

Victoria varsity embraces diversity

Victoria University is strategically located to serve the needs of its learners. **Owen Wababaza** talked to the acting vice-chancellor, Joseph Nyakana, about the milestones of the university

Tell us a brief background about Victoria University?

Victoria University is a private higher institution of learning located in the heart of Kampala city where excellence is cherished, pursued and celebrated.

As an institution we prioritise student welfare and focus on education that promotes active participants in the transformation of societies. The academics at Victoria University have rich collaborative relations with global scholars with whom they share a commitment to advance knowledge and address challenges in areas as diverse as health sciences, humanities and social sciences, business management, science and technology.

The university boasts of a team of outstanding staff, state of the art learning environment and easily accessible campus, culture, technology, government, business and the economy.

What sets Victoria University apart from other universities?



Acting Vice-Chancellor Joseph Nyakana

Victoria University strives to increase academic excellence. We enhance our distinctive commitment to academic excellence demonstrated by the work of students who take responsibility for their learning and who are encouraged and guided by faculty dedicated to innovative teaching and

actively engaged in scholarly and active work that advances their fields.

In order to help our students, especially those with an international background adapt quickly to life in Kampala, at the beginning of each academic year the university registrar organises a special

introduction programme. Throughout the year social and cultural activities are organised. Activities include sports events, a cultural day, excursions, movies and performances. The students have Café. "Victoria Café gives them space to engage interact and have fun activities that are educational and entertaining.

Victoria University is a highly diverse international community of staff and students from different parts of the globe, which brings together people, ideas and insights in a multi-disciplinary setting which nurtures, fosters and promotes critical thinking and conducts innovative action research into fundamental social problems.

We pride in giving one of the best teaching and learning infrastructure in the country with a rich curriculum to make our students competitive in the job market. The university is equipped with computer labs, a well-stocked library, free wi-fi, ample parking space and the Learning environment is unique and cut out for the international audiences since the classes are not crowded. The classes are fully air

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conditioned, with smart boards and computers in all classes.

The programmes at Victoria University are tailored to addressing Individual needs and community problems. More importantly they are all accredited by National Council for Higher Education and the professional bodies that require certification. This provides for eligibility for entry to other higher degree programmes and other countries worldwide.

We recognise that our students want to make impact in their lives yet the industry needs hands on experience. So, we provide them with mandatory internship placements and possibly a strong network that will make them what they aspire to be.

Tell us about the university's culture?

The university culture of Victoria University encourages global competitiveness, entrepreneurship, team work, creativity and innovation. As a university in the city centre whose students come from different countries encourages and promotes diversity by dedicating a day in the year to learn about each ones culture. In other words Victoria University reflects on its combination of educational excellence, high quality of life and diverse student community.

Giving back to society is at the heart of what our students do and last but not least, 'study while you have fun is the norm'.

What are some of the accredited courses offered at Victoria University and why did you choose such courses.

We created heterogeneity with homogeneity. The programmes blend beyond

functional specialisation, but sector specialisation. We offer foundation, diploma and degree programmes under the Faculties of Business and Management, Health Sciences, Humanities and Social Sciences, Science and Technology and the Department of Petroleum and Energy.

And anything else that you would want to tell the public about Victoria University.

The university has been undergoing a constructive destruction of our own models and approaches. For us to achieve our strategic vision of academic excellence, we acknowledge that it is not a single day phenomena. It is a continuous process. As such new recruitments and reskilling of our faculties has been ongoing. The university council is more active with policy formulation, supervision and hiring of management. It recently hired a new vice-chancellor, who will start work next month. Recruitment of faculty deans, full time faculty and staff is ongoing.

We wish to re-assure our parents and students that all is being done to ensure the students get the best value for their money as far as their education is concerned. What the University Council is looking for in our new vice-chancellor and deans is a leader who, unequivocally shares our passion for excellence — right across the spectrum of basic, applied and policy-focused research, of education and training, and of public engagement and outreach. We need individuals who is capable of delivering in an ever-changing and challenging, higher education environment.



Victoria University has a modern cafe which is open to both students and the public