

Overview of Orientation Programme

Orientation at a glance

Your academic year starts with ORIENTATION. Attendance is compulsory. Orientation is much more than showing you where the toilets are! Indeed, it is not just that thing where they show you where everything is! It is much more than that. Orientation is about helping you to make a successful transition from school to university. It is about helping you to bridge this ever-widening gap and to adjust with far greater ease to the huge demands of higher education. Studies have shown that students who attend orientation are more likely to succeed than those who don't. The orientation programme is designed to give you a kick start to your university career.

The programme will **kick off** with the **Welcoming Ceremony and Faculty Meet & Greet on Saturday 21 January 2017** and end with the last orientation session for this initial phase on **Thursday 2 February**. Lectures commence on **Monday 6 February** but do remember that Orientation is the actual start of the academic year for you. The How2@nmmu Academic Sessions will take place during the first term. The Campus Life Festival will take place on the 18th of February.

First-year **Registration** takes place from **Monday 23 January to Wednesday 25 January** (see separate registration guide for your registration date).

On the first day of your How2@nmmu Programme, you will be placed in a How2 group with a How2 Buddy who will take you through a specially designed programme of adjustment to university – have fun! Your buddy will also support you throughout the first term.

An overview of the orientation programme appears at the beginning of this guide. The individual orientation programme for your course will be given to you at Registration. Failure to arrive timeously may prevent you from gaining the maximum benefit of orientation, in terms of preparing you for your studies.

The following section provides a summary of **all events** held during orientation. Please note that **academic events** are **compulsory** for all students to attend. The wellness, career, social and cultural events provide an ideal opportunity to meet fellow students, make friends and find out more about university life and are therefore highly recommended. We trust that you will make full use of these wonderful opportunities.



How2 buddies



How2 buddies

Academic events (all compulsory)	Social, cultural and sports events
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Welcoming Ceremony ▶ Faculty Meet & Greet ▶ How2@nmmu: Thrive – Buddy Programme (2 days) ▶ How2@nmmu: Connect with your Lecturers ▶ How2@nmmu: Student–Staff Fun Event ▶ How2@nmmu: Maths Refresher (for all BSc and BEng Mechatronics students) ▶ Career Portfolio (covered in How2@nmmu: Thrive) ▶ How2@nmmu: Academic Sessions (first term): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Note taking • Introduction to referencing & plagiarism • How to get the most out of lectures • Lecture etiquette 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Campus Life Festival: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residences’ formations • Sports programme • First-year social • First-year concert (show off your talents!)
Wellness events	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Rands and Sense (covered in How2@nmmu: Thrive) ▶ AccessAbility (covered in How2@nmmu: Thrive) ▶ Rock ‘n Roll and Bulges 	

Description of events

Academic events

WELCOMING CEREMONY

On this day, new students and their parents are welcomed by the Vice-Chancellor (VC) Professor Derrick Swartz. The VC is the Principal or Chief Executive Officer of the university. Please take note of the campus and venue where your faculty will meet, firstly for the Welcoming Ceremony, and secondly, for the Faculty Meet & Greet that follows, where refreshments will be served.

FACULTY MEET AND GREET

After the VC's welcoming address and refreshments, students and parents move off to the Faculty Meet & Greet. Carefully check in which venue your faculty will meet. Here you'll be welcomed by the Dean of the faculty and be given an opportunity to meet your lecturers, who will provide you with information about your programme (course of study).

Parents are encouraged to attend these events since they offer great insight in terms of academic expectations and, in particular, registration.

NB: EACH STUDENT ENROLS IN A SPECIFIC FACULTY. YOU NEED TO CHECK IN WHICH FACULTY YOUR PROGRAMME (COURSE OF STUDY) FALLS.

HOW2@NMMU: CONNECT WITH YOUR LECTURERS

Here you will be addressed by the Head of Department or School (or Head of Academic

Programme) in which you will be studying (faculties are divided into various schools or departments). You will also be addressed by your lecturers and be informed about the textbooks required, what the course entails, course requirements, career options available, and so on.

