people, associated with, serving at and studying from Mbarara University of Science and Technology. These and more policies a reference was give on:

<https://www.must.ac.ug/university-policies/>

Other Services in the department

Counseling

Sports

Admission ceremony by the Vice Chancellor



Before the Deans, HoDs faculty and staff. All first year students took the oath of allegiance vowing to honor the Chancellor Vice Chancellor and the University rules and regulation. The event was directed by Ms. Gladys Nakalema, she introduced the event and shared its purpose. Nakalema invited the Dean of Students Mr. Emmanuel Kyagaba to preside over the event. Addressing the Vice Chancellor, Mr. Kyagaba shared a summary of the orientation week activities and that the admission ceremony was the final event to crown up the orientation week

Deans at the admission ceremony



Mr. Emmanuel Kyagaba DoS, Dr. Fredrick Kijambu, Dean FoBMs, Dr. Rogers Bariyo



Dr. Julius Lejju Dean FS, Dr. Jonans Tusiimiire Dean FoM, Dr. Everist Naabasa Dean FCI

He invited the Deans of Faculty to present to the Vice Chancellor for admission the students in their Faculties. The Vice Chancellor then admitted all the presented students to Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

He then addressed the Congregation



The Vice Chancellor's speech during the admission ceremony 2023.

The Deans and Directors present
The faculty and staff present
The Guild president and student leaders present

The new students admitted to MUST
Ladies and Gentlemen

I welcome you all to this admission ceremony of Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

To our dear first year students, welcome and congratulations

It is my single honour to welcome and admit all of you to MUST. While you are here, you and I should have the following questions

- What is MUST
- Why MUST
- What does the MUST community and that outside MUST expect of me?

These will guide you all the time you are at MUST



Uganda has over 40 universities but you chose MUST, for which I am happy and proud that you chose us out of so many. Please thank and convey our gratitude to your parents and guardians for the decision made.

MUST is very competitive we have only admitted 1/5 of the applicants, not because the ones we left out were not good, but because you had high marks then them for that I congratulate you.

Academic Excellence

You will add onto the number of MUST alumni who have set high standards in the workforce at national and international level. I trust that by the time you are done with your programme, you will have acquired the necessary skills to serve this nation and beyond.

It therefore my humble prayer and wish to see you graduate as you have been admitted. MUST is well known for a high graduation lot at about 95%. I task the class of 2023/2024 to graduate at 100%



Avoid retakes, if it happens let it be a onetime mistake. Pick yourself up and work harder to avoid a “decorated” transcript. It is very costly and painful not to graduate with your colleagues. This becomes an uphill task to both you the student and you parent. The only way you are going to avoid this is by reading hard from day one, know that every assignment given carries a point, don’t miss classes, and above all pray for success.

Allow me draw a line for you in relation to campus life and University life

While in secondary school you had:

Bell to wake you up

Bells for change of lessons

Roll-call for class

Someone to punish you if you missed an activity ...





With University life it is different no one will do all that, the roll-calls will be made but even if you are not around the lectures will continue, but this will have an effect on you not having the certificate of due performance which means you did not attend enough classes to qualify you sit for an examination. Life at campus is entirely on you and setting your priorities right. You are responsible for your actions, your behaviour with peers is key.

The University has, policies, rules and regulations. You have vowed to respect them. Kindly read in detail so as to avoid being a victim of law breaching. This can be accessed on the university website.



Networking while at campus

While at campus, please network! Make friends, build good relationships but remember you are dealing with people from a different background compared to yours, we have had situations of some students wanting to commit suicide due to broken relationships. Please have pity upon your parents, and this nation

Every time you are going to make a decision, remember the sole goal as to why you came. I trust you all have the potential to be achievers and make us proud.

I urge you to use the office of the University counsellors. A word of advice will help, use the peer mentorship under the MUST peer project or anyone you look up-to in this community.

Financial constraints

Worldwide finances have become a challenge. This was made worse by the pandemic. This may down on you while here, but please don't forge pay slips because we shall get you, clear your dues as and when you are required to especially accommodation and meals with our partners outside MUST, don't carry a bad name for the University by not paying small debts.

Please inform the relevant offices about your delay of payments way ahead of time for them to create an amicable solution to your challenge.

Avoid dubious ways of making money such as betting, cross generational sex among others.

MUST is government supported and they too were hit by the pandemic. Budgets were cut, I urge you to be patient when some services may delay, this, I urge the government sponsored students. We can delay your facilitation but we cannot refuse to give you your facilitation

Communication while at MUST

Communication is key while you are at university, know the hierarchy of communication. Some issues can be handled by the guild office, HoD, Deans of Faculty, Academic issues by the Academic Registrar, students welfare by the Dean of Students while others can be handled by the University top management. Avoid skipping hierarchy because you will be referred back to the responsible office.



