Malawi University of
Science and Technology

ADMISSION OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS FOR THE 2026/27 ACADEMIC YEAR

The Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) invites applications from qualified and motivated Malawians and non-Malawians for admission into its postgraduate programmes for the September 2026 intake. A limited number of spaces is available for applicants who meet the entry requirements and are able to pay the prescribed fees.

1.0 POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

1.1 Masters Programmes

1.1.1 Master of Science in Medical Microbiology

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters. In the first year, students take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. The lectures will be offered on a full-time basis during which the candidates will periodically be taught and allocated time to work on assignments after classes. During the second semester of the second year, candidates will undertake a research project which is relevant to Medical Microbiology. At the end of the project, the candidates will submit a well-structured Dissertation that has been reviewed and approved by their supervisors.

1.1.2 Master of Science in Diagnostic Ultrasound

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters. In the first year, students take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. The lectures will be offered on full-time basis during which the students cover all the modules

allocated for the specific semester and are allocated time to do assignments. Due to the nature of the programme, candidates will spend substantial amount of time conducting medical imaging practical sessions. In the second year, candidates will conduct a research project under the supervision of an expert in imaging field focusing on diagnostic ultrasound. At the end of the project, the candidates will submit a well-structured Dissertation that has been reviewed and approved by their supervisors.

1.1.3 Master of Science in Infection and Immunity

This is a two-year programme that is offered for over four semesters. In the first year, students take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. The lectures will be offered on a full-time basis during which the candidates will periodically be taught and allocated time to work on assignments after classes. During the second semester of the second year, candidates will undertake a research project which is relevant to Infection and Immunity. At the end of the project, the candidates will submit a well-structured Dissertation that has been reviewed and approved by their supervisors.

1.1.4 MSc in Disaster Risk Management

The programme is aimed at building capacity and expertise in managing disaster risks and dealing with disasters. It will impart knowledge and skills for minimizing both economic and human losses arising from natural and anthropogenic hazards. The programme is designed to train professionals and equip them with in-depth knowledge and skills to deal with disasters and their interrelated global issues in the areas of climate change, global warming and socio-economic implications. This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters. In the first year, students take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures, which build upon the prior knowledge and experience of the students with a relevant undergraduate degree in the fields of geography, earth sciences, climate sciences, resource/agricultural economics, social sciences, environmental sciences, water resources and other related fields. Those with an Honours degree in the fields listed above shall also be eligible for enrolment/admission. In the second year, students undertake research in a related area of interest to them.

1.1.5 Master of Science in One Health

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students undertake a research project focusing on the One Health triad (human health, animal health and ecosystem health). The One Health curriculum is to build capacity and expertise that can address emerging issues of ecosystems, animal and human health to minimize both economic and human losses due to crises arising from natural and anthropogenic situations. The specific objective is to train and educate workforces, who are equipped to deal with the interrelated and interconnected challenges of human, animal and environmental health. 'One Health' is a public health approach which promotes the health of humans, animals and the environment in all policies, practices and

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programmes. It is closely linked to the ecological health with the underlying premise that the health and well-being of humans and animals (including livestock) cannot be sustained if the planet is polluted.

1.1.6 Master of Science in Innovation

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters. In the first year, students take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures. The lectures are on block release and students are periodically taught and also given time to work on assignments at home. In the second year, students undertake a research project focusing on product or process innovation and submit a Dissertation.

1.1.7 Master of Science in Entrepreneurship

This is a two-year programme aimed at equipping students with knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to survive and thrive in business to propel Malawi and the region to greater socio-economic heights. The programme is offered over four semesters. During first year, students take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures. The lectures are on block release and students are periodically taught and also given time to work on assignments at home. In the second year, students undertake a research project focusing on entrepreneurship and submit a Dissertation.

1.1.8 Master of Business Leadership

This postgraduate programme targets applicants that are working in highly dynamic modern organizations that require dynamic and robust leaders with strong skills in business leadership. Graduates will acquire management skills, and the ability to flourish in a dynamic global environment with global teams that are vibrant and challenging. The graduates will further be able to strategically assess and analyze their business and manage new business challenges ahead of time to enable growth and profitability of their businesses. This is a two-year programme that will be offered over four semesters. During first year, students will take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures. The lectures are on block release and students will periodically be taught and also given time to work on assignments at home. In the second year, students will undertake a research project focusing on business leadership and submit a Dissertation.

