



UNIVERSITY OF GHANA SPECIAL REPORTER

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**PROCEEDINGS OF 2021 MATRICULATION
FEBRUARY 6, 2021
(VIRTUAL CEREMONY)**

COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

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ORDER OF PROCEEDINGS

- 9.30 a.m.
- Opening
 - National Anthem
 - Statement of Purpose:
College Secretary
 - Vice-Chancellor’s Address
Delivered by the Provost
 - Administration of Matriculation Oath:
College Secretary
 - Address on Expectations of University
Life: Representative of Matriculants
 - Signing of the Matricula
 - University Anthem

**REGISTRAR'S WELCOME ADDRESS DELIVERED BY
COLLEGE SECRETARY, MRS. MAVIS OTOO-AYEH**

Good morning distinguished ladies and gentlemen.

On behalf of the Management of the University of Ghana, I welcome all of you to the College of Humanities session of the 2021 matriculation ceremony.

Beginning with the 2020-2021 academic year, the University has decided that Matriculation ceremonies would be held on college basis. However, in view of the current state of affairs due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the ceremony is being held virtually. Nevertheless to ensure we are able to maintain some semblance to the physical ceremony, we have invited some students as representatives of the various programmes and courses offered by the College of Humanities to participate in the ceremony.

The purpose of this morning's assembly is to matriculate students who have enrolled to read programmes and courses at the College of Humanities leading to undergraduate and postgraduate degrees, diplomas and certificates at the University of Ghana, in the 2020-2021 academic year.

The conferment of membership status of the University of Ghana on new students is in line with Article 31 of the University of Ghana Act, 2010, Act 806 which states that:

1. A student admitted to the University shall take the Matriculation Oath and sign the Matriculation Register.
2. A student who fails to sign the Matriculation Register may be prevented from graduating by the University.

Visiting students and other short-stay students who are studying at the University for one semester or two semesters are not included in this ceremony. However, such non-matriculated students are expected to observe the same rules and regulations as matriculated students during the period of their studentship.

The ceremony is in three parts.

The first part will be the Vice-Chancellor's address to be delivered on his behalf by the Provost of the College of Humanities, Professor Daniel Frimpong Ofori.

The Provost, will among other things, inform us about the significance of the matriculation oath and lay down in clear terms what the University expects from its students.

During the second part, students will swear the Matriculation Oath to be administered by the College Secretary of the College of Humanities on behalf of the Registrar. We are fortunate to have some freshmen to serve as representatives of the College's student body.

After the Oath, one representative of the students will tell us the expectations of the 2020-2021 cohort of students and ceremonially sign the Matricula.

The third part of the ceremony takes place online. Each student, whether resident or non-resident, is expected to go online and electronically sign the Matriculation Oath. That is the record to confirm that you have enrolled at the University of Ghana.

The College congratulates members of the university community for the various roles played at all the levels in getting students admitted, registered and ready for matriculation.

I will now call on the Provost, Professor Daniel Frimpong Ofori to deliver his address on behalf of the Vice-Chancellor.

Thank you.

**VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS
DELIVERED BY THE PROVOST,
PROF. DANIEL FRIMPONG OFORI**

Vice-Chancellor,
Senior Management of the University,
Deans, Directors and Heads of Unit,
Members of Convocation,
Freshmen and Women,
Parents and Guardians,
Distinguished Guests from all over the world,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

INTRODUCTION

It is with great delight that I welcome you to the matriculation ceremony of the University of Ghana for the 2020-2021 academic year. Today marks the beginning of the university experience of our freshmen and women. I congratulate you on your accomplishments which enabled you to be part of this special event. Today, For the first time in the history of the University, the matriculation ceremony is being organized virtually per the COVID-19 protocol on social distancing. Ordinarily, you would all have gathered in a colourful ceremony on the Legon campus where you could have in-person interactions with your colleagues, lecturers and administrators. Nonetheless, during the next four years, most of you will be a part of the most respected academic community in Ghana; a community which provides an environment for you to have vast opportunities to expand your understanding of society and the world.

Matriculation into the University of Ghana is a statutory gathering to formally induct freshmen and women as Junior Members into this academically stimulating and socially exciting community. The ceremony which marks a special milestone, is also important for the fact that it offers the opportunity for you, newly admitted students, to pledge your loyalty to the authorities of the University through the administration of the Matriculation Oath. We expect that all students would have signed the Matriculation Oath which is a bond of good behaviour and acceptance of the authority of the Vice-Chancellor, the Chief Disciplinary of the University, as well as all other

officers of the University in whom authority has been vested.

In pledging to be of good behaviour, you are committing yourselves to be disciplined and worthy representatives of the University. I expect that matriculants will ponder over the importance of this ceremony and strive to live by the rules and regulations of the University.

