



Mbarara University of Science and Technology - The Premier Centre of Science and Technology



Background

Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) was established in October 1989 as the second public University in Uganda. MUST has since grown from a single medical faculty university offering the Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, serving a student population of 43 to 5642 students in six faculties and two institutes. As a science and technology institution, the University has strategically evolved as research and training institution focusing on disciplines that are relevant to National and International Development. MUST's flagship Community Based Education, Research and Service engagement for all students provides a platform to understand, tackle and address community challenges geared towards contributing to sustainable development goals. With this niche of community engagement across all faculties, MUST produces high quality, real world experienced, and all-round employable graduates.



Prof. Celestino Obua
Vice Chancellor
Mbarara University of Science
and Technology, Uganda

Innovations at MUST

The Centre for Innovations and Technology Transfer (CITT) at MUST houses all innovations, skilling initiatives, technology transfer and commercialization efforts by both staff and students. The CITT focuses on prototyping, commercialization and experiential learning that complement the Skilling Uganda program. Some of the innovations at MUST include:


Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech) works to ascertain high quality affordable medical technology innovations to address health challenges in low- and middle-income countries. Some of the innovations at MUST are; Augmented Infant Resuscitator is a device that helps caregivers to effectively resuscitate newborn babies, **PRISMS (protecting children remotely by SMS)** is a mobile phone application that empowers front-line health workers to effectively manage sick or at risk new born babies between 0-28 weeks. **Photo-**

Cupboard is designed to solve the lack of access to phototherapy required to treat jaundice in neonates, **i-SOFT** is a high-quality bio-fertilizer that is user and environmentally friendly using locally available biowastes. MUST has developed innovative drugs through exploring the use of traditional medicine under its **Africa Centre of Excellence Pharm- Biotechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre (PHARMBIOTRAC)** from which of the 30 PhDs being trained 11 have graduated, and from the 87 Masters being trained 42 have graduated so far with high number of international studentships. Additionally, **RUFORUM** has supported [Natural Product Incubation at PHARMBIOTRAC Regional Incubation Centre](#) through the RUFORUM Entrepreneurship Challenge Program (RECAP). Through this initiative, 10 Incubatees have been supported so far.


With focus on MUST vision to become a *center of academic and professional excellence in Science and Technology*, the emphasis on teaching, research, innovations and community engagement is key to the delivery of our mandate.



Faculties and Institutes at MUST




The Faculty of Medicine




Established to Train the Much-Needed Health Professionals in the Field of Medicine and Surgery, Pharmacy, Nursing, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Medical Laboratory Sciences and Physiotherapy.

www.must.ac.ug *Succeed we MUST*




Faculty of Computing and Informatics.




Established to Train the Much-Needed ICT Professionals to Promote Technology and Innovations in the Field of Computing to drive the World in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

www.must.ac.ug *Succeed we MUST*




The Faculty of Science




Established to Train Scientists and Science Teachers to Improve the Quality of Science Education and Research.

www.must.ac.ug *Succeed we MUST*



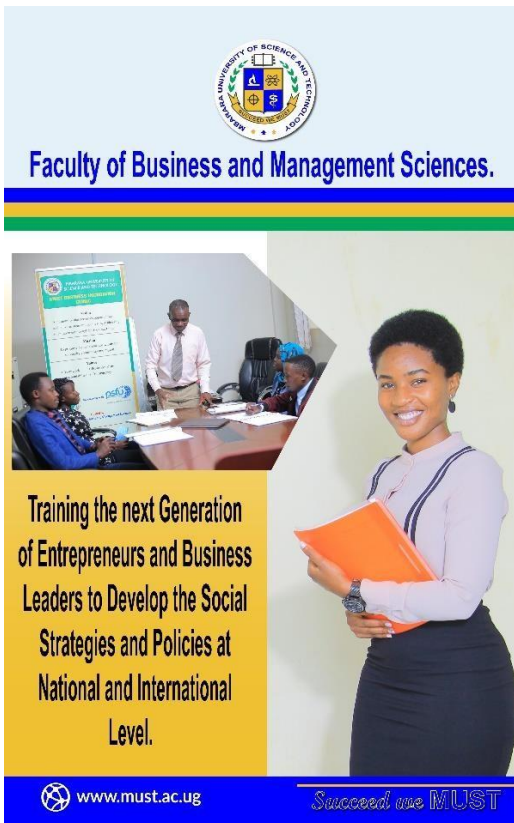
Faculty of Applied Sciences and Technology.




Established to train Manpower in the Field of Applied Sciences and Technology that will Support the Development of Infrastructure and deal with the Complex Problem of Sustainable Exploitation of Natural Resources.

