



# Background

At DUT, FYSE programme aims at building sustainable student communities of living and learning (DUT strategic focus area 1). This speaks to the observations by literature that the first-year in the tertiary education can be the ‘make or break’ phase of a student’s academic career. There are many things that could go wrong - poor decision-making; incorrect choice of friends; low self-esteem/confidence levels; uncertainty as to career choice; difficulty with aspects of the academic programme; homesickness; lack of pre-tertiary preparedness; and many other problems that face first-year students. The purpose of this programme is to provide academic and psycho-social support and development to first-year students, thereby nurturing and supporting them through the transition phase of tertiary education. The programme therefore seeks to assist first-year students during their transition year through provision of on-time support interventions calculated to enhance student retention and academic success in their tertiary studies.

## What we offer:

- Seminars
- Industry visits
- Talks from Alumni
- Digital Literacies
- Ongoing orientation
- Workshops with Staff

## Why we offer these services:

- To decrease dropout rates during the first-year of study.
- To increase pass and progression rates in the first-year of study and in under graduate programmes.
- To uphold pleasant learning and living experience to all DUT first-year students
- To develop critical thinking skills
- To introduce First-year students to the real world as soon as possible



# Introduction

First-year students grapple not only with self-adjustment that is required by the university environment to which they are not accustomed but also with making sense of the culture, values and structures that constitute the university environment (Leibowitz, 2009). DUT FYSE programme is built on the realisation that efforts to promote first-year student success begin with focus on student learning, both inside and outside the classroom. In addition, literature advises us that first-year students’ student success is most likely when DUT hold students to high standards of academic performance and personal conduct by establishing and communicating high expectations.

I welcome you to the institution-wide FYSE programme (extended orientation) and encourage you to robustly engage in diverse life changing activities meant to facilitate your smooth transition and integration into university life.

- Prof Makondo, Livingstone

# DUT first-entry student benefits:

- First year students (FYS) will develop skills that will help them to thrive and succeed academically and socially.
- Learn in depth about DUT.
- Form stronger peer support systems.
- Become familiar with campus resources.
- Combining FYSE with other courses enables the students to have an excellent introduction to the academic life of college.
- Increase Persistence and Retention
- Early alert systems provide students extra support to succeed