Special welcome and recognition

In a special way I welcome the international students to MUST and to Uganda. As a University we usually welcome you and host you to a dinner where we display our cultural norms like the dressing and foods, I always look forward to that because it brings diversity to MUST. The international relations office is open to handle all your issues.

To the Ugandan students I urge you to make the international student feel at home. The other category I wish to welcome to MUST is the girl child. This year we have 38% of the females admitted in STEMS. Our target is 50%, 50 %. Besides the 1.5 mark for the girls let us have more affirmative action agendas so as to achieve the desired goal.

As I conclude, while at campus, avoid unbecoming behaviour like drugs and alcohol, bullying, absenteeism, disrespect of seniors and colleagues, negative group influence, among others
Know your goals, for goals are dreams but with an end. Succeed we MUST



Ms. Gladys Nakalema MC of the day, Mr. George Byabagambi Uni-Counsellor, Moureen Kahima, Deputy Dean. Mr. Benson Kanyesigye the Sports Tutor



First-ever at MUST: FAST starts a masters in Biomedical Engineering



In the new academic year 2023/2024 the Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology (FAST) welcomed the first cohort of Masters students in Biomedical Engineering. The class of 16 students was welcomed by the Dean of the Faculty Dr. Johnes Obunguloch, the HoD BME Dr. Wasswa William, the Faculty administrator Mr. Denis Lukaaya and other faculty.

In his remarks Dr. Johnes Obunguloch thanked the students for choosing MUST, for this showed how much confidence they had in them as a University. He pledged full support to the students and asked them to work closely with the Faculty staff, especially by reporting challenges in time. Johnes urged the students to take up programmes with full arms, work with dedication and commitment so as to complete the programme in real-time.



L-R Dr. Ronald Kamoga Mr.Denis T. Lukaaya and Dr. Wasswa William

Johnes urged the students to enjoy their academic journey and try to get better every day, never to lose the passion and the love for the reason as to why they started.” The journey will not be smooth all the way, we shall have bends, hills and valleys, smooth rides and rough ones. What will keep us going is team work, patience and effective communication” said Johnes.

The Head of Department Dr. Wasswa William (PhD) also warmly welcomed and congratulated the students. In his remarks Dr. Wasswa said being pioneers, they will encounter challenges of the gaps that need to be filled at any given moment. He asked students to handle such issues amicably, by informing them early enough.



L-R Dr. Johnes Obunguloch, Mr. Felix Atuhair, Mr. Kasambula Vincent,

He briefly shared the curriculum, and the available facilities for the MSc. in Biomedical Engineering programme. He pointed out the need to be flexible for the programme is going to be handled at both Kihumuro and city campuses. He wished them the best of luck in this new journey of their academic career path. "I trust you have made the best decision to come to MUST or rather the Faculty of Applied Sciences.

Some of the students during orientation



I wish to leave you with a quotation by Eliyahu Goldratt who said, "Good luck is when opportunity meets preparation, while bad luck is when lack of preparation meets reality." I urge you to be ready and prepared at all times."

The Faculty administrator Mr. Dennis Thomas Lukaaya, emphasized the importance of timely communication of the issues to help them as administration work closely with their cohort. He pledged full support to them and urged the students to approach all matters in a mature way to create a difference between postgraduate and undergraduate. The other faculty present included Mr. Felix Atuhairu, Mr. Kasambula Vincent, and Dr. Ronald Kamoga.



Eng. Ebenezer PhD student in the Faculty, MSc. Biomedical Engineering students

Benjamin Franklin once said, Diligence is the mother of good luck, as the MUST community we wish you the best of luck at FAST. Welcome and congratulation to you all.



White coat ceremony: Inauguration of Medical Students into the Faculty Medicine

October 19, 2023 was an extraordinary day at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) as we celebrated a significant milestone as the Faculty of Medicine proudly hosted the 4TH white coat ceremony event at the pharmacology grounds.

It is so notable that MUST is the first-ever university to host the White Coat Ceremony in Uganda and East Africa, marking a historic moment in the institution's legacy in the journey of the medical professionals.

Why the white coat ceremony?

The memorable day started with insights as to why the white coat ceremony is key in a medical school. Shared by. Assoc. Prof. Robert Tamukong, originally from Cameroon and a faculty of the University of **Menslter**, USA, Dr. Robert shared history of the white coat ceremony and also pointed out that this would have been the 6th WCC if it were not for the pandemic.