www.must.ac.ug *Succeed we MUST*



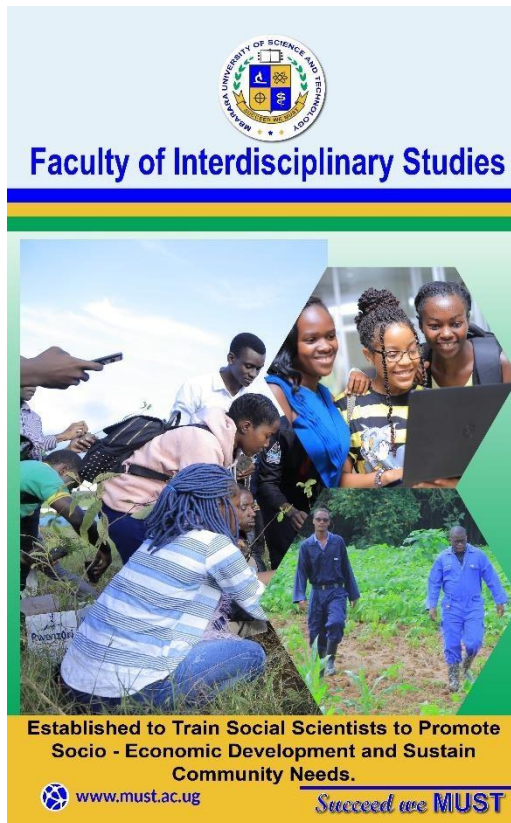


Faculty of Business and Management Sciences.




Training the next Generation of Entrepreneurs and Business Leaders to Develop the Social Strategies and Policies at National and International Level.

www.must.ac.ug *Succeed we MUST*



Faculty of Interdisciplinary Studies



Established to Train Social Scientists to Promote Socio - Economic Development and Sustain Community Needs.

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Maternal Newborn Child Health Institute (MNCHI) focuses on research in maternal and child health and conducting community engagement programmes in southwestern Uganda. Research skills are improved through the Micro-Research concept. The goal of MNCHI is; Safe motherhood and healthy children and its vision is “Improved maternal, newborn and child health through training, research and strengthening health service delivery for sustainable development.”

The Institute of Tropical Research Conservation (ITFC) is a post-graduate institute that focuses on research, training and monitoring for conservation management. It is located in Bwindi Impenetrable National Park in South Western Uganda; a World Heritage site and the homeland of half of the world mountain gorillas. Since its establishment, ITFC has promoted ecological and socioeconomic research in the Albertine rift and Uganda’s protected areas.

All Faculties conduct undergraduate, Masters and PhD degree programs. Details on these can be found on the MUST website (<https://www.must.ac.ug/>).

MUST has developed specific policies that help in the smooth running of the institution, but importantly there are policies that embrace cross cutting issues such as:

The Disability and Special Needs Policy. This is working towards the provision of Special Needs Services at MUST for an inclusive enabling environment for both students and staff. This has been due to the accommodative environment created by the University administration.

HIV/AIDs policy This sets standards and provides guidelines for the prevention, care and support of persons infected or affected by HIV/ AIDS in the University in line with the national and international policies. It applies to staff members and students and guides outreach services to the neighboring community.

Gender policy that calls for an equality and equity in the MUST community.

The **Anti-Sexual Harassment policy**, this Promotes social integrity for a healthy, productive and motivated labour force, and a no intimidation, cohesive stress-free environment for the student population at MUST.

Environmental policy that focuses on humanizing concerned stakeholders and the natural environment of MUST

Due to her good reputation far and wide, MUST has over 185 partnerships and about 102 active Research Projects, covering the fields of teaching, operational research, Innovations, interventions, capacity building, career development awards among others. The partnerships exist at both National and International levels. The MUST International Relations Office deals with the Coordination of these Partnerships while the MUST Grants Office manages Research Projects.



MUST is unique because of its community-oriented approach to training and research uptake. Research projects that transcend science, technology and innovation have been undertaken individually, in teams and collaboratively with other institutions.



Regarding the role of MUST as an institution of higher learning, Prof Celestino Obua, the Vice Chancellor, remarked *“We exist to make a difference in the community. With the support from the Government of Uganda, MUST has continuously carried out training, research innovations, and interventions that has contributed to guaranteeing the future of next generation”*.

For more on MUST please visit us at <https://www.must.ac.ug/>

About the Author

Prof Celestino Obua is the Vice Chancellor of Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Uganda. He has a strong passion for research and capacity building at the individual as well as institutional levels yielding over 100 publications. He is the Principal Investigator (PI)/Programme Director on several previous and current extramural research grants/projects at MUST. He has mentored and supervised over 30 graduate students including 12 PhDs. He serves on the Board of the Uganda National Examinations Board where he formerly chaired the Research and Publications Committee and now chairs the ICT committee of the Board. Internationally, he served as Chairman, Data and Safety Monitoring Board for the DNDi-LEAP 0104, LEAP 0208, LEAP 0714 and MILTEFOSINE-PAROMOMYCIN PHASE III clinical trials and as a member Advisory Committee of Afri-KA-DIA Projects the DNDi LXE408 Trial. He is a Member, Editorial Board - Journal of Public Health Policy, and International Advisor – Somalia Health Action Journal (SHAJ), and Member of the IUPHAR Sub-Committee for Global Health Pharmacology and Therapeutics. He holds a Doctor of Philosophy in Pharmacology from Karolinska University in Sweden in collaboration with Makerere University in Uganda, a Master of Science in Pharmacology from Makerere University and a degree of Doctor of Medicine from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania.

This is our thirty-first issue in a series of articles we are releasing as part of the RUFORUM Seventh Africa Higher Education Week and RUFORUM Triennial Conference Digests. More information about the conference is available at <https://www.ruforum.org/Triennial2021/>. Join the Conversation on Social Media using our Official hashtag #AfricaHEWeek2021.

