



## MALAWI UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS TO A GIRLS' SCIENCE CAMP

#### BACKGROUND

The Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST) is the fourth public University in Malawi established under an Act of Parliament number 31 of 2012. It was officially opened on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2014.

So far, MUST has selected five groups of students at undergraduate level. These students have come under normal generic, mature entry and economic fees paying streams. The last two streams also accommodate international students.

Out of its 1,860 students, MUST has 35 percent female student enrolment. Although this trend is not uncommon in science, technology, engineering and Maths-related university programmes in Malawi and beyond, it is not ideal and need to be reversed. Statistics show that girls, for some reason, do not believe that science and technology programmes are for them. As a result, only a few apply for such programmes and even for those that apply, only a few qualify as their grades in the prerequisite science subjects do not meet the criteria. The problem starts as early as primary school. By the time the majority of the girls reach secondary school, they have often socialised to believe that sciences are not for them.

## SCIENCE CAMP

As a progressive and proactive University that prides itself in doing business unusual, the MUST has come up with a number of interventions to motivate and inspire secondary school girls to start liking and later performing well in science related subjects with the aim of increasing their enrolment in those areas at university level. MUST introduced an open day in October 2015 and plans to hold the event annually. MUST will also be reaching out to girls in secondary schools with career guidance and motivational talks.

The above efforts were scaled up in 2016 when MUST introduced a Girls' Science Camp targeting school girls in forms 1 to 3. In 2017, MUST, in conjunction with Women In Science (WiSci) and World Learning, organised a two and half weeks camp that drew participants from the United States of America (USA), Zambia, Tanzania, Liberia, Rwanda, Uganda and the host, Malawi.

The University is running the Girls' Science Camp again this year between 19<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August, (arriving on Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> August and departing on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2018). In addition to motivational talks and career guidance from role models in related fields, there will be lectures conducted by acclaimed experts in Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics, Engineering, Medical Science, Earth and Climate Science, Biology and other fields. The participants will also get hands-on experience in using state of the art science and technology facilities on campus, and given a feel of university life. They will also be given tips on various topics such as how to study, succeeding in school generally and in sciences specifically, life skills, sexual and reproductive health, and life in university. They will also have sports games, cultural evening, visits to industry and excursions.

## HOW TO APPLY

Interested students should apply to express their interest, indicating their name, age, form/class, school, names and contacts of their sponsor i.e. parents or guardians and whether they have attended the camp before or not. The applicants should also indicate whether they will be able to pay the **K100,000** participation fee or not. A limited

number of scholarships to deserving students who cannot afford the fees will be available.

All applications should reach MUST on or before 27<sup>th</sup> July, 2018. Applications should be addressed to the following address:

**The Executive Dean  
Academy of Medical Sciences  
Malawi University of Science and Technology  
P.O Box 5196  
Limbe  
Malawi**

For enquiries, call Yamikani Gama on *0888 554630* or Email: *ygama@must.ac.mw*