



MURANG'A UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

P.O.BOX 75 - 10200, Murang'a, Kenya

Cell: +254-771-370-824

Email: info@mut.ac.ke; Website: www.mut.ac.ke



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' HANDBOOK



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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 General Information

The purpose of international Students' handbook is to provide general information to all the international students pursuing their internship at Murang'a University of Technology (MUT). The guide provides useful information to help students acclimatize to the physical and administrative environment.

In addition to this guide, MUT has other communication platforms which include the University website (www.mut.ac.ke), the official Facebook page (Murang'a University of Technology), twitter (@MurangaUni) as well as University notice boards.

1.2 Background

Murang'a University of Technology is in Murang'a County, Kenya. Kenya is a country located in East Africa, bordered by Tanzania to the south, Uganda to the west, South Sudan to the northwest, Ethiopia to the north, and Somalia to the east. The capital city is Nairobi, and the official languages are Swahili and English. Overall, Kenya is a country with a rich history, diverse culture, and stunning natural beauty. The country is known for its vibrant culture and traditions and is home to numerous ethnic groups, each with their own unique customs and practices. Kenya is one of the world's most popular tourism destinations attracting millions of tourists over the past years due to its extraordinary number of safari options, beautiful beaches, rich culture, striking geographical diversity and archeological sites.

MUT was a constituent University of Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT) in pursuant of order legal notice No 129 of September 2011, but became a fully-fledged University in 2016. The University is a successor of Murang'a College of Technology (MCT) established in 1975. The University currently operates under the provision of the Universities Act 2012 Cap 210 (b) of the Laws of Kenya.

1.3 Location

Murang'a University of Technology (MUT) is located 1.5 km from Murang'a town, 85 km North East of Nairobi, 70 km South East of Nyeri and 50 km South West of Embu. Its location provides a serene environment conducive for learning. The University is committed to enhance Linkages, Community service, Mentorship, role modeling, Networking & socialization. We offer a world-class education in a beautiful campus located away from the disruptions and distractions of Murang'a Town. MUT is easily accessible. The surrounding environs is the ideal place to get real world opportunities in different areas of study, allowing students to get practical real-world experiences by taking part in on-site training opportunities.



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1.4 Mandate

The mandate of MUT is derived from the core functions as set out in Legal Notice No. 129. The mandate of MUT is to provide quality teaching, training, scholarship, entrepreneurship, innovation, research and consultancy services.

1.5 Vision statement

Murang'a University of Technology is a leading University in Technological Innovation, Research, and Training.

1.6 Mission statement

To advance knowledge and technological transfer through teaching, training, learning, research, and innovation for sustainable development.

1.7 Philosophy

Murang'a University of Technology is committed to knowledge creation and advancement through innovative strategies and technologies for prosperity.

1.8 Value Statements

Value statements constitute a set of beliefs and standards of behavior that drive MUT's agenda. They are essential and must be upheld as they are key to corporate culture and identity. The following are our values:

Innovation and Creativity

We are committed to delivering innovative solutions in delivery of our services.

Professionalism - We strive to uphold professionalism in whatever we do. We will stand ethical scrutiny by being committed to high standards of excellence in our day-to-day operations.

Teamwork - We promote respect and unity of purpose among staff as well as promoting mutual exchange of information and experiences.

Integrity - Integrity Promote honesty and strong moral principles and moral uprightness among staff and stakeholders

Fairness and non-discrimination - Promote equity, diversity and inclusivity

Freedom of Inquiry and Expression - We encourage our staff to engage in free and independent thinking.



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2.0 ACADEMIC SCHOOLS

Murang'a University of Technology currently hosts nine academic schools which are;

- i. School of Computing and Information Technology
- ii. School of Pure, Applied and Health Sciences
- iii. School of Business and Economics
- iv. School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
- v. School of Engineering and Technology
- vi. School of Education
- vii. School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences
- viii. School of Health Sciences
- ix. School of Humanities and Social Sciences

2.1 School of Computing and Information Technology

The School of Computing and Information Technology is made up of two departments;

1. Department of Computer Science and
2. Department of Information Technology.

Currently the School offers 2 PhD programmes, 2 Master programmes, 5 undergraduate programmes, 3 Diplomas and 1 Certificate course. The School is a regional leader in teaching and research for students in undergraduate and postgraduate levels. Academic programmes in the School of Computing and Information Technology are designed to develop core competencies and students are exposed to the many facets of computing and IT and gain specialty in computing science, software engineering, database design, networking, computer security & forensics and more. Students get to do what they love in a fast-paced, innovative industry that values forward-thinking professionals. The school offers several courses and different programmes that can be completed both full time and part-time.

2.2 School of Pure, Applied and Health Sciences

School of Pure, Applied and Health Sciences (also referred to as School of Pure, Health & Applied Sciences on its dedicated page) currently has three (3) departments:

1. Department of Physical and Biological Sciences,
2. Department of Mathematics and Actuarial Sciences and
3. Department of Medical Laboratory.

