



Central University of
Technology, Free State

CENTRE FOR INNOVATION IN LEARNING
& TEACHING (CILT)

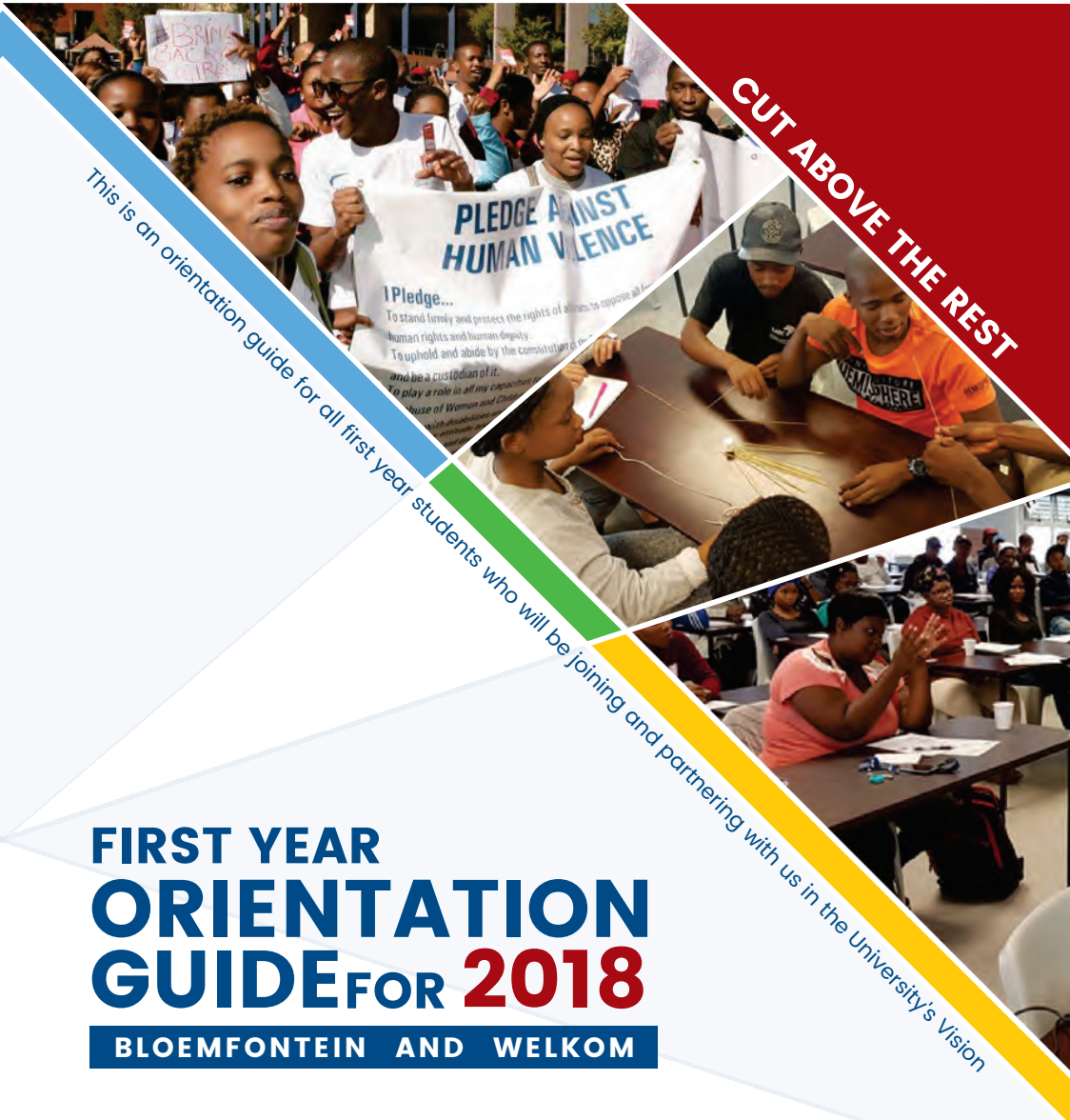
This is an orientation guide for all first-year students who will be joining and partnering with us in the University's Vision

CUT ABOVE THE REST

FIRST YEAR ORIENTATION GUIDE FOR 2018

BLOEMFONTEIN AND WELKOM

Thinking Beyond



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FIRST YEAR
**ORIENTATION
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Finding my way around CUT

2018

Central University of Technology, Free State

Bloemfontein and Welkom

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**“ The capacity to learn is a gift
The ability to learn is a skill
The willingness to learn is a choice ”**

SECTION A: WELCOME

Message by the Director: Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching: Professor ‘Mabokang Monnapula-Mapesela

Dear First-Year Students (Graduates of 2021)

A very warm welcome to Central University of Technology, Free State. As the Director in the Centre for Innovation in Learning and Teaching I would like to assure you that you will not regret the choice that you have made to come to CUT - a University that we affectionately refer to as a “cut above the rest”.

