

**KWAME NKRUMAH UNIVERSITY OF
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, KUMASI**



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**ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE 2026
MATRICULATION**

**MATRICULATION ADDRESS DELIVERED BY PROFESSOR (MRS.) RITA
AKOSUA DICKSON, VICE-CHANCELLOR, KNUST, ON 30TH - 31ST
JANUARY 2026**

SALUTATION

Pro Vice-Chancellor

Registrar

Provosts

Deans and Directors

Heads of Departments

Colleague Members of Convocation

Senior and Junior Staff

Presidents, Students Representative Council and the Graduate Students Association

Distinguished Viewers and Audience

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

1.0 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

Good morning, to you all. I am extremely delighted to welcome you, on behalf of the Chancellor, His Royal Majesty Otumfuo Osei Tutu II, the Governing Council, Management and Staff of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), Kumasi to the 2026 matriculation ceremony. It is absolutely appropriate for me to congratulate you for successfully navigating the highly competitive admission process to join us. Your achievement is indeed commendable, and you must be super proud of yourself. What this means is that there is nothing you cannot achieve if only you decide to work very hard at it. Congratulations!!

The matriculation ceremony signifies your formal acceptance and recognition as bona fide members of KNUST. During this important ceremony, you are required to take the matriculation oath and sign the matriculation register, symbolising your commitment to the rules, values, and traditions of the University. By swearing the oath, you are granted full privileges and rights as Junior Members in Statu Pupillari of KNUST. 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.***

You are now members of a community united by the common purpose of **“Advancing Knowledge in Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in Africa”**. As you begin this journey, I urge you to align yourselves with the vision of KNUST, embrace its mission, and uphold its core values of Leadership in Innovation and Technology, Excellence, Embracing Diversity, Integrity and Stewardship of resources as well as being agile and adaptable in all situations.

In keeping with our tradition of ensuring a smooth integration into the University community, you have undergone various orientation activities at the hall, hostel, College, Faculty, and Departmental levels. Make it a priority to complete your Health Screening and obtain your medical certificate, biometric registration, and online course registration, to fully regularise your admission into KNUST. This means that until you tick these boxes you cannot be considered a student of KNUST. Classes have already begun, and I encourage you to engage actively in your academic work. Once again, **CONGRATULATIONS** on this awesome achievement of becoming members of this distinguished University community.

2.0 ADMISSION STATISTICS

The University received over ninety thousand (**90,000**) applications for admission into our Undergraduate and Postgraduate Degree programmes. Seventeen thousand, one hundred and eighty-seven (**17,187**) students have been admitted and registered into our Undergraduate programmes and eighty thousand, three hundred and thirty-one (**8,331**) into our Postgraduate programmes. This comprises fourteen thousand, two hundred and eighty (**14,280**) males and eleven thousand, two hundred and thirty-eight (**11,238**) females.

3.0 DIRECTORATE OF STUDENTS AFFAIRS (DOSA)

At KNUST, your success and well-being are at the heart of everything we do. That is why the **Directorate of Student Affairs** exists to stand by you, guide you, and support you on this journey. The Director acts *in loco parentis*, as

your parents here on campus, so you are never alone. You are part of the Big KNUST Family.

The **Students' Financial Services**, a unit within the Directorate of Student Affairs, provides various forms of financial assistance to needy students. In addition, the **KNUST Counselling Centre**, offers comprehensive academic, career, emotional, and psychosocial support. Each College is assigned a dedicated counsellor, ready to walk and talk with you every step of the way, in finding solutions to any problems you may have.

Recognising that accommodation is a critical aspect of student life, the University has also established the KNUST Off-Campus Accommodation Support System (KOSASS) to help you secure safe and reliable housing as you advance in your studies. I strongly encourage you to take full advantage of these services. Engage with your counsellors, seek help when needed, do not suffer in silence and embrace all the support services available to you. These systems are designed to provide the needed support, enrich your KNUST experience, and make your years here, not only successful, but truly transformative. Step forward with courage and confidence, knowing that KNUST stands firmly with you.