The school offers both undergraduate and postgraduate degree programmes (as well as TVET programmes) in the area of Pure, Applied and Health Sciences. The School of Pure, Applied and Health Sciences strives to train and develop competences most needed for those who work in industries, financial, health, learning and Research institutions in Kenya and abroad. It is one of the pioneer schools in the University, having been established in 2013 at the inception of the University.



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2.3 School of Business and Economics

The School of Business and Economics has two departments;

1. Department of Commerce and
2. Department of Human Resource Management.

The School was established in 2013 and graduated its first batch of graduates in 2017. It has grown and currently has 31 academic staff members. The School offers undergraduate and postgraduate academic programmes with various specialisations, including Open, Distance, and e-Learning study modes. It also undertakes research, innovation and consultancy activities. The school aims at producing competent professionals who are adequately trained to meet the challenges posed by the turbulent business environment.

2.4 School of Hospitality and Tourism Management

The School of Hospitality and Tourism Management has one department; Department of Hospitality, Travel and Tourism Management. The School is the academic leader in Hospitality and Tourism Management, within the Central Kenya Region and beyond. It is one of the oldest academic units, having been established as the Department of Institutional Management which has since grown into a full School. The Hospitality & Tourism industry is one of the largest foreign exchange earners in Kenya, contributing 10% to GDP.

Murang'a University's School of Hospitality and Tourism Management has identified gaps in the sector and is developing solutions and new knowledge through innovations in tourism and product development to enhance competitiveness of both destinations and enterprises. The School offers market-driven programmes ranging from Certificate to PhD level. The vision of the school is to educate the current and next generation of hospitality and tourism managers with the current and best practices in the industry.

2.5 School of Engineering and Technology

The School of Engineering and Technology constitutes of three departments:

1. Department of Building and Civil Engineering
2. Department of Electrical & Electronics Engineering
3. Department of Mechanical Engineering

The school offers Undergraduate programmes, Postgraduate programmes as well as Diploma and Certificate Programmes (including MUT TVET Programmes). The School was started as one of the pioneer schools of Murang'a University of Technology. It aims to be recognised internationally as a centre of excellence in Engineering and Technology and to build engineering capacity for national development and wealth creation through training of highly skilled workforce in engineering and technology, research, consultancy and extension services, working towards achieving Vision 2030. High-impact research at undergraduate and graduate levels equips students with advanced skills for a highly competitive market.



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2.6 School of Education

The School of Education has two departments:

1. Department of Curriculum, Instruction and Administration
2. Department of Technology Education

The School focuses on preparing competent educators and education professionals through high-quality teaching, research, and innovation in curriculum development, instructional strategies, educational administration, and technology integration in education. It equips students with modern pedagogical skills, leadership abilities, and 21st-century competencies required in the dynamic education sector.

2.7 School of Humanities and Social Sciences

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences has two departments:

1. Department of Humanities
2. Department of Social Sciences

The School strives to be on the cutting edge of successful interaction of teaching and research in Humanities and Social Science related disciplines. The students in the school are endowed with critical thinking, creative expression, and intellectual curiosity. In classrooms, laboratories, studios, and on stage, students are prepared for a variety of careers, and they are equipped to prosper in an unpredictable future. Further, students are exposed to the 21st century skills to prepare them to be well rounded to work in diverse fields such as Social Work, Community Public Service, International Organizations, Corporations, Community Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Academic and Research bodies.

2.8 School of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences

The School of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences (SAES) is the newest school in Murang'a University of Technology. It has two departments:

1. Department of Plant and Animal Sciences
2. Department of Agricultural Economics and Extension.

SAES offers comprehensive curricula from certificate to postgraduate studies in agricultural education, environmental sciences, agribusiness, and emerging areas such as climate-smart agriculture. The school stands as a beacon of knowledge and innovation in the fields of agriculture and environmental sciences. Its mandate is aligned with the university's mission of advancing knowledge through teaching, training, learning, research, innovation, consultancy and community engagement for sustainable development. Programmes focus on integrating human progress with nature amid challenges like population growth, changing land use, and climate impacts. The school collaborates on projects such as the MUT Smart Climate Agriculture Project and hosts events including the Kilimo Festival.



2.9 School of Health Sciences

The School of Health Sciences is one of the most dynamic and impactful academic divisions of the University. It has four departments:

1. Department of Medical Laboratory and Pharmaceutical Sciences
2. Department of Nursing
3. Department of Public and Community Health
4. Department of Clinical Medicine.

The School is dedicated to advancing health education, research, and practice. Its mission is to nurture skilled, ethical, and compassionate professionals who will contribute meaningfully to the health sector both locally and globally. It develops healthcare education together with healthcare research and community service programmes. The programmes prepare students to become skilled and ethical healthcare professionals through practical training, research activities and community service, enabling them to create positive changes in hospitals, laboratories, community spaces and healthcare organisations. All listed programmes are offered at the Bachelor of Science level (4 years).