1.1.9 Master of Science in Mathematical Modelling

This is a two-year programme that serves as a follow-up to Bachelor of Science in the fields of Mathematics, Physics, Statistics, Economics, Engineering, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Technical Education with honours or minors in Mathematics. This programme has focused on studies in the scientific fields. Students on this programme are expected to learn how to apply mathematics or its principles to solve practical problems within their field of study, for instance, finance, insurance, business, ecology, environment, computer science, health sciences and others. During first year, students will take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures. The lectures are on block release and students will periodically be taught and also given time

to work on assignments at home. In the second year, students will undertake a research project that will involve mathematical modelling in any scientific field of their interest and submit a Dissertation.

1.1.10 Master of Engineering in Applied Chemical Engineering

The programme aims at addressing a shortfall in human resource needs in Chemical Engineering for industrial development in Malawi and beyond. It will be offered on block release using blended learning methods. The face-to-face approach for taught courses in the first year will be limited to two weeks per semester, whilst the rest of the contacts with students will be virtual. The programme's duration is two years and students in the second year will conduct a research project in Chemical Engineering related area and submit a Dissertation.

1.1.11 Master of Science in Computer Science (by Research)

Computing is a key enabler of any modern knowledge-based economy as it opens new channels and means of acquiring knowledge and information exchange in various sectors of an economy. In Malawi, there is a need for skilled human resource that can create advanced computing artefacts for propelling a knowledge-based economy. This programme aims at producing locally, computer scientists that have mastered advanced practical principles of computer science and its sub-branches to positively contribute to the creation of tools for a vibrant knowledge-based economy in Malawi and beyond. This two-year programme is by research, but students will take two pre-requisite courses and participate in seminars as they work on their dissertations. The students will conduct a research project in Computer Science and submit a Dissertation.

1.1.12 Master of Science in Data Science

As the Fourth Industrial Revolution unfolds, it has become commonplace to refer to data as the "new oil" of the global economy. Data scientists are the talent that provides the ability to extract, refine and deploy this new source of value for decision making in the global economy and even within the context of Malawi. The programme is designed to help the graduate student master advanced practical principles of data science and its related courses, including machine learning, data mining, business intelligence, big data analytics, data management and their applications. It is a two-year taught programme. During first year, students will take coursework using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures. In second year, students will conduct a research project in Data Science and submit a Dissertation.

1.1.13 Master of Science in Information Technology (by Research)

Information Technology (IT) concerns the usage of computer technologies to solve problems in various contexts including business settings. The aim of this programme is to produce high calibre graduates equipped with advanced knowledge and practical skills in information technology which will enable them to resourcefully and cost-effectively apply information technology tools, at their disposal, in solving real-life problems in Malawi and beyond. This two-year programme is by research. Students

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will, however, take two pre-requisite courses and will also be required to participate in seminars as they work on their dissertations. The dissertation will be on a research topic in IT.

1.1.14 Master of Engineering (MEng) in Biomedical Engineering

This is a two-year postgraduate engineering programme that is offered over four semesters. In the first year, students will learn different modules and carry out one research project using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures. The lectures will be offered on a full-time basis during which the candidates will periodically be taught and allocated time to work on assignments after classes. During the second year, candidates will carry out a medical research project and attend biomedical engineering seminars. It targets those with first degrees from accredited institutions in areas such as Biomedical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Medicine, Biomedical Sciences or Life Sciences and any other BSc or BEng qualifications in relevant engineering, medicine, and life science fields.

1.1.15 Master of Science in Biodiversity Informatics

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. Biodiversity Informatics is an emerging field that looks at applying modern computer techniques to ecology, biogeography, and species/taxonomy information. The programme aims to equip students with skills in mobilizing, managing, publishing and using biodiversity data to inform decision making processes in conservation, agriculture, water resource management, spatial planning and health. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students carry out dedicated research leading to an MSc thesis.

1.1.16 Master of Arts in Music

This is a two-year hybrid programme delivered across four semesters using a flexible combination of face-to-face, online and blended teaching approaches. The Master of Arts in Music is an interdisciplinary programme that explores advanced knowledge and practical skills across three pathways: Applied Ethnomusicology, Music Technology & Enterprise, and Creativity & Performance. The programme equips students with competencies in contemporary music scholarship, cultural and creative industry practices, music technology, digital production, ethnographic research, archiving, choreography, and performance innovation. It prepares graduates to analyse, create, manage, and disseminate diverse musical expressions while contributing to cultural preservation, industry development, and creative entrepreneurship. In the first year, students undertake core and pathway-specific coursework delivered through lectures, practical laboratories, seminars, and supervised field activities. The second year is dedicated to independent research or innovative project work leading to an examinable dissertation or publishable manuscript.