4.0 SECURITY OF OUR STUDENTS

Your safety and security are of paramount importance to the University, whether you reside on campus or off campus. Over the years, KNUST has implemented several measures to ensure students security, including the installation of CCTV cameras and restricted access to key facilities. To further support off-campus students, the University has appointed Off-Campus Senior Tutors living in these communities, who perform roles similar to Hall Masters and Wardens in the traditional halls. You are encouraged to get to know them and reach out whenever challenges arise. In addition, security has been enhanced through improved lighting in strategic areas, regular patrols by the Ghana Police and KNUST Security around hostels, and the continuous dissemination of security tips via your mobile phones, which you are encouraged to take seriously.

While these measures are in place to protect you, it is important to remember that security is a shared responsibility. The University will continue to play

its part, but your personal vigilance is equally essential. Always strive to be at the right place at the right time, move in groups where possible, and remain alert to your surroundings. When you see something suspicious say something. Remember, safety is not expensive; it is priceless. Through collective commitment and care for each other, we can ensure that KNUST remains, not only a center of academic excellence, but also a safe and thriving community for all. And whilst you are at it, do not forget to contribute your quota, in ensuring that we have a neat and sustainable campus. Please make use of the bins around.

5.0 DIGITAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES

In this digital era, your success at KNUST will be shaped not only by your commitment to study, but also by how effectively you engage with the digital tools and resources available to you. As a University, we have built a robust and integrated digital ecosystem that is intentionally designed to support your learning, personal development, and your pursuit of excellence.

As part of this ecosystem, the KNUST Virtual Classroom hosts a short, self-paced course on E-learning tools. This course equips you with the essential digital skills required to navigate our platforms, engage productively in these online and blended learning environments, and use technology confidently to support your academic work. This experience also exposes you to industry-relevant and lifelong learning digital content, that will serve you well beyond your years on campus.

You are required to complete this course independently and earn a certificate. By doing so, you will strengthen your readiness for online and blended learning and be better prepared to participate in computer-based examinations delivered through the KNUST Online Examinations platform.

Together, let us embrace these digital opportunities, sharpen our skills, and position ourselves to excel within the evolving landscape of higher education at KNUST and globally.

6.0 AI COURSE

Artificial Intelligence is reshaping industries and everyday life, making it essential for university students to acquire foundational knowledge in this

field. Consequently, beginning this academic year, the University is introducing a course in Responsible AI for all undergraduate students and AI Essentials for Graduate Studies. The course is designed to equip you with fundamental, future-ready skills, and prepare you to apply AI responsibly and ethically. Through the introduction of this course, the University ensures its graduates are not merely adapting to change but are positioned to lead it.

I encourage you all to ensure that you have registered for this self-paced course and actively study it, using the Learning Management System, to acquire fundamental and essential knowledge in AI. Remember to generate your certificates as evidence of completion.

7.0 ADVICE TO STUDENTS

My dear students, as you begin this exciting journey, I encourage you to approach it with the right mindset and attitude. Handle your studies with all the seriousness it deserves. Be curious and go deeper to see what others do not see. Be open minded, ask the relevant questions and explore to the best of your ability, in coming out with impactful solutions to problems. At all times, determine to be an Explorer not a Tour Guide as you add value to yourselves. Today, you become part of a vibrant and diverse academic community filled with promise, opportunities, and responsibilities.

As members of the Big KNUST family, you inherit a proud legacy that extends beyond academic excellence, to good character, discipline, and service. Wherever you may be - on campus, in your hostels, at home, or even online, your actions reflect, directly on this noble institution. You must be great ambassadors of KNUST at all times. To fulfill your purpose as responsible adults, skilled professionals, and great leaders, I urge you to remain faithful to the oath you have taken: respect university regulations, honour authority, study diligently, seek truth, and always promote the good name of KNUST.

The journey ahead will present its share of challenges, from demanding coursework to moments of uncertainty, but never lose sight of why you are here. You are indeed here because you believe in yourself, and because we believe in your potential to succeed. With determination, perseverance, and faith in God, success will be inevitable. Set bold goals, embrace every learning opportunity, engage in research and service, build lasting networks,

and strive always to honour yourselves, your families, this great University, and our dear country. May God who has brought you this far, continue to order your steps and may your time at KNUST be marked by unimaginable success, fulfilment, and purpose.

Once again congratulations and God richly bless you 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.