



VC'S NEWS ROUND-UP

FORGING CONNECTIONS, CHAMPIONING RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

5th Edition

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DIRECTORATE OF CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING
(DCCM)



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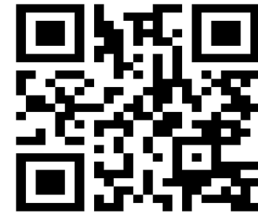


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MMUST PROGRAMMES

MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR



Dear Mmustians!

Welcome to the fifth edition of the 'VC's News Round -Up', put together by the Directorate of Corporate Communications and Marketing with support from the Office of the Vice Chancellor. This issue dubbed 'Freshers Edition II' brings to you the finer details of the well-attended address to first year students of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo. Notably the Vice Chancellor officially addressed over six thousand (6,000) freshmen in a historical event that was graced by the Governor of Kakamega County, H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa and the MMUST Chairperson of Council, Dr. Pamela Sitienei.

In this week's edition we share our story of the visit by Kisumu Polytechnic's School of Business and Entrepreneurship students which provided an opportunity for MMUST to showcase its diverse academic programs, while also offering insights into the University's state-of-the-art facilities and supportive learning environment.

In addition to the week-long activities of the orientation program earmarked for the for the Class of 2024 first year students, we give you a glimpse into the activities of one of our Divisions, as MMUST's officers, under the Division of Planning, Research and Innovation (PRI) familiarize the 2024/2025 first-year students with the mandate and functions of the Division. The officers were led by the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor-PRI, Prof. Josephine Ngaira.

We invite you to read the story of Pascal Odhiambo, a young man from Kisumu County, whose exciting journey led him to pursue a Degree in Medicine at MMUST- a university where his own brother is a proud alumnus!

Dig into the feast of stories that we have for you this week... Once again, I welcome our first year students to MMUST!!

PROF SOLOMON SHIBAIRO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Solomon Shibairo', written over a light blue horizontal line.

VICE CHANCELLOR, MMUST

VICE CHANCELLOR ADDRESSES OVER 6,000 FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS IN A HISTORICAL EVENT GRACED BY KAKAMEGA COUNTY GOVERNOR AND MMUST CHAIRPERSON OF COUNCIL

By Dr. Lydia Anyonje and Wangari Wambugu
Photos by Shiundu Masafu and Stephen Omondi



From left; The Governor of Kakamega County, H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa, MMUST Chairperson of Council, Dr. Pamela Sitienei and the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, leave the graduation square after addressing 2024 first-year students.

The Vice Chancellor of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, Prof. Solomon Shibairo has officially addressed over six thousand (6,000) freshmen in a historical event that was graced by the Governor of Kakamega County, H.E FCPA Fernandes Barasa and the MMUST Chairperson of Council, Dr. Pamela Sitienei. The event, which took place on Monday, 9th September, 2024 at the graduation square, was a culmination of a week-long rigorous orientation process.

While addressing the first-year students, the Governor appreciated the Vice Chancellor and the entire leadership of the University for steering one of the greatest Universities in the region. “I have a special attachment to MMUST and my Government

is committed to continue with the collaboration we have had with the institution over the years in industrial attachment, student mentorship and beefing up of security,” said FCPA Barasa. He pledged his support for MMUST especially in acquisition of more land for purposes of research and expansion of programmes. “Plans are underway to complete the Kakamega County General Teaching and Referral Hospital, whose construction is anticipated to be over in the next 12 months. This hospital, with a bed capacity of 750, will support programmes in the School of Nursing and the School of Medicine,” he added.

“We are here to support the Vice Chancellor on his big day, as we usher in the 2024 first-year students. I have noted with pleasure that this year we have admitted a large number of students, who have thronged our beautiful institution to pursue higher education. MMUST is a student-centred University with versatile, dynamic and market driven academic programs. We have professionally trained academic and non-academic staff with requisite skills,” stated Dr. Sitienei. She invited the County Government of Kakamega to invest in infrastructural development, ICT, research, the performing arts, as well as staff and students of MMUST.



Guests enjoy a light moment of entertainment during the Vice Chancellor's address to first-years.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo, addresses 2024 first-year students at the graduation square.

