

KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI



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**ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE
2025 MATRICULATION**

**MATRICULATION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA
AKOSUA DICKSON, VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST, ON FRIDAY, 14TH AND
SATURDAY, 15TH FEBRUARY, 2025**

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

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

My precious Freshmen and Women and Future Alumni of KNUST

Distinguished Viewers and Audience

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

A very good morning to you all. It is with a deep sense of pride and joy, that I officially welcome our gallant freshmen and women, the Class of 2025, to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi. On behalf of the Chancellor, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, Management, and the entire KNUST family, I extend my warmest congratulations to each of you for successfully making it this far.

Matriculation is not just a ceremonial moment; it is a crucial part of the University's Academic Calendar. It signifies your commitment to your education and to yourselves. It marks your official enrollment as new students into the Register of this prestigious University. At this short, but very important event, all newly admitted students take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register. This seemingly simple, but important

ceremony, marks your official welcome, acceptance, and recognition as full and bonafide students of KNUST.

It is also important to note that the Oath further admits students as Junior Members in *Statu Pupillari* of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi with all the attendant privileges and responsibilities.

You are now part of an institution that has, over the years, earned a reputation as Ghana's Premier University for Science and Technology education and a beacon of Excellence across Africa.

You are members of a community united by the common purpose of "Advancing Knowledge in Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa". As you embark on this journey, I urge you to align yourselves with the vision of KNUST, embrace its mission, and live its core values of Integrity, Innovativeness, Relevance, Excellence, and Stewardship.

These values will not only guide your time here but will also shape you into leaders and agents of change for the future of our country and beyond.

As is our tradition, and to ensure your seamless integration into the University community, you have undergone various activities designed to ease your transition into university life. From the hall and hostel orientations to the College, Faculty, and Departmental briefings, we have provided you with the tools to navigate your new environment. I believe that you have also completed your medical examinations, biometric registration, and online course registration, which officially finalises the admission process. Classes have already commenced, and I am encouraged by the reports of your active participation so far. Once again, CONGRATULATIONS on being a part of this noble family.

3.0 SECURITY OF OUR OFF-CAMPUS RESIDENTS

Ladies and gentlemen, I wish to assure all of us that the University Management considers the safety and security of our students residing off-campus as important as those on campus. In view of this, the University has put in place some measures to ensure their safety. These measures include the appointment of Off-Campus Senior Hall Tutors who play the same role as the Hall Masters/Wardens/Tutors play at our traditional halls. Please take

the trouble to know who your Senior Hall Tutors are, and do not hesitate to contact them when you have any challenges. The University has significantly improved the lighting system at the various zones to enhance security. The University also ensures Ghana Police and KNUST Security patrols around the hostels.

Let me emphasise that the University will continue to do its part, but as was highlighted during your orientation, ensuring maximum security is a shared responsibility. Your absolute commitment to this partnership is very important. Always ensure that you are at the right place at the right time please.

4.o DIRECTORATE OF STUDENTS AFFAIRS (DOSA)

The University has a Directorate of Students Affairs which is primarily responsible for your welfare. The Director of DoSA acts in *loco parentis*, in other words, as your parent while you are a student of this University.

The critical assistance offered by the Directorate includes the Students' Financial Services, which assists needy students in various ways, and the Counselling Centre which provides students with the needed academic, career, emotional, and psychosocial support. To bring counselling services to your doorstep, each College has its own dedicated counsellor. I entreat all of you to make maximum use of the services provided by the Directorate as well as all the support systems available to you, to enrich your KNUST experience.

The University through the Directorate of Student Affairs has developed an online system known as the KNUST Off-Campus Students' Accommodation Support System (KOSASS) to aid students in securing accommodation. Please make use of it in your subsequent years.

5.o DIGITAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

I want to urge you all to embrace the digital tools and resources available at KNUST to support your success in this digital era. From the moment you received your admission letters, you were encouraged to explore the KNUST Virtual Classroom, which offers a self-paced course on e-Learning tools. I strongly recommend that you complete this course and obtain the certification after completion. This will not only enhance your proficiency

in online and blended learning but also equip you with an essential skill set for excelling in your studies.

To further support your transition, the E-Learning Centre has organised College-Specific hands-on training sessions to guide you in navigating online computer-based examinations through the KNUST Online Examinations platform. These sessions were designed not only to enable you familiarise yourselves with the technical aspects of digital assessments, but also to build your confidence in using online learning tools.

I encourage you to engage actively with these resources, take advantage of every opportunity to refine your digital skills, and do not hesitate to seek support whenever needed. The E-Learning Centre is always ready to assist you in navigating any challenges you may encounter.

6.0 ADMISSION STATISTICS

This year, KNUST received a total of ninety-two thousand, nine hundred and seventy-five (92,975) applications. Out of this, sixty-nine thousand, eight hundred and eighty-two (69,882) applicants met the basic entry requirements for admission. Due to the constraint of space and other logistics, the University admitted a total of fifty thousand, eight hundred and ninety-five (50,895) applicants comprising of eleven thousand and eighty-four (11,084) postgraduate students and thirty-nine thousand, eight hundred and eleven (39,811) undergraduate students.

Presently, a total of twenty-six thousand, six hundred and twelve (26,612) applicants have registered. This consists of seven thousand, seven hundred and seventy-seven (7,777) postgraduates and eighteen thousand, eight hundred and thirty-five (18,835) undergraduates.

The registered applicants consist of three thousand and seventeen (3,017) females (representing 38.8%) and a male population of four thousand, seven hundred and sixty (4,760) (representing 61.2%) for the postgraduates. Similarly, the registered undergraduate students have a female population of eight thousand, four hundred and seven (8,407) (representing 44.6%) and ten thousand, four hundred and twenty-eight (10,428) males (representing

55.4%). These figures demonstrate not only our commitment to excellence but also our determination to ensure inclusivity and equity in education.

7.0 ADVICE TO STUDENTS

To you our determined young men and women who have joined us, please take note that you represent a diverse and dynamic cohort with immense potential to contribute to your respective fields.

Let me remind you that being a member of the KNUST community comes with both privileges and responsibilities. You now carry the proud heritage of this great institution, which comes with a duty to always uphold the values and reputation of KNUST. Whether on campus, in your hostels, at home, or interacting on social media, always remember that your actions reflect on this noble University. You are an ambassador of this prestigious institution, and we are all counting on you.

To achieve your purpose of being responsible adults, accomplished professionals, and exceptional leaders of our society, I entreat you to live by the tenets of the oath you have just sworn. That is to: “observe the regulations of the University, obey those to whom your obedience is required, study diligently, seek the truth, and promote the good name of this University at all times”. Please be informed that the University will not hesitate to apply the necessary sanctions should you flout any of its regulations.

The road ahead will not always be smooth. There will be challenges, late-night studies, deadlines to meet, and so on. Always remember that you are here because we believe in your potential. With determination, hard work, and God on your side, there is nothing you cannot achieve. Set high academic goals, push yourself beyond your limits, and take advantage of every opportunity this University provides. Ask the relevant questions, participate in research, join approved student organisations, engage in community service, and build networks that will serve you well in the future.

Once again, I warmly welcome you to the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi. I wish you success and fulfillment in your academic and personal journeys. Aim to make yourselves, your families, and this great University proud.

May the good Lord continue to order your steps.

Thank you, and God bless us all.

You have satisfied the entrance requirements of this University, and I formally admit you as junior members in *Statu Pupillari* of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi.