

By A Ssengendo

MUST science faculty offers quality training – Kiwanuka

The faculty of medicine at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) is a centre of excellence in health science education in research and in community, states Dr. Gertrude N Kiwanuka, the dean, faculty of medicine at the university.

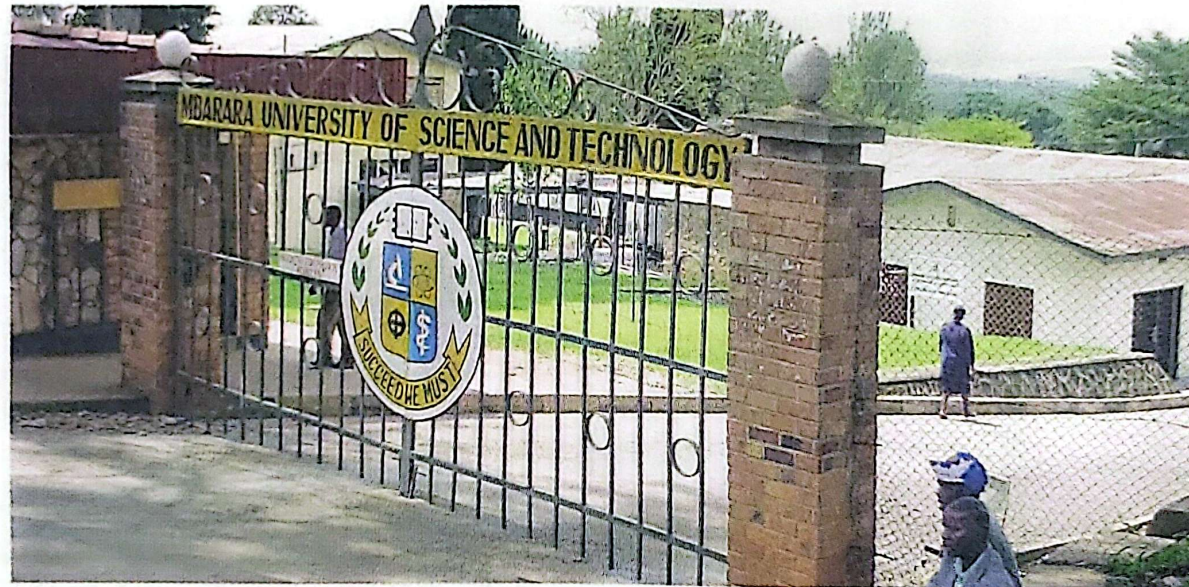
“A student not only gets a sense of belonging, they receive quality training. They will also have the privilege of working with communities,” Kiwanuka notes.

She adds that one will interface with the best of the best because the faculty of medicine attracts a number of collaborators.

“The opportunities to do research are enormous, because even undergraduates have the opportunity to do research any time they want,” Kiwanuka explains.

She says according to a 2015 report by the East African Medical Council, MUST is highly rated because of their quality products.

“Students at the faculty of medicine receive hands-on training which is available to them because the numbers are small. They also get an opportunity to train at Mbarara teaching hospital where they practice what they have studied in class,”



Mbarara University of Science and Technology main entrance. The university has several science courses

Kiwanuka says.

“We receive reports from many employers about our students including the health ministry and hospitals which are not government entities; and the report is promising,” she adds.

Kiwanuka attributes the success to the fact that MUST has no history of strikes

which usually affect training of students.

Background

The faculty of medicine was established in 1989 to train health care providers in research and community-based activities in order to reduce mortality and morbidity. The Government

also realised the nation had few doctors yet the population was growing. At the time it was established, there was one medical school in the country.

Based far from the city, it was envisaged that the graduates of Mbarara University would be in a position to serve the needs of

the community.

The Vice Chancellor at the time of its establishment was Prof. Fredrick Kayanja.

The first dean was the late Prof. Michael Kahwa (1989-1992), followed by Prof. Jovan Begumya (1992 to 1996), then Prof. Eliacum Mutakoha who served until 2002 and was succeeded by

Prof. Jorome Kabakyenga and associate professors Samuel Maling and Kiwanuka, the current dean. The university started with the departments of anatomy, biochemistry and physiology.

It now has 24 departments. The faculty has both biomedical sciences (non-clinical) and clinical departments offering undergraduate and postgraduate programmes.

Programmes

The faculty has six undergraduate programmes which include bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery, bachelor of nursing science pharmacy, medical laboratory science, pharmaceutical science and physiotherapy. Other programmes are completion for diploma holders who want to upgrade to bachelors.

They are bachelor of nursing-completion and bachelor of medical laboratory science-completion.

There is only one diploma programme which is in counselling.