Speaking during the event, Prof. Shibairo recognized the support of the MMUST Council in ensuring that academic and development activities of the University run smoothly. He also appreciated the County Government of Kakamega, led by H.E FCPA Barasa, for partnering with MMUST in its academic endeavours and projects. “This is a very special day for us, as it is not custom for the Governor or the Chairperson of Council to attend the VC’s address to first-years. The Governor is a friend of this University, who has supported us in many ways, and I am glad that he has joined us today in welcoming our freshmen,” pointed out the Vice Chancellor. He urged the incoming students to engage in activities that will add value to their academic and personal growth,



A section of 2024/2025 first-year students at the graduation square.

adding that they should make education their top priority. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs), Prof. Hussein Golicha, reiterated that this cohort has been oriented about how to lead a successful campus life. “We expect you to graduate at the top of your respective classes,” stated Prof. Golicha. On her part, the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor (Planning, Research and Innovation), Prof. Josephine Ngaira, presented the VC’s profile, praising him as a committed community servant who has always championed education to transform lives. “The University has three main functions, that is academics, research and community engagement, all of which the Vice Chancellor has accomplished” said Prof. Ngaira. Notably, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Administration and Finance), Prof. John Kuria Thuo, was also present at the event.

The Registrar (Academic Affairs), Prof. Judah Ndiku, who has been coordinating the orientation process since the students reported last week, echoed that MMUST received a large number of students compared to last year. “The entire admission process has been seamless and highly digitalized. We look forward to kicking off the academic year with the online registration of courses by the first-year students,” he said.

The well-attended event attracted senior officers from the County, Members of the University Management Board, Professors of MMUST, Deans and Directors, Chairpersons of Departments, Union Leaders (UASU, KUSU and KUDHEIHA), staff, student leaders and continuing students.

Such events are crucial because they highlight the importance of sensitizing young University entrants into the higher education processes and traditions. They mark the beginning of a new academic journey, which later culminates into graduation once the students complete their course work and requisite examinations. Indeed, this was one such event and the first-years were able to not only meet the Vice Chancellor, but also the Chairperson of Council and the County boss, all in one sweep.

MMUST Ushers in Its 2024 First-Year Students With Elaborate Orientation Kickoff

By Caren Nekesa and Linet Owuor
Photos by Shiundu Masafu



The Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic and Student Affairs, Prof. Hussein Golicha with the Registrar Academic Affairs Prof. Judah Ndiku and Dr. Tecla Sum during the 2024 first years orientation

In a vibrant demonstration of Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's (MMUST) commitment and enthusiasm to ensure a smooth and seamless transition for its new students, the University kicked off its week-long orientation program for the Class of 2024. This initiative marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter for over 4,000 incoming students, setting the tone for their academic and social journey on campus. This year's orientation programme has been specially designed to equip the new students with the essential knowledge and skills needed to navigate the complexities of University life, both inside and outside the classroom.

On 2nd and 3rd September 2024, the Divisions of Academic and Student Affairs (ASA) and Administration and Finance (A&F) addressed the first year students. The Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic and Student Affairs)-Prof. Hussein Golicha congratulated the first year students for getting admitted to MMUST, a leading University in the region. He encouraged them to work hard and stay focused in their academic journey in order to achieve their goals.

Similarly, the Registrar (Academic Affairs)- Prof. Judah Ndiku expressed hope that the newly admitted students will settle first enough to embark on the serious task of pursuing University education. "As a University we are proud to have admitted over 4,000 students to pursue a diversity of programmes that our eleven Schools have on offer. I urge you to take the orientation exercise seriously in order to be acquainted with the University's processes and procedures," said Prof. Ndiku. The other notable speakers included the Registrar in charge of Administration, Finance Officer, Directors, Deans of Schools and Coordinators.

Other key sessions during the day were a thought-provoking presentation on 'Stress Management' led by Prof. Ken Otieno. Addressing the new students, Prof. Otieno emphasized the importance of mental resilience in their academic journey ahead. "The world of academia is very elusive. You may join with a grade A, but if you are not careful, you could end up graduating with lower qualifications," he cautioned.