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1.1.17 Master of Science Communication

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. Science Communication is an important field that focuses on communicating scientific knowledge, research findings, innovations and technical information to different audiences in clear, accurate and engaging ways. The programme aims to equip students with skills in science writing, public engagement, media communication, digital communication, policy communication and the translation of complex scientific ideas into accessible information for decision making. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students carry out dedicated research leading to an MSc thesis.

1.1.18 Master of Science in Water Utilization, Waste and Health Engineering

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. Water Utilization, Waste and Health Engineering is a multidisciplinary field that focuses on sustainable water use, wastewater management, sanitation, public health protection and environmental pollution control. The programme targets individuals with an undergraduate degree and practical experience in Water Science, Water Engineering, Civil Engineering, Irrigation Engineering, Environmental Science, Environmental Health, Chemistry, Microbiology, Environmental Engineering, Chemical Engineering and related fields. Those with an honours degree in the aforementioned fields are also eligible. The programme aims to equip students with skills in water treatment, waste management, environmental remediation, health risk assessment, pollution monitoring and the design of engineering solutions that support safe water access and improved public and environmental health. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students carry out dedicated research leading to an MSc thesis.

1.1.19 Master of Science Environmental Engineering

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. Environmental Engineering is a practical and applied field that focuses on developing engineering solutions for environmental protection, pollution control, waste management, water and air quality improvement and sustainable resource use. The programme aims to equip students with skills in environmental assessment, treatment technologies, pollution prevention, environmental monitoring, climate-resilient infrastructure and sustainable engineering design. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students carry out dedicated research leading to an MSc thesis.

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1.1.20 Master of Science in Power and Energy Systems

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. Power and Energy Systems is a specialized field that focuses on the generation, transmission, distribution, management and sustainable use of electrical and energy systems. The programme aims to equip students with skills in power system analysis, renewable energy technologies, energy efficiency, smart grids, energy planning and the management of reliable and sustainable energy infrastructure. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students carry out dedicated research leading to an MSc thesis.

1.1.21 Master of Science in Minerals and Mining Governance

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. Minerals and Mining Governance is an interdisciplinary field that focuses on the sustainable management, regulation and governance of natural resources such as minerals, land, water, forests and energy resources. The programme aims to equip students with skills in resource policy analysis, environmental governance, natural resource management, stakeholder engagement, sustainability assessment and responsible decision making in the use of earth resources. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students carry out dedicated research leading to an MSc thesis.

1.1.22 Master of Science in Geo-Information Science

This is a two-year programme that is offered over four semesters using a combination of face-to-face and online lectures. Geo-Information Science is a modern field that focuses on the collection, analysis, modelling, visualization and application of spatial data to support planning and decision making. The programme aims to equip students with skills in geographic information systems, remote sensing, spatial analysis, geospatial modelling, cartography, database management and the use of location-based information in areas such as environmental management, urban planning, disaster risk reduction, agriculture and natural resource management. It is offered through a blended format, with course work covered in the first year using online classes and pre-agreed face-to-face practical sessions. In the second year, students carry out dedicated research leading to an MSc thesis.

1.2 PhD Programmes

1.2.1 PhD in Applied Mathematics

The Applied Mathematics doctorate programme runs for three (full time) or four years (part time) and is aimed at enabling learners to conduct advanced applied research in any scientific field such as Engineering, Medicine, Physics, Biology, Computer Sciences and others under the supervision of advisors. There is now an increased need for experts to analyze collected data in line with international standards in this new information

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age. Hence, mathematical and statistical analyses have become an indispensable element for various industries. During first year, students will take taught courses using a combination of face-to-face and virtual lectures. The lectures are on block release and students will periodically be taught and given time to work on assignments at home. From years 2 to 4, students will conduct a research project that will apply Mathematics in any scientific field of their interest and submit a Dissertation.

