

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI



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**ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE
2024 MATRICULATION**

MATRICULATION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA AKOSUA DICKSON, VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST, ON 6TH FEBRUARY 2024

1.0 SALUTATION

Pro Vice-Chancellor

Registrar

Provosts

Deans and Directors

Heads of Department

Colleague Members of Convocation

Senior and Junior Staff

Presidents, Students' Representative Council and the Graduate Students' Association

Distinguished Guests

Parents and Guardians who have joined us via our social media handles.

My Precious Freshmen and Women, and Future Alumni of KNUST

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

2.0 WELCOME

A very good morning to you all. It is with great pleasure and delight that I welcome you, on behalf of the Chancellor, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Management and Staff of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. It is always an amazing feeling of great happiness to welcome you into the Big KNUST Family, our smart, brilliant, talented, and determined freshers.

Before I proceed, let me congratulate you for this smart choice of deciding to be with the Best University in the world for quality education (SDG4) according to the 2023 Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. With your dedication, resilience and hard work, KNUST pledges to partner with you and your families to bring out the best in you. The opportunities available to you for your personal development are enormous, and it is important that you make very good use of them. CONGRATULATIONS! is in order. We are extremely proud of you.

Matriculation is one of the important rites in the life of every fresh student. It is an essential ceremony on the University's Academic Calendar, which officially marks the enrolment of new students unto the register of the University. It is a very brief but significant event where all newly admitted students would be required to take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register. The swearing of the oath and the signing of the register marks your official welcome, acceptance, and recognition as bonafide students of KNUST. Again, this Oath admits students as Junior Members in Statu Pupillari of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi with its attendant privileges and responsibilities. I entreat you to live by the tenets of this Oath, that is to: observe the regulations of the University, obey those to whom your obedience is required, study diligently, seek the truth and always promote the good name of this University. Please be informed that the University takes this oath swearing very seriously and would not relent in applying the necessary sanctions to the letter, should anyone flout it, or any of the regulations that govern this University for that matter.

3.0 DIRECTORATE OF STUDENTS AFFAIRS

The University is very keen about student success and has a Directorate of Students Affairs (DoSA) which is headed by the Director of Students Affairs who acts in loco parentis or as your parent while you are students at this University. The Directorate is primarily responsible for your welfare and enforcement of policies and regulations that relate to your conduct as a student of this University. The critical assistance offered by the Directorate include the students housing and welfare, and Students' Financial Services, which assists brilliant but needy students in various ways. The Directorate also houses the KNUST Counselling Centre (KCC) that provides students with the needed academic, career, emotional and psychosocial support. To bring counselling services closer to you, each College has its own dedicated counsellors and peer counsellors. I entreat all of you to make maximum use of all the support services available on campus to enrich your KNUST experience. Under no circumstances should you suffer in silence. Do not fall for anything that drains your emotional bank account. Please there is always someone to talk to.

4.0 TRAINING SESSIONS ON THE USE OF THE KNUST LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (V-CLASS)

I wish to emphasise the crucial preparations needed for your success in the digital space to enhance your learning experience here at KNUST. Upon receiving your admission letters, you were advised to visit and explore the KNUST Virtual Classroom (V-Class), which provides a self-paced course on e-Learning tools. I strongly recommend that you complete this course and obtain certification to showcase your proficiency in online and blended learning models. This is an essential skill set, required for your academic success. Please ensure, you have gone through this exercise if you have not already done so.

Furthermore, the KNUST E-Learning Centre has organised College-Specific hands-on training sessions on navigating online computer-based examinations through the KNUST Online Examinations Platform. This initiative aims, not only to equip you with the technical know-how, required for specific examinations, but also to foster confidence and familiarity with the digital tools available to you.

I am also aware of the comprehensive orientation provided by the KNUST E-Learning Centre, specifically tailored for our fully online fresh students. All these interventions are meticulously designed to ensure your progress as you make the most of these opportunities that prepare you, to thrive in the dynamic academic environment, that ultimately enables you, to make the most of the KNUST Experience.

5.0 OTHER IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

i) Registration as a Student

Course and biometric registrations are compulsory and must be done on your KNUST AIM mobile app or on your self-service students' portal at the beginning of every semester. You would not be recognised as a student of this University if you fail to register at the start of every semester. This is very important, and you cannot forget it.

ii). Students' Guide

A link to the Students' Guide is available on your KNUST AIM mobile app and on your self-service portal. Read this to know all that is available to or required of you as a student. This is a useful information pack to help you stay out of trouble.

iii). Cybersecurity

Guard your online identity and your student user credentials meticulously. Never share your credentials with anyone.

Please be mindful of what you post or do online. Remember that the internet never forgets.

Never click on email links telling you to urgently act, with threats of consequences, or promises of great and attractive rewards. Always check with the University Information Technology Services (UITS) if you are not sure.

iv). Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)

There are CCTV cameras installed all over the University campus and at the Halls of Residence to ensure your security. Report any suspicious characters to the security personnel who are very visible on campus. Always remember that security is a shared responsibility, and you are all required to play your roles for our collective safety.

v). Online Helpdesk and Feedback

You may send feedback to the University using the University's feedback app or get assistance with any IT related issues using the online helpdesk and ticketing system of the University. For further assistance, please visit the UITS Support Centre at the basement of the Casely Hayford Building.

6.0 ADMISSION STATISTICS

Distinguished ladies and gentlemen, let me now briefly give the admission statistics for the 2023/2024 Academic Year.

In total, **Seventy-Six Thousand, One Hundred and Twenty-One (76,121)** applicants applied for admission this year. We have so far registered **Twenty-Five Thousand, Nine Hundred and Eighty-One (25,981)** Undergraduate and Postgraduate students; made up of males **14,479 (55.73%)** and **11,502 females (44.27%)**.

Our initiative to champion Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education for girls is really on course and we are determined to improve upon it as an institution.

8.0 ADVICE TO STUDENTS

My dear fresh students, a brief piece of advice as you embark on this journey is appropriate.

Your entry into the University as students could be one of the first steps towards your preparation for an incredibly rewarding future. Please promise your dear self and all of us that you will make the most of it. The University is a free and exciting environment but with a lot of responsibilities. I admonish you to keep your eyes on that essential commodity called time and handle it very well. Remember that even when no one is watching, you always are; don't you ever disappoint yourself.

I encourage you to begin from today to sign up to a lifelong commitment of working with us to develop yourself, by learning very hard. Make it a personal project to add value to yourself each day. This is an activity you must be very intentional about. Make good friends, fraternise and build enduring and fruitful networks that outlive your stay here on campus.

Make time to visit the University's website (**Knust.edu.gh**) regularly and also develop the habit of reading notices, to stay abreast and informed about events on campus, as you take advantage of these towards your personal growth and development.

9.0 CONCLUSION

Once again, I welcome you to the number one destination for quality education (SDG 4) globally.

May your presence and stay here be a blessing to you and to humanity as you contribute positively to keep the flag of this Noble University perpetually raised.

May the Almighty God who has ordered your steps thus far continue to be your guide and stay.

CONGRATULATIONS!! once again and a warm welcome to the KNUST fraternity.

Thank you very much.