Prof. Otieno was candid about the challenges the students would face, noting that the difference between those who succeed and those who falter lies in how they manage the stress. He urged the students to take stress management seriously, pointing out that while stress is inevitable, it does not have to lead to negative outcomes. "If others have made it, so can you," he assured them, warning of the dangers of untreated stress, which leads to depression. Further, he highlighted that research indicates that the chances of overcoming depression are significantly diminished if not addressed early. Prof. Otieno advised the students to be proactive in managing their stress and encouraged them to seek help whenever they feel overwhelmed.

Your time at MMUST will be filled with opportunities for growth, but it will also come with its share of challenges. By managing your stress effectively, you will not only survive but thrive in this environment," he stated, emphasizing the importance of maintaining a balanced life, engaging in regular physical activities, building supportive social networks, and seeking counseling services available at the University.

Presenting on 'Diligent Studentship: Weathering the CampusLife,' Dr. Rose Opiyo took the students through the strategies for managing social dynamics and academic expectations. Her insights aimed to reduce feelings of anxiety and isolation, offering students practical tools to thrive in their new environment.

"Navigating campus life with a sense of adventure and openness can make the experience more enjoyable and fulfilling. This is a time of significant growth and opportunity, and embracing it fully will lead to a rewarding journey," said Dr. Opiyo

Additionally, Dr. Ben Oseno talked to the students about 'Personal Financial Management.' He emphasized the importance of creating a budget and sticking to it as a foundational step in managing their finances effectively. "Navigating University life can be financially challenging. To avoid unnecessary debt and ensure you are making the most of your resources, it is essential that you establish a budget and adhere to it. This practice will help you maintain financial stability and focus on your studies without the added stress of financial uncertainty," he noted.



The DVC ASA- Prof. Hussein Golicha addressing the first-year students.

For many, the orientation exercise has been a whirlwind of new experiences and emotions. The orientation outlined various aspects including 'Campus Tours', 'Academic Information', 'Student Services', 'Campus Life', 'Administrative Procedures', 'Safety and Policies', 'Social Integration' as well as 'Cultural and Community Engagement.' Providing guidance and support during this critical period,

ensures that students can smoothly integrate into University life and focus on their personal and academic growth. As the fresh men and women settle into their new environment, the University's commitment to their success remains steadfast. With a comprehensive orientation program and a supportive campus community, MMUST is poised to help its newest students thrive.

MMUST HOSTS KISUMU NATIONAL POLYTECHNIC STAFF AND STUDENTS FOR A FIELD VISIT

By Caren Nekesa and Stephen Omondi



Customer care representatives providing assistance to new students during admission.

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) hosted staff and students from Kisumu Polytechnic's School of Business and Entrepreneurship for an enriching field trip visit from 3rd to 5th September 2024. The three-day event, which was held at the main campus' Main Catering Unit, was a collaborative effort that brought together faculty and staff from both institutions. The visit aimed to inspire and guide the Polytechnic students by exposing them to real-world business operations and processes that complement their classroom learning. During the trip, the students had the opportunity to explore various business-related sections within the University, gaining hands-on experience and valuable insights into workplace dynamics.

MMUST showcased its diverse academic programs, ranging from Diploma to PhD levels, while also offering insights into the University's state-of-the-art facilities and supportive learning environment. The Polytechnic staff and students were led by Ms. Millicent Sagero, the Head of Business and Entrepreneurship at Kisumu National Polytechnic. The field visit was in line with the government's policy on education and training, which emphasizes the importance of practical exposure in students' academic journey. In his address, the Director Career Services, Prof. Robert Egezza highlighted MMUST's standing as a leading institution with global career prospects, committed to nurturing well-rounded graduates ready for both the job market and entrepreneurial ventures. "MMUST provides a wealth of opportunities for career specialization. It's crucial for students to make informed decisions when choosing their career paths, as these choices will significantly influence their future success," remarked Prof. Egezza, emphasizing the importance of academic progression.



The Vice Chancellor, Prof. Solomon Shibairo engages with an ICT staff during the admission process at the School of Education.

