

The A-Z Guide to University Life at MMUST

Joining university is exciting moment, and normally different from what has been. Welcome to the experience of living away from your parents and new mode of teaching, interaction and socialization. An **A-Z** guide has been prepared to help you get to know a few words you'll be hearing around '*campus*' to make it a bit easier for you to settle into your new way of life.

Don't be too worried about all the university jargon and complex terminologies – it won't be too long before you pick it up and begin confusing and or guiding others.

A

Academic year – A period of the year normally segmented into two semester or trimesters which students attend classes and are assessed and graded. **Sometimes marked by an academic calendar.** This will be communicated before its commencement.

Alumni– marks the end of your university career: this is the name given to those who have graduated from the university.

Assignment - a piece of work done as part of a course of study

B

Bonafide Student – An individual who is dully registered and paid fees and is attending classes to sustain the registration status.

C

Campus– this term refers to the land on which your university's buildings are located. While you once said "at school", you might now say "on campus".

Course – A particular subject leading to an examination. Also known as Unit.

Course Outline – Structured planning document that maps out the objectives, expected learning outcomes, content topics and assessment methods before teaching and learning begins.

Course Code – This is antique identifier assigned to each course offered at the university.

Chaplain– the Chaplain is a religious figure, such as a vicar, who is attached to the university, and to whom you can go for religious or other pastoral advice.

Career week – refers to various events focused on career exploration and development. Its normally organized by the Directorate of Career Services.

Cultural week – At MMUST commonly known as TAMASHA where students celebrate their cultural diversity.

D

Department– an organization around each subject area, such as English, Mathematics or Social Sciences, Chemistry etc. This will probably be where many of your lectures are held. Lecturers belong to departments.

Dean - the person in charge of a university school/faculty

E

Examination – refers to assessment conducted at the end of a specific academic period (Semester or trimester). Most courses are assessed with exams at various points in the course, usually at the end of the course or in a continuous mode commonly known as CAT. They can take different modes, quizzes, test, projects practical exams ect.

F

Faculty/School – this term describes a division of the university devoted to a particular subject or group of similar subjects, like a department. The phrase ‘**teaching faculty**’ can also be used to describe the university’s academic staff.

Fees –nothing in life is free. This is fee charged for a programme of study. Tuition and accommodation will be required at least at the beginning of every semester.

Fieldwork– some courses may require you to complete a fieldwork element, Fieldwork is very common on courses such as geography, agriculture, Biology etc.

First class – the degree equivalent of an A grade, a First is the highest class of degree and is followed by second upper, second lower and pass. You need to take some time to understand the grading system.

Freshers– an affectionate term for those in their first year at university

Freshers’ Week– this is your first week at university, before all your academic commitments start, when you’ll have a chance to get acquainted with your new surroundings, register and make new friends.

Fresher Night – A ceremony held on campus to welcome the new students

G

Graduation– the end of your studies is formally marked by your graduation ceremony, during which you’ll officially receive your degree. You normally dress in a traditional academic regalia, and celebrate your achievements with family and friends.

H

Halls– university accommodation is typically in Halls of Residence

I

IT– Information Technology. The universities will have extensive IT facilities available on campus. You may enjoy free ‘*wifi*’ but of importance is that our interaction will be through IT especially in the management through the portal.

J

Janitor – An officer to take care of a building. Also, a care taker.

K

Kitchenette/Kitchen – In the halls of residence you may have a shared kitchen for you to prepare meals. This may be available in the private hostels.

L

Lectures– a university teaching method. A fairly big percentage of your teaching is likely to be comprised of lectures, in which the **lecturer** talks to you for a prescribed period about a particular topic and you take notes.

Library– you’ll be spending a lot of time in the library if you’re a good student. Here you will find resources for further reading and to refer to documents to enable you do assignments. You will be given an orientation of the library.

M

Mature Students– not all the students at your university will be fresh from school like you. These are often adults who are taking a career break to pursue further study.

Masters– the Masters degree is the next level up from Undergraduate.

MMUST – Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology

MMUSO – Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology Students’ Association.

N

NUS Card– when you become a student, you’ll be able to get your hands on the brilliant NUS (National Union of Students) card, which will entitle you to a huge number of student discounts

O

Open Days– Held to inform/ expose other potential students on the courses on offer. You may be engaged to participate in such days

P

Practical lessons –These are lab-based sessions that allow you to learn hands on. They’re typically mixed with lecture sessions and other learning methods

Professor - a high-ranking lecturer at a university. Distinguished by academic credentials and scholarship.

Q

Quality of teaching– It is your right to receive quality teaching. At the university you will take part in evaluating the teaching quality through surveys. You will be asked to comment on things such as how satisfied you are with the quality of teaching; you're receiving.

Quality Assurance – process of assuring that the services offered meet the required standards. At MMUST it is coordinated by the Directorate of Quality Assurance

R

Registration– what you went through when you arrive at university. You officially registered as a student. You will be required to register every semester in the portal to announce your presence every semester.

S

Seminar – this is another teaching method used by most universities, in which students are taught in small groups that facilitate academic discussion, led by an academic

Semester – a segment of an academic year running for a period of 15-16 weeks. An academic year is divided into two semesters

Student Union– At MMUST we refer to MMUSO composed of Student Executive Council and Parliament

Senate – A governing body at MMUST bestowed with responsibility of making decisions on all academic matters

T

Tutor– Junior academic staff who teach you

Tutorial– a tutorial is typically a very small teaching group

Trimester - is an academic term or period of study that is typically divided into three equal parts or semesters within an academic year. At MMUST normally refers to the third semester.

Time Table – a schedule created for academic activities within educational institutions. It involves scheduling classes, exams, and other events to ensure students attend the activities without conflicts

Transcript – An official certified record of a student's academic performance at the university.

U

Undergraduate– you'll be referred to as an undergraduate during your initial university degree; it refers your first degree. The undergraduate degree is followed by the Masters and then the PhD. We have varied periods for the undergraduate degrees we offer in the 8.4.4 system takes 4 years although some degrees take five or six years. You will be guided in the school orientation the number of years your degree will take.

V

Vice-Chancellor– the Chief Executive Officer of a University. Normally the most senior member of management staff at the university.

W

Warden – head of a university residence to assist students in welfare matters

X

Think of a university term beginning with X and come for a reward.

Y

Year –The university year is divided into two semester or trimesters depending on the programmes you are taking. The semester dates and academic year dates will be communicated.

Z

Zero – mark awarded to a student who registers for an exam but fails to sit for the exam without a valid reason.