3. GENERAL STUDENTS' WELFARE

General students' welfare at MUT revolves around the following issues;

3.1 Students' Governance

The student governance is very critical to the University. Students' welfare affairs are championed through Murang'a University of Technology Students Organization (MUTSO).

3.2 Students' Health

MUT has a Health Unit managed by qualified Health Practitioners and offers basic primary health care and counseling to students. The students' Health Unit is operational 24 hours. All students whose medical cases cannot be managed in the University Health Unit are referred to specific hospitals or for a consultant's opinion. The cost of such referrals is covered by the patients' medical insurance firm. A medical insurance that is acceptable in Kenya should be sent to the University one month prior to arrival.

3.3 Students' Counselling

Counseling is an integral part of student welfare services. The Counselling Services are provided by professionally trained staff and the counseling sessions are strictly confidential.



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3.4 Students' Accommodation Services

The University accommodates willing students in its Hostels which have shared facilities. Accommodation can be arranged in our student's hostels on campus at a cost of USD 15 per month. However, there is an option of living in off-campus Hostels (some with shared facilities and others self-contained). The off-campus hostels have been vetted and recommended by the University Management for students' accommodation. The cost for off campus hostels ranges between USD 36 – 88 per month. Serviced apartments are also available.

3.5 Catering services

The University has food services offered for students in the dining hall on pay as you eat basis. In addition, there is a staff cafeteria providing a variety of meals to members of the University community and visitors at an affordable price.

3.6 Sports, clubs and Recreation Activities

The Office of the Dean of Students work closely with the University Sports officer to facilitate various sports, clubs and recreation activities. Students are encouraged to participate in the planned activities.

3.7 Climate in Murang'a County

The warm season lasts from January to March and the cold season lasts from June to August which is the 'Kenya's winter season' and it's usually cold and rainy. Warm clothing is required during this season.

3.8 Facilities in the University vicinity

The following facilities are available within Murang'a Town, a short distance from the University;

- Supermarkets
- Banks (with ATM facilities)
- Hotels
- Serviced Apartments
- Police Station.
- Off-campus Hostels recommended by the University for students' accommodation.

3.9 Students' Safety

Students' safety and security in the University is paramount. We have a Security Unit headed by the Chief Security Officer (C.S.O). The security office provides a safe and healthy living environment for the University community 24 hours a day. Students are advised to report any state of emergency or incident to the security office without delay.



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An emergency telephone number will be provided upon arrival at the University. However, whether within or outside the University, all international students are advised to practice maximum personal safety and take proper care of their personal belongings. Here are some useful security tips:

- Be cautious of areas where you are likely to be victimized.
- Do not use short cuts, narrow alleys or poorly lit streets and try not to travel alone at night.
- Do not discuss travel plans or other personal matters with strangers.
- Beware of strangers who approach you, offering bargains or to be your guide. The University will allocate you a guide.
- Make a note of emergency telephone numbers you may need.

3.10 Religion

Kenya is a diverse nation with various religious groups which enjoy freedom of worship. The major religions practiced in Kenya include Christianity, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. There are available places of worship in Murang'a Town and various Associations/Societies in the University like Catholic Action, Christian Union, MUT Muslim Association (MUTMA). All students are encouraged to attend a worship service of their religious affiliation.

4. LOCAL KISWAHILI UTILITY WORDS

It is important to learn a few phrases in the local Swahili language so that you can signal your need for help, the police or doctor.

The general greetings is 'Hello' normally responded to with 'Jambo'.

'Habari' is also general greeting - meaning 'how are you' - usually responded to with 'mzuri' - meaning 'fine or doing well'.

Others:

English

Kiswahili

A friend, Pal	- Rafiki
Chicken	- Kuku
Class	- Darasa
Coffee	- Kahawa
Cold	- Baridi
Come	- Kuja
Doctor	- Daktari
Food	- Chakula
Goodbye	- Kwaheri



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House	-	Nyumba
Money	-	Pesa
Motorcycle	-	Piki piki
Rice	-	Mchele
No	-	Apana
School, College	-	Chuo
Sorry	-	Pole
Tea	-	Chai
Thank you	-	Asante
Toilet	-	Choo
Welcome	-	Karibu
Work, Job	-	Kazi
Sickness	-	Ugonjwa
Bus	-	Basi
Danger	-	Hatari
Day	-	Mchana
Driver	-	Dereva
Joy, happiness	-	Furaha
Laundry	-	Dobi
Medicine	-	Dawa
Morning	-	Asubuhi
Paper	-	Karatasi
Night	-	Usiku
Okay	-	Sawa
Permission	-	Ruhusa
Road	-	Barabara
Write	-	Andika
Warning	-	Onyo
Cooked corn meal	-	Ugali
Small bus	-	Matatu
Roast meat	-	Nyama choma
Let's go	-	Twende
Wait	-	Ngonja
Simba	-	Lion
No worry	-	Hakuna matata
Yes	-	Ndio