The Dean School of Business and Economics (SOBE) at MMUST, Dr. Dishon Wanjere, underscored the excellence of the SOBE, highlighting its reputation as one of the top institutions in the region. “Our programs are carefully crafted to equip students with the skills and expertise necessary to thrive in today’s competitive job market. I strongly encourage all students planning their academic future to consider joining us at MMUST,” he stated. Similarly, Dr. Maniagi Musiega, Chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance echoed the importance of integrity and ethics in shaping a successful career. “Our professional courses are renowned for their academic rigor, but beyond that, it’s important that students build their careers on a strong foundation of ethical principles,” he stressed.

Adding to the endorsements, Ms. Millicent Sagero, the Head of the School of Business at Kisumu National Polytechnic, acknowledged the exceptional work being done at MMUST. She encouraged her students to consider furthering their studies at MMUST. “I strongly encourage you all to consider furthering your studies at MMUST. This partnership presents an incomparable opportunity for your academic and professional development,” she said. Further, the University’s Marketing Officer, Mr. James Muriithi reinforced the call for students to consider MMUST as their academic home, stressing the University’s commitment to delivering quality career programs. Also present during the event include, Dr. Evans Silver Kwendo, Dr. Kelvin Mogere Machuki, a lecturer at SOBE, Mr. Daudi Kioko, a Customer Care Assistant.

Did You Know?

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) was established through an Act of Parliament in 2006 as the seventh (7th) public university in Kenya. Prior to this, it was a constituent University College of Moi University which developed from a Community tertiary College -Western College of Arts and Applied Sciences (WECO). The University started with two Schools (Education and Science) and these have since grown to 11 schools as at 2024.

MMUST Freshman, Pascal Odhiambo, Shares his First Impressions of the University

By Wangari Wambugu and Joshua Chiro



Every year, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology receives a diverse group of first-year students, each with unique stories and aspirations. Pascal Odhiambo, who is from Kisumu County, is one such student that has embarked on an exciting journey to pursue a Degree in Medicine at MMUST. Interestingly, Pascal's brother is a proud alumnus of MMUST, having graduated with a Degree in Procurement. He was eager to follow in his sibling's footsteps, which ultimately led him to choosing this University.

Despite facing heavy traffic during admission, Pascal praised MMUST's organization, saying that the entire process was smooth and swift. "The admission process was not only well-structured, but also very easy to navigate," he remarked, reflecting on his positive experience. He recalls the friendly smiles and helpful guidance he received during orientation. "Everyone was ready to assist with showing me around, as well as with answering my queries. It made me feel like I belong here," says Pascal.

Pascal's first impression of the University was evidently positive, and here is what he had to say, "I feel that the environment is conducive for learning. I am amazed by the structures in the compound, and the warm welcome that we have all received. It is very clear that MMUST cares about its students."

While reflecting on his initial experiences at MMUST, Pascal embodies the spirit of curiosity and determination that defines the 2024 cohort. With a strong desire to learn and grow, he has promised to make the most of his time at the University. As he navigates the challenges of academia and immerses himself in the vibrant campus life, we hope that Pascal's journey will serve as an

inspiration to students eyeing higher education. With each passing day, he is not only working towards his Degree in Medicine, but he is also forging lifelong connections and memories that will shape his future. The University community rallies around him and his peers, and we wish him all the best as he embarks on this remarkable adventure.

MMUST Officers Under The Division Of Planning, Research And Innovation Familiarize First-Year Students With The Section's Mandate And Functions

By Caren Nekesa and Wangari Wambugu Photos by Shiundu Masafu and Steven Omondi

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology's officers, under the Division of Planning, Research and Innovation (PRI), have familiarized the 2024/2025 first-year students with the mandate and functions of the section. The officers, who were led by the Acting Deputy Vice Chancellor-PRI, Prof. Josephine Ngaira, addressed the fresh men and women on Thursday, 5th September, 2024 at the graduation square during orientation. They comprised Directors, Coordinators of various Units, as well as staff from PRI.