ADMISSIONS

Ladies and gentlemen, the University of Ghana has worked with the relevant agencies and has increased its admissions intake this year, following the graduation of the first batch of Senior High School leavers under the Free SHS programme which the President refers to as the Akuffo-Addo graduates. For the 2020/2021 academic year, the University has been able to enrol a total of 15,020 undergraduate students; 49.5% of whom were female and 50.5% male. The breakdown of enrolled students according to Colleges is as follows:

| COLLEGE | NUMBER OF ENROLLED STUDENTS |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| College of Health Sciences | 652 |
| College of Humanities | 8,645 (58%) |
| College of Basic and Applied Sciences | 2,355 |
| College of Education | 3,368 |
| Total | 15,020 |

The University also admitted a significant number of students under the following policies on concessionary admission:

- The Affirmative Action Policy for Women;
- Concession for applicants from Less Endowed Schools;
- The Admission of Student-Athletes;
- The Admission of Students with Special Needs.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The social and cultural diversity that the presence of international students



Professor Daniel Frimpong Ofori
Provost, College of Humanities



Mrs. Mavis Otoo-Ayeh
College Secretary, College of Humanities



**Ebenezer Kakra Arthur delivering an address on the
Expectations of University Life**



Matriculants taking the Matriculation Oath

promotes at the University of Ghana can not be overemphasized. Their presence enhances a learning atmosphere that enables Ghanaian students to share in relevant experiences necessary to operate in a globalised World. The University of Ghana, therefore, attaches great importance to the presence of international students on our campus. Ninety-six students have registered so far for the 2020/2021 academic year. Majority of these students are from the African sub-region while the rest are from Asia, Europe and America. Comparing the number of international students enrolled for the 2020/2021 academic year to that of the previous academic year (409), it is obvious that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on our international students' population this year. We warmly welcome you all and express our appreciation to you for choosing to study at the University of Ghana during these uncertain times. Feel at home and enjoy your stay in Ghana.

ACCOMMODATION

To ensure adequate social distancing during the 2020/2021 academic year in line with COVID-19 safety protocols, two cohorts of students; Levels 100 and 400 are on campus in residence for the first part of the first semester. This arrangement has enabled the University to offer residential accommodation to more first-year students. The traditional halls and the UGEL halls together provided 6,984 beds to fresh students while the private Hostels provided 1,255 beds. A total of 8,239 bed spaces was provided to freshly admitted students.

As part of the University's immediate and long term efforts to provide residential accommodation to as many students as possible (especially newly admitted students), the University has set up a committee which is exploring off-campus facilities to augment the current bed spaces within the University campus. As at the middle of January 2021, more than thirty facility owners within 15 kilometres of the Legon campus have applied to make their facilities available to students of the University from the beginning of the second semester of the 2020/2021 academic year. This option and others will be explored further to help increase bed spaces available to students to ease the challenge associated with residential accommodation on campus in the near future.

FINANCIAL AID

Ladies and gentlemen, The University's Student Financial Aid Office through the benevolence of donors provide full or partial scholarships to needy students for them to gain access to our world-class research intensive University. During the 2019/2020 academic year, the University was able to award a total of GHS 2,796,519.00 (Two Million, Seven Hundred and Ninety-Six Thousand, Five Hundred and Nineteen cedis) to 981 students. We are indeed grateful to all our cherished donors for their regular support and continuous donation to needy-brilliant students of the University of Ghana.

Financial assistance is also available to undergraduate students through the Students' Loan Trust Fund (SLTF). You may contact the Students' Loan Trust Fund to initiate the process of applying for the Students' Loan. The contact details for the fund can be found in your admission letters. The Students Financial Aid Office is located at Bungalow Number 11, East Legon (adjacent to Akuafo Hall Annex A).

POLICIES ON STUDENTS' WELFARE

Conducting business amid a pandemic requires that adequate provisions are made to ensure the health and safety of all students on campus. The University has put in place measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19 among staff and students. I encourage you to adhere to all COVID-19 protocols whilst on campus.

The University of Ghana also has established policies to protect and promote the welfare of its students. This is to ensure that all members of the university operate in an environment free from intimidation, exploitation and abuse. The Anti-Sexual Harassment and Misconduct Policy, the Counselling Policy and the Library Policy are notable examples.

Dear students, please be security conscious throughout your stay on campus. Always secure your valuables appropriately and avoid walking alone in dark places late in the night.

EXCELLENCE AND DISCIPLINE

I want to encourage you to strive for excellence in all that you do. Be determined to always perform above the ordinary. The achievements of those who have gone ahead of you should be your motivation to also work hard to attain laurels for yourselves and the University.