As you start your transformative journey as a family of CUT know that your success is our priority. We value not only your choice, but we wish you a fulfilling learning experience and success in your studies. Our responsibility as a centre in charge of all academic support and development for students and academic staff is to help you make a smooth transition to our university by availing various forms of academic support and development opportunities to you. Please use these resources from the first day that you are at CUT.



Among the few programmes aimed at supporting you, are the following:

- Supplemental Instruction (SI);
- Student Peer Mentorship Programme (including the residences academic mentorship programme);
- Support for students with disabilities;
- The Writing Centre;
- Academic Literacy and Communication Studies; and
- Personal Information Management (PIM).

You are urged to make full use of these support programmes and others which will be availed to you by faculties and other support services. Let us work together to ensure that we together create a learning experience full of good memories and please do not let anything prevent you from completing your studies and achieving your dream! CUT values each one of you!

CUT is looking forward to serving you! Best wishes!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Mapesela". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

PROF MLE MONNAPULA-MAPESELA
DIRECTOR: CENTRE FOR INNOVATION IN LEARNING AND TEACHING

CUT STRATEGY

This section is about CUT's vision, values and outcome. Please internalise the vision and values and live them daily because without you, we will not be able to make them a reality. In this section, you will also learn about how the University provides support towards your academic development.

Vision 2020

By 2020, Central University of Technology, Free State, shall be an engaged university that focuses on producing quality social and technological innovations in socio-economic developments, primarily in the central region of South Africa.

Mission

In aspiring to fulfil its vision, CUT, as a university of technology:

- delivers high-quality, appropriate Science, Technology,
- Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) academic
- programmes supported by applied research, including those
- in Management Sciences, Education and Humanities;
- engages with the community for mutually beneficial
- development;
- promotes access with success in attracting potentially
- successful students, and supporting them to become
- employable and job-creating graduates;
- attracts and retains high-quality students and expert staff,
- and supports their development and well-being; and
- forges strategic partnerships that are mutually beneficial.

CUT Values

The following values guide our behaviour as CUT community and all of us must adhere to in everything we do:

- Customer Service
- Integrity
- Diversity
- Innovation
- Excellence

Practices and Outcomes – The “Isle” of Innovation

Through our Vision 2020, we are set to become an “isle of innovation”, where “isle” is the acronym for the following practices and outcomes:

- **Innovation:** The main focus of our academic, research and skills development programmes shall be social and technological innovation
- **Impact and outcomes:** We will have definable factors to measure our success rather than systems and processes being seen as ends in themselves;
- **Socio-economic development:** CUT chooses an active approach and socio-economic development shall be the ultimate outcome of our endeavors;
- **Location:** The uniqueness and resources our location offers gives us a comparative advantage that we should exploit to the fullest; and
- **Excellence:** The most important drivers of a successful organization are quality and excellence.



2020

CUT Graduate Attributes Project

CUT has implemented this project from 2014 as part of Vision 2020, in support of social and technological innovation in socio-economic development. This is further in alignment with the National Imperative (Vision 2030), wherein our graduates are expected to participate fully in efforts to liberate themselves from conditions that hinder the flowering of their talents.

It is critical to ensure that when you graduate from CUT, you possess qualities or attributes that will enable you to participate fully in the world of work (Industry) as you will be exhibiting the following 10 attributes:

Sustainable Development

Being environmentally sensitive and recognise your role as a socially responsible citizen. You should also have an understating of the role you can play in addressing social justice.

Community engagement

Being socially engaged in your communities.

Entrepreneurship

Being entrepreneurial, industrious and able to recognise opportunities and turn them into ideas for enterprises. You should have business acumen and display basic business skills.

Innovation and problem solving

Being innovative, think creatively and critically and apply a range of strategies to solve/find solutions for real world problems. You should demonstrate the ability to apply theoretical knowledge that will lead to development of new ideas, methods, techniques, practices, products and services in a variety of contexts (technology, commerce, social systems, economic development and policy development). Finally, you should be able to find fresh solutions and novel alternatives to solving old problems.

Technological literacy

Being able to use information and communication technologies effectively.

Mathematical & Financial Literacy

The ability to use the basic mathematics, budgeting and financial management skills.

Communication

Communicate proficiently, in oral, written, presentation, information searching and listening skills. You should be assertive and articulate, be able to negotiate responsibly and persuade others effectively.

Technical and conceptual competence

Demonstrate depth of specialised disciplinary knowledge and skills, and apply them in different contexts to solve problems.