In her address, Prof. Ngaira congratulated the students for their outstanding performance in the 2023 KCSE, while appreciating them for choosing MMUST as their preferred institution of higher learning. She stated that the University is committed to nurturing both the academic and personal growth of each student, and assured the freshers that her Division will guide them towards setting their strategic goals in planning, research, innovation and community outreach. "Come 2028, we hope to graduate this cohort as well-rounded individuals who will not only be socially responsible and academically accomplished, but also employable," remarked the DVC. She also stressed the importance of making intentional life choices, reminding the students that their success will largely be determined by their actions, choices and attitudes. "Life is what you make it. The quality and direction of your life is largely determined by your decisions," she advised

Recognizing the holistic nature of University life, Prof. Ngaira encouraged the students to maintain a balance between their social, spiritual, mental, and physical wellbeing, pointing out that humans are social beings. She advised them to take full advantage of their time at MMUST by participating in activities that will enhance all aspects of their personal and academic development.



Prof. Josephine Ngaira during her address to 2024 first year students

"Welcome to MMUST and feel at home because you made the right choice by selecting this University. The Division of PRI is very important as it is concerned with research, which forms the functions of a University," said Prof. Benedict Alala, who was standing in for the Registrar-PRI, Dr. Collins Matamba. While stating the responsibilities of PRI, Prof. Alala revealed that this Division coordinates and monitors activities related to the University Strategic Plan, it supports research and innovation, it creates and maintains local and international linkages, and it mobilizes and solicits funds through research.

The Director of Science Park, Innovation and Incubation Centre (SPIIC)-Dr. Tecla Sum, who also represented the Director of Research and Postgraduate Support (DRPS)-Prof. Francis Orata, highlighted the role of science and innovation in addressing societal challenges. She emphasized that students serve as the key link between the University and the problems faced by society, encouraging them to harness their creativity to make meaningful contributions. Dr. Sum urged the students to present their ideas and innovations, and assured them that the two (2) Directorates are committed to providing mentorship and support from the incubation phase to commercialization. She added, "no matter where you are from, here in MMUST you all stand equal opportunities to become researchers and innovators."



Prof. Benedict Alala moderates the PRI Division's first-year orientation session.

In her remarks, the Director of Corporate Communications and Marketing (DCCM)-Dr. Lydia Anyonje, notified the first-year students on the importance of staying informed about University activities, and avoiding misinformation. She urged them to make use of the MMUST official communication channels, including the Customer Care and Call Centre, student intranet, as well as the verified social media platforms, in order to stay updated and receive accurate information.

“Our customer care and call centre is a one-stop shop for all your inquiries and support needs,” she noted. I would also like to encourage you to develop your talents, sharpen your communication skills and reach out to us for any assistance,” said Dr. Anyonje, saying that clear and respectful communication, regardless of the course that one is pursuing, is key to ensuring that they receive the help required.

Presenting on the mandate of the Directorate of AIDS Control, Gender and Disability Mainstreaming (ACGDM), the Deputy Director-ACGDM, Dr. Reuben Rutto, stated that the University life goes beyond attending lectures, as it offers students the platform for personal development and growth. He stressed MMUST’s commitment to creating an inclusive

environment where every student can thrive. “We strive to create a space where each student feels safe and respected. I urge you to collaborate with other stakeholders to help shape MMUST into a place where everyone has the opportunity to succeed,” added Dr. Rutto.

Similarly, the Deputy Director in charge of the Institute of Indigenous Knowledge, Cultural Studies and Climate Change (IIKSCC)-Dr. Lucy Mandillah, underscored the importance of students understanding their cultural heritage, noting its influence on their campus experience. “IIKSCC fosters cultural integration and works to bridge cultural gaps within the University. As you embark on this journey, you need to understand the diverse cultures at MMUST and learn from them,” she stated

Representing the Directorate of International Relations and Academic Linkages (DIAL), Dr. Edwin Kanda noted that MMUST students have the unique opportunity to go abroad through the strategic partnerships established by the Directorate. He also stated that these partnerships enable students to secure both local and international placements for internships, attachments, and even employment.



A section of the officers from PRI at the graduation square with MMUST fresh men and women.

Key Coordinating Units were represented by their Heads; Dr. Rose Opiyo (Strategic and Institutional Planning Unit); Dr. Issah Kweyu (Extension Services and Outreach); Dr. Isaac K'Owino (Institutional Research); Mr. Kaleb Mwendwa (Grants Office) and Mr. Hesbon Amwayi, who was standing in for Dr. Dennis Ochieno (Webometrics and Short Courses).