He shared the history of the White Coat Ceremony, tracing its roots to the 1980s when it was first introduced to the field of medicine. The inaugural White Coat Ceremony took place in Chicago in 1989, and since then, these coats have come to symbolize the dignity of the medical profession.

Assoc. Prof. Tamukong also expressed his gratitude to the students, emphasizing that being their teacher was an honor. He urged them to savor this unique ceremony, as it is a once-in-a-lifetime experience.



Presidents of the different medical school Association

The Associate Professor urged the students to prioritize empathy, collaboration, and ethical healthcare throughout their careers, reminding them that the length of their white coats will ultimately correspond to their qualifications. He encouraged them to be unwavering advocates for patient rights and to never cease their pursuit of knowledge.

His remarks were followed by the university Legal Officer Timothy Mugumya (Esq) who shared the legal implications taking the oath they were about to take, its purpose and how it can be used as a point of reference in case of breach. He emphasized the importance of upholding the values and principles of the medical school. He pointed out the need for confidentiality and the well-being of patients were underscored as non-negotiable principles



Assoc. Prof. Robert Tamukong



Dr. Peter Sebutinde



Timothy Mugumya (Esq)

Dr. Ssebutinde Peter, the district health officer of Mbarara and a MUST alumnus, expressed his gratitude to the Vice Chancellor prof. Celestino Obua and his team for organizing the ceremony. In our days as medical students, we never got a chance to see such insightful events, dear students count yourselves lucky and blessed. Peter pointed out that the white coats are tools of divine intervention. Patients come to you with hope and faith of getting better, they believe as the profession to handle their challenge. He expressed the need to put patients first before money, save life and the rest will be looked at later. That way, their white coats will be kept stainless in the public eye.

He urged the medical students to always dress professionally, implored the future doctors to focus on their true mission of saving lives, but not looking at the health profession as a business with the attitude of “nfunila muwa?” literary meaning how do I benefit from this.



In a delightful moment, the Dean Faculty of Medicine Assoc. Prof. Joseph Ngonzi, welcomed the students to MUST, the icon of science Technology and innovation in the region. He congratulated them upon making it to the best medical school in East Africa .He pointed out the big numbers that apply but few are taken, for that he congratulated them for being the best of the best that made it.

He highlighted the transformative power of the white coat and encouraged students to reach out for assistance whenever challenges arise. “The MUST administration has an open door policy, which encourages students to speak out. Don’t die in silence” said Joseph.

The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Celestino Obua, addressed the congregation. He started by sharing his personal anecdote while at Makerere University about 50 years ago. Encouraging the students to take one day at a time in their profession, for this mentality will carry them a long way. I was one in the position you are today, today I am a professor of Pharmacology, you too can make it and even hold more prestigious positions than me. Just be focused, don't be in a hurry to make money, have your dreams well aligned and always be smart and well kempt as a medical person.”

He emphasized that modern healthcare is a collaborative effort among various medical professionals and implored the students to maintain a high standard of conduct, both professionally and personally.



The oath-taking ceremony was led by the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine Associate Professor Joseph Ngonzi. He invited the different lecturers present to enrobe the students. These walked to the podium and were enrobed by their mentors to be, later took the red carpet walk and bowed to the Vice Chancellor as they resumed their seats. When all this was done, they stood up in respect of their programmes and took the oath, which was sealed by the Vice chancellor.

History of the white coat



The ceremony signifies the beginning of medical students' journeys to receiving long white coats, when they are physicians. It also symbolizes professionalism, caring and trust, which they must earn from patients, according to an essay providing historical perspective on the doctor's white coat that was published in the AMA Journal of Ethics®.

"It carries that real symbolism of being in the field. I'm working in the hospital right now and there's so much confusion," said Tonya Fancher, MD, MPH. She is the associate Dean for workforce innovation and community engagement at the University of California, Davis, School of Medicine (UC Davis). "When someone in the hospital sees someone with a white coat, it indicates that you are someone who knows what is going on, and that is just kind of the power of the symbol."

The short white coat works as a stepping stone to the longer white coat many students progress to at the completion of their degree.

"Students beginning their studies in medical school see their education and role as future physicians aspiring to be worthy of the long white coat," according to the AMA Journal of Ethics article. "Medical school must give students the scientific and clinical tools to become doctors. Just as importantly, the white coat symbolizes the other critical part of students' medical education, a standard of professionalism and caring and emblem of the trust they must earn from patients."

CHIEF EDITOR



Mr. Solomon Agum



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