1.2.2 PhD in Business Leadership

This is a rigorous research-based doctoral programme designed to develop advanced professional expertise and high-level research competencies in contemporary business leadership. The programme prioritizes the generation of scholarly and practice-oriented research that addresses leadership challenges in Malawi, the region and the international business landscape. It aims to equip students with strong analytical and strategic decision-making capabilities applicable to complex and evolving organisational contexts. The PhD in Business Leadership runs for three years full-time or five years part-time. In the first year, students participate in doctoral-level seminars, research discussions, and academic workshops that build foundational research skills and deepen their understanding of leadership scholarship. These seminars are delivered through a combination of face-to-face and virtual block-release sessions, supported by independent study. From Years 2 to Year 5, candidates focus exclusively on supervised research, leading to the development, submission, and defense of a full doctoral dissertation in Business Leadership. This structure ensures that graduates emerge as competent researchers, strategic thinkers, and thought leaders capable of advancing leadership practice and contributing to national and global knowledge system.

1.2.3 PhD in Innovation and Development

The PhD in Innovation and Development is a rigorous, research-intensive doctoral programme designed to cultivate advanced expertise in innovation systems, development policy, and transformative leadership across socio-economic sectors. The programme emphasises the production of high-quality, interdisciplinary research that addresses Malawi's development challenges, regional priorities and global innovation agendas. It equips students with cutting-edge analytical skills, critical thinking abilities, and practical competencies required to drive inclusive and sustainable development through innovation. The programme runs for three years full-time or five years part-time. During the first year, students engage in doctoral-level seminars, advanced theory sessions and methodological workshops that strengthen their research capacity and deepen their understanding of innovation, development theory, and policy linkages. These learning activities are delivered through a blended model combining face-to-face sessions, virtual engagements, and block-release seminars. From Years 2 to Year 5, candidates focus exclusively on supervised independent research, culminating in the development, submission, and defense of a doctoral thesis in Innovation and Development. This structure ensures that graduates emerge as skilled researchers, innovation strategists, and development practitioners capable of shaping policies,

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leading institutional innovation agendas, and contributing meaningfully to national and global knowledge systems.

1.2.4 PhD in One Health

"One Health" is a public health approach focusing on the paradigm shift of the interrelationships between veterinary and human health, and environmental health, and brings the understanding of these three disciplines to a level where the assessment of the implications of any change in sub-system or a policy on the entire system. One Health is closely linked to the ecological health with the underlying premise that the health and well-being of humans and animals cannot be sustained if the planet is polluted. This is a three-year programme that is offered through course work for the first six months and thereafter intensive research. Students undertake a research project focusing on the increasing interactions between humans and animals within the environment and numerous factors exacerbating ecological (environmental) health and, the emergence, re-emergence and spread of infectious diseases and other growing global threats to human health and socioeconomic wellbeing which necessitate a multisectoral and multidisciplinary collaboration and coordination on prevention through environmental management.

1.2.5 PhD in Maternal and Neonatal Health

In Malawi, like in most countries in the region, most maternal deaths are mainly attributed to direct obstetric causes such as haemorrhage, sepsis, complications of abortion and hypertensive disorders. However, the fight against high Maternal Mortality Rates (MMRs) requires a multidisciplinary approach. This programme is aimed at employing research in various thematic areas to investigate the various contributing factors towards maternal mortality. Similarly, neonatal mortality, which is estimated at close to 30 deaths per 1,000 births, is still higher compared to the global ratio of 18 deaths per 1,000. There is, therefore, still need for multidisciplinary research to investigate the various factors that contribute to this high ratio in Malawi such as asphyxia, premature birth and infections. The programme will provide a platform for such studies. This is a three-year full time PhD programme which will build upon candidates' prior knowledge and experience in specific health-related thematic areas. As such, the programme will consider applications from prospective candidates who are already trained to a Master's level in any of the following thematic areas: Medical Microbiology, Immunology, Ultrasound and Radiography, Environmental Health, Pathology, Nursing and/or Midwifery, Obstetrics and Gynaecology or Family Medicine.

1.2.6 PhD in Science Communication

The PhD in Science Communication is a rigorous, research-intensive doctoral programme designed to develop advanced expertise in the communication of scientific knowledge, research dissemination and public engagement with science. The programme emphasises the production of high-quality, interdisciplinary research that addresses challenges in science literacy, policy communication, media engagement and the translation of complex scientific information for diverse audiences. It equips students

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with advanced analytical skills, critical thinking abilities, and practical competencies required to design, evaluate and lead effective science communication strategies. The programme runs for three years full-time or five years part-time. During the first year, students engage in doctoral-level seminars, advanced theory sessions and methodological workshops that strengthen their research capacity and deepen their understanding of science communication theory, ethics and practice. These learning activities are delivered through a blended model combining face-to-face sessions, virtual engagements and block-release seminars. From Years 2 to Year 5, candidates focus exclusively on supervised independent research, culminating in the development, submission, and defense of a doctoral thesis in Science Communication. Graduates emerge as skilled researchers, science communication strategists and policy advisors capable of influencing public understanding and engagement with science at national and global levels.