The Division of Planning Research and Innovation plays a critical role within the University, driving innovation, academic excellence, and the development of solutions to real-world challenges. It is prudent for students to understand the need for research from the onset of their academic journey. Certainly, this session empowered the students to contribute to creation of knowledge, collaborate with faculty on innovative projects, and elevate their academic as well as professional profiles.

Student Tip

The responsibility is on you, but help is here.
 You don't have to do everything.
 Be whomever you want to be.



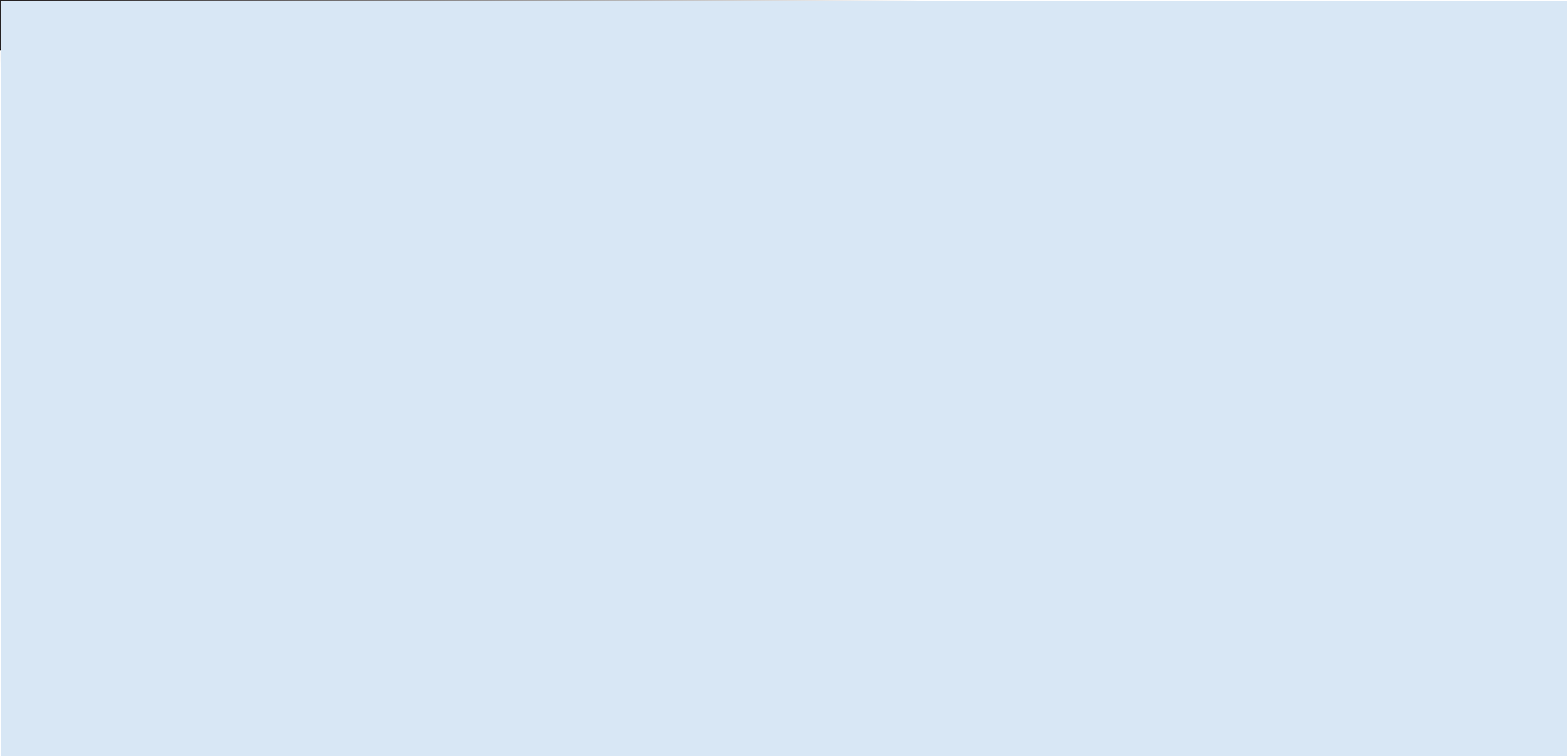
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The University of Choice











The University of Choice