Team work

Work both independently and in teams, to manage your own learning, work and take responsibility for self while contributing to teams such as learning communities.

Citizenship and Global leadership

Make meaningful and positive contributions to society, and be ethical and a visionary leader who can show leadership in different contexts.

At the end of your first year, you must have developed your electronic Portfolio on all these attributes and you will be assisted to achieve them throughout your study period at CUT.

SECTION B: ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMMES

Introduction

CUT has a number of support programmes that are aimed at providing additional support with regard to academic, social or emotional challenges you might experience during your studies at CUT. These programmes are outlined in this section

Supplemental Instruction (SI)

Supplemental Instruction (SI): is an academic assistance programme that aims to improve your academic performance in identified modules that may prove challenging to you as a student. It is offered by SI leaders who are senior students who have completed these courses and earned good grades assist their peers with challenges they may encounter in their courses, especially traditionally difficult ones. At CUT Supplemental Instruction is compulsory for all students who obtain 50% or below in a particular course/module.

- It is offered at first, second, and third year levels to assist students with their academic studies.
- It targets high-risk -modules and aims to improve the pass rate of students and their retention.
- SI is presented in the form of peer-facilitated sessions by senior students and incorporates principles of peer collaborative learning.
- SI aims to improve learning skills s such as thinking, reasoning, and reflection.

Unit for students with special needs

This unit assists students with special needs to fully engage in all facets of university life. It provides among other things, the following:

- Advice on any issue related to disability.
- Counselling for students with disabilities.
- Access to a physical environment in which they can study, learn, live and partake in the social life of CUT.
- Assistance for students who need extra time during tests and examination.
- Software for blind/partially sighted students.
- Information to lecturing staff regarding the needs of disabled students.



Student Peer Mentorship Programme

The University offers a Peer Mentorship Programme coordinated from four Faculties namely Health and Environmental Sciences, Engineering and Information Technology, Humanities as well as Management Sciences including the residences academic mentorship programme. The purpose of this programme is to provide you as first-year students with social and academic support so that you can adjust better to tertiary education and enhance your academic performance.

In this programme, senior students act as peer mentors to assist you to adjust and cope with the new university environment or academic/study programme of your choice. What we would like to achieve through this programme is to:

- provide you with a supportive environment for you to develop your maximum personal and academic potential,
- encourage positive interaction between students, mentors and staff, and
- assist you to understand and manage the challenges and opportunities of university life.



The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre is a facility that provides free assistance to undergraduate students on the following range of writing needs:

- o Understanding the focus of an assignment
- o Structuring an essay
- o Expressing ideas clearly and coherently
- o Avoiding plagiarism
- o Referencing correctly

Academic Literacy and Communication Studies

Academic Literacy and Communication Studies is aimed at expanding and improving your academic writing and reading skills needed for your success at university. It will also enhance your numeracy competence levels as CUT students Focus on developing four main CUT attributes namely, innovation, entrepreneurship, community engagement and sustainable development in all first-year students.

Personal Information Management (PIM)

PIM is offered by the Library Information Centre (LIC) and is primarily aimed at improving students' use of communication technologies to access information from different sources. This programme will equip you with, among others, skills understanding of the higher education/university context; time management; diversity; discipline; academic success; motivation; being a Generation-Y student; emotional intelligence; research; leadership; identity; integrity; substance abuse; health issues; and sexuality.

e-Learning and Educational Technology (eLET)

This unit promotes and supports the use of electronic and other educational technology in teaching and learning at CUT. It is responsible for the following:

- Empowering students to use various new educational technologies and e-Thuto for learning.
- Creating a suitable academic web environment for students.
- Registering all enrolled students on e-Thuto.
- Supports and addresses students' queries via a helpdesk.

In relation to support programmes, please contact:

Dr. Sebolao

Tel: 051 507 3136/4115

Email: rsebolao@cut.ac.za/mbuti@cut.ac.za

Student Services

Student services presents various cultural and student development activities on a regular basis. The most important factor is for you to get involved!

In the academic field, student interests are stimulated by existing associations/organisations in most study fields such as ABASA, AGRISO, BRILLIANCE etc., which offer interesting activities throughout the year under the protection of a guardian lecturer.

In the cultural arena, there is close liaison with the various arts councils, and students are welcome to join any club that may interest them such as dancing, poetry, rugby etc..



Your success depends on the following:

Having given you all this information about the University, we would like to indicate that a lot is expected from you as a student. The following expectations, once met, will guarantee your success at this institution:

Your willingness to learn



Attendance of the orientation programme



Participate in group discussions



Contact lecturers where help is needed



Attendance of student peer mentorship sessions and supplemental instructions



**Take care of your total well-being
(Mind, Body and Soul)**

**TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR OWN
LEARNING AND
ENJOY THE RESULTS**

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