The University is governed by rules and regulations and there are procedures for engaging in various activities. It is your responsibility as students to acquaint yourselves with the regulations and follow the procedures accordingly. Discipline and civility must reflect in all your actions during your stay on campus. Abstain from any kind of anti-social behaviour severe sanctions will be applied for any breaches of UG rules and regulations.

CONCLUSION

As I conclude, I would like to remind all matriculants that your primary aim of coming to this University is to go through your chosen academic programme and graduate with flying colours. Always keep this in mind as you go about your activities on campus. For many of you, this is the first time in your life that you will be truly living independently. This is an opportunity to grow and learn as a person, to discover who you are, and of course to make new friends. Be determined to make your parents and all the people who have sacrificed to enable you to be here proud. Your Lecturers and Administrators will provide you with the needed mentorship to enable you to accomplish your purpose of being here. Do not forget your God while here because God's guidance will lead you to your expected end.

The University's Careers and Counselling Centre is available to offer assistance if required. Activate your University-provided email addresses, do make time to read notices, listen to Radio Univers on 105.7 FM and regularly visit the University's website www.ug.edu.gh since important information will be communicated to you through these media.

COVID-19 is with us and we are learning to live with it until a cure is found. Do not allow yourself to contract the virus because of your carelessness. Adhere to all COVID-19 protocols wherever you find yourself; wash your hands, wear a face mask and maintain a social distance from the next person.

On behalf of the Council of the University, members of Convocation, and on my behalf, I would like to congratulate you on your admission and welcome you once again to the University of Ghana.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**EXPECTATIONS OF UNIVERSITY LIFE DELIVERED BY
MR. EBENEZER KAKRA ARTHUR**

University Officials,
Fellow Matriculants,
Parents and Guardians,
Ladies and Gentlemen;

Good morning,

I deem it a great honour done me to be called upon to deliver a speech on behalf of my fellow matriculants for the 2020/2021 academic year on our expectations about university life. My colleague fresh men and women will all agree with me that gaining admission into the University of Ghana has been a dream we had all been working diligently to achieve for some time now. This dream is now a reality.

We were all very anxious while waiting for the outcome of our applications for admission into the University. We were therefore overwhelmed with excitement when we gained admission. I can vividly remember the joy and excitement in the whole family upon receipt of information about my admission into the University of Ghana. This shows the expectations which our families and loved ones have placed upon us to excel.

Many of us have also come here with expectations of our own. Some are excited that the strict supervision both at home and in the Senior High Schools are not in the University. Most importantly however, we are all excited because we have gotten the opportunity to tap knowledge from our experienced lecturers to build ourselves for the future. It is our expectation that being a world-class University, the standards are very high and that a lot is expected of us if we want to achieve the best. On behalf of my colleagues, I will plead with our lecturers to, as usual, avail themselves for us through our online portals to get the necessary tuition and guidance from them to enable us acquire the requisite knowledge and skills which will enable us compete favourably with our colleague university graduates across the globe.

This is the only way by which we could be well prepared to find space on the job market and also contribute to address the challenges of our nation after school.

Upon arrival on campus, many of us realised how large the campus and student population is even though levels 200 and 300 are not on campus yet. This brings to mind the need to strictly observe the COVID-19 protocols. We have noticed that the University is working hard by putting in place arrangements to ensure that everyone is safe. I will encourage my colleagues that we all play our parts by strictly adhering to the protocols.

Upon commencement of teaching and learning, we realised that these were not by face-to-face interaction as we expected. Instead, it was online (via SAKAI). This we well understood to be a step taken by the University to protect all of us against COVID-19. We commend the University Management for this innovation to reduce the potential spread of the virus on campus. We also noticed how tight our schedules were and the need to quickly adjust by taking the right decisions on our own without waiting for any supervision. We need to also be aware that the competition on the job market after school is very keen and the challenges ahead are enormous. We should therefore make good use of the opportunity provided for us to study hard and also enhance our creative abilities so that upon completion of our programmes, we could contribute meaningfully to the progress of the University, the country and the world at large.

Ladies and gentlemen, it is also expected that since the University is a large community which draws its students from all walks of life, there will be some students who will provide colleagues with constructive opinions while some may bring peer pressures that might not be helpful. It is therefore necessary to make our choices wisely. We have to abide by the University rules and regulations and refrain from all activities that are against the laws of the country to make this place continue to be a pleasant environment for teaching and learning.

It is also our expectation that COVID-19 will soon be over and the University will then continue to provide its usual support for students to engage in extracurricular activities to ensure our holistic development. I would like to

encourage my colleagues to lend their support to the Students' Representative Council (SRC) as well as the university authorities to do their work effectively.

I congratulate all of you for making it to the premier University. Use your time judiciously, learn, have fun, and make friends. Let us all proceed with courage and make it our utmost priority to come out at the end of our studies in the University with zero regrets and the zeal to change the world.

Thank you and God bless us all.