1.2.7 PhD in Geo-Information Science

The PhD in Geo-Information Science is a rigorous, research-intensive doctoral programme designed to cultivate advanced expertise in spatial data collection, analysis, modelling, and the application of geospatial technologies for decision making. The programme emphasises high-quality, interdisciplinary research that addresses environmental management, urban planning, disaster risk reduction, natural resource governance, and spatial policy challenges. It equips students with cutting-edge analytical skills, computational proficiency, and critical thinking abilities required to develop innovative geospatial solutions for complex societal problems. The programme runs for three years full-time or five years part-time. During the first year, students engage in doctoral-level seminars, advanced theory sessions, and methodological workshops that strengthen their research capacity and deepen their understanding of geospatial theory, remote sensing, GIS technologies, and spatial modelling. These learning activities are delivered through a blended model combining face-to-face sessions, virtual engagements, and block-release seminars. From Years 2 to 5, candidates focus exclusively on supervised independent research, culminating in the development, submission, and defense of a doctoral thesis in Geo-Information Science. Graduates emerge as expert researchers, geospatial analysts, and policy advisors capable of applying geoinformatics to support evidence-based planning, resource management, and sustainable development globally.

Admission Requirements

1, For applicants to the Master's degree programmes, a good Bachelor's degree from a recognized and accredited university in the relevant field of the programme applied for, is required. As for applicants to the PhD programmes, a good Master's degree from a recognized and accredited university in the relevant fields of the programme applied for, is required. In addition, applicants for the selected **PhD programmes** will undergo further scrutiny through a **formal interview process** before final selection into the programme.

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2, PhD applicants must list the names of **two potential supervisors** in their research concept note and provide their respective contact details. This requirement ensures that applicants have identified appropriate academic mentorship aligned with their proposed research area.
3, At least two years of work experience in a relevant field.
4, A letter of undertaking to pay the required fees from the applicants or their parent/guardian or sponsor with evidence of reliable source of income.

Fees

The tuition fee for all postgraduate programmes at MUST is set at **US$3,500** or the equivalent in Malawi Kwacha per academic year. This fee can be paid in instalments over each semester.

How to Apply

To be considered for enrolment, all prospective applicants must complete the online postgraduate application form available at https://admissions.must.ac.mw/. A step-by-step guide to the application is available at https://admissions.must.ac.mw/help. Applicants who need further assistance with the online process may request guidance by emailing admissions@must.ac.mw. As part of the online application, applicants must upload the following mandatory documents:

1, A 500-word motivation essay outlining academic background, professional experience, reasons for pursuing the programme, and how the qualification supports future career goals.
2, A one-page research concept note structured with: Title, Background, Problem Statement, Objectives, Methods and Expected Impact.
3, Certified copies of academic certificates
4, Copies of academic transcripts
5, Proof of funding, such as a sponsorship letter or financial records for self-sponsored applicants
6, Reference letters
- Master's applicants: Two references (one academic and one professional)
- PhD applicants: Three references (two academic and one professional)

8, An original bank deposit slip of a non-refundable application fee:
- K20,000 for Malawian applicants
- US$50 for all non-Malawian applicants

9, A detailed curriculum vitae

Note: Payment of the non-refundable application fee must be deposited into one of the bank accounts listed below

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Bank Name: National Bank
Branch: Limbe
Account Name: MUST Collections
Account Type: Current Account
Account Number: 1008811427
OR
Bank Name: FDH Bank
Bank Branch: Limbe
Account Name: MUST Collections
Account Type: Current Account
Account Number: 1070000218137

Deadlines for submission

All applications for the various programmes and admission categories must be submitted **no later than 1st July, 2026**. Applicants are strongly encouraged to complete their submissions well before the deadline to allow adequate time for processing and verification.

For inquiries or additional information, please contact:

University Registrar
Malawi University of Science and Technology
P.O. Box 5196, Limbe
MALAWI
Email: registrar@must.ac.mw
Copy to: admissions@must.ac.mw, pgcoordinator@must.ac.mw

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