



## Masters of Science in Pharmacognosy & Natural Medicine Sciences

### Executive Summary

Natural drugs are substances occurring in nature or natural sources that can be used to diagnose, treat and prevent disease in humans and animals.

The world is moving to green /smart technologies away from fossil products that damage the environment and are less compatible with human or animal life. Natural drug products and biopharmaceuticals are on increasing demand, and African countries have a big comparative advantage over other continents due to the rich yet unexploited biodiversity. Africa still has many undiscovered medicinal plants, fungi, bacteria etc. that could be sources of novel healthcare products.

A Master of Science in Pharmacognosy and Natural Medicine Sciences is relevant for Uganda and Africa with abundant biodiversity because it promotes discovery, identification, conservation, protection and sustainable utilization of the flora and fauna for healthcare in humans and animals.

The two-year full-time program, with a minimum graduation load of 75 Credit Units is developed following the Pharmbiotechnology and Traditional Medicine Centre of Excellence mission of solving one of Africa's regional development challenges i.e. the high disease burden and low productivity based on a World Bank report. This program therefore is intended to build a critical mass of highly needed skilled graduates to drive the exponentially growing demand for natural drugs, as well as other healthcare products.

The mission of this program is to provide the graduate with the relevant and practical knowledge base, skills, attitudes, ethics and values to engage in advanced level of natural medicines research, product development, production and business practice.

The curriculum is unique in that it combines traditional Pharmacognosy, natural medicine knowledge and pharmaceutical biotechnology which enable the graduate to be an expert that can translate natural drugs or preparations thereof from field to shelves. Thus the philosophy behind this program - '**natural drugs from field to shelves**'.

At the end of the 2-year program, the graduate would have acquired specialized knowledge, skills and competencies in the areas of Pharmacognosy and Natural Medicine Science, and would be able to chart careers pathways in both the public and private sectors, including but not limited to the following areas: Research and medical Institutions, Pharma companies, nutraceutical and phytopharmaceutical companies, herbal medicine industries, cosmetic industries, health ministries, Drug Regulatory Agencies, Businesses and supply chain units such as Herbal and food supplement stores, pharmacy and medical Teaching institutions, just to name a few.



## CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Applications are invited from eligible candidates for the following programmes offered at Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST), Department of Pharmacy, Faculty of Medicine.

### MASTER OF SCIENCE IN PHARMACOGNOSY & NATURAL MEDICINE SCIENCE

Programme Duration: **2 YEARS** Minimum CGPA: **2.80**

#### Minimum Entry Requirements

- Uganda Certificate of Education (UCE) or its equivalent with at least 5 passes obtained at the same sitting.
- Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) or its equivalent with at least 2 principal passes obtained at the same sitting.
- A Bachelor's degree from an accredited degree awarding institution in one of the following fields;
  - Health Sciences
  - Chemistry or
  - Biological Science

#### How to Apply

- Interested applicants should pick application forms from and return them to the Directorate of Research and Graduate Training or download forms online at: [registrar.must.ac.ug/downloads](http://registrar.must.ac.ug/downloads).
- Submit a motivation letter indicating why you are interested in pursuing the course.
- Submit 2 letters of recommendations from employer and former university.
- Submit a 2-page concept paper of a proposed research topic in the field of interest. The concept paper should have the following structure:
  - Background
  - Problem Statement
  - Objectives
  - proposed methods
  - Significance
  - References

#### Fee Structure

<b>Ugandan and East Africans</b> (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania),	<b>International Students</b> (Rest of Africa and worldwide)
Application Fees Ug. Shs. 52750/=	Application Fees US \$ 50
Tuition Fees Ug. Shs. 1,750,000/= per semester	Tuition Fees Ug. Shs. 2,250 per semester
Functional fees Ug. Shs. 1,270,000 per annum	Functional fees Ug. Shs. 1740 per annum

#### Application fees should be paid to the following accounts

Mbarara University of Science & Technology  
Standard Chartered Bank  
Village Mall Branch, Kampala, Uganda  
Accounts: Uganda Shillings: Ugx: 0102808265800 / United States Dollars: USD: 8702808265800

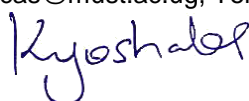
**Key Dates:** **Closing date for applications: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2018**  
**Successful applicants will be contacted on: 28th September 2018**

Applications send per email to: [drgt@must.ac.ug](mailto:drgt@must.ac.ug), copy to [rtamukong@must.ac.ug](mailto:rtamukong@must.ac.ug), and [tolocas@must.ac.ug](mailto:tolocas@must.ac.ug)

#### For further inquiries, contact:

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**And copy:** The Directorate of Research and Graduate Training, [drgt@must.ac.ug](mailto:drgt@must.ac.ug) and The Programme Director – PHARMBIOTRAC, Mbarara University of Science and Technology, P.O. Box 1410, Mbarara, Uganda, Email: [tolocas@must.ac.ug](mailto:tolocas@must.ac.ug), Tel: +256-772-837055



Martha Kyoshaba Twinamasiko  
Academic Registrar