HOW2@NMMU: THRIVE (BUDDY PROGRAMME)

On the day of your How2@nmmu Thrive programme, you'll be divided into small groups of first-year students doing the same course. Your group will be led by a senior student called your How2 Buddy. Your Buddy will take you through a programme of academic orientation organised by the orientation staff at Student Counselling. You will learn how2 make a success of your stay at NMMU by finding out about:

- ▶ Adjusting successfully to the demands of university life
- ▶ Resources to help with you with finances, career decisions and health, and workshops to help you with study skills, managing your workload, etc.
- ▶ University terminology (all those acronyms!)
- ▶ Your new campus - you will be given a tour of the campus to orientate yourself so you don't miss your first lecture!
- ▶ Using the library - this is a must for academic success
- ▶ How to log onto your e-mail, using the student portal and finding your notes online
- ▶ Your timetable



- ▶ Challenges you may face in this course and how to overcome them

Your How2 Buddy will “buddy” you for the first term, helping you to make a smooth transition to university. You will meet informally once every fortnight over lunch or coffee to chat about your concerns and challenges. Your How2 Buddy will also be available to you via e-mail, Facebook, BBM or Whatsapp to find out how you are doing, and to support you in any way.

HOW2@NMMU: STUDENT - STAFF FUN EVENT

At this event you will have some fun with your lecturers and get to know them better, so that you will find it not such a daunting task to consult with them about your studies. It will also help you develop a sense of belonging. For most faculties this will follow immediately after your Connect with your Lecturers meeting (check your timetable for when this event will take place).

HOW2@NMMU: ACADEMIC SESSIONS

These sessions will be offered by your lecturers in the first term and will help you further in your adjustment to university and making a success of your studies.

NOTE-TAKING SESSIONS

In these sessions you will learn how to take notes successfully in class (when you get home you make notes and summaries of the lecture). If you think you are going to remember everything the lecturer said, you are making a mistake! Lecturers give important explanations of complex concepts and processes – you need to take notes in the lecture – but you cannot write down every word the lecturer says. This session will help you be better prepared to take accurate notes from day one.

INTRODUCTION TO REFERENCING & PLAGIARISM

When you write assignments and essays at university, you have to acknowledge where you get your information from – you have to say whose ideas you are using. Taking other people’s work and pretending it is your own is called plagiarism – and is a serious offence! In this session you will receive some more information in this regard.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF LECTURES

It is not enough to simply get the notes “off the net”. You have to attend the lecture! But merely sitting

there like a zombie will not help you much either. This is a wonderful session to help you make the lecture work for you! It is vital to your success at university.

LECTURE AND E-MAIL ETIQUETTE

There is a required protocol for lecture behaviour and writing e-mails to staff. A huge part of receiving a higher education is to develop yourself holistically. Learning about etiquette is an important part of this development. Having good lecture etiquette will make your life and that of your lecturer and classmates better. Being considerate will assist everyone in their success.

Remember: It is important to consult with your lecturers to get clarity on assignments, to gain a clearer understanding of the content and requirements of the course and also to develop your intellectual ability. Lecturers have consultation hours, usually posted on their office doors. They want you to do well. Do not hesitate to make an appointment, and have your questions ready. Your Buddy will tell you more.

CAREER PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT

(PART OF HOW2@NMMU: THRIVE)

Here you will be shown the importance of developing your career portfolio, and how to start developing it. Just obtaining a qualification is not enough – you need to develop yourself holistically and be a well-rounded student. You can do this by joining one of the many societies or leadership programmes on the campus, and/or finding a part-time job. The need to develop your personal, social and academic skills has become imperative (these skills are what employers are looking for – they are interested in a good qualification and in the skills mentioned). It is important that you start early on in your university career. Waiting until your final year just before your first big job interview is too late!

HOW2@NMMU: MATHS REFRESHER

(for all BSc and BSc Mechatronics students only)

Given the challenges of the new school curriculum, the Maths Refresher will provide you with a good start to the Maths module in these courses, refreshing Matric Maths and bridging the gap between high school Maths and first-year university Maths.

Wellness events

ROCK 'N ROLL AND BULGES

Sounds interesting? You bet! Come and hear some more...

RANDS AND SENSE (PART OF HOW2@NMMU: THRIVE)

Your How2 Buddy will share important information about bursaries and scholarships available to you. They will also help you with ideas on how to budget well. Some students receive bursaries, and for many, being away from home means running their own budgets for the first time – this can be disastrous in terms of mispending and running out of money. It could mean the difference between leaving university prematurely or graduating successfully.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES / SPECIAL NEEDS

NMMU would like to ensure that you do not experience any unfair discrimination as a result of your disability while you are a student here. We strive to make reasonable adjustments concerning accessibility, examinations and other academic concessions, in order to meet your needs. The Disability Unit attends to the needs and challenges that students with disabilities/special needs may encounter. Please register your disability/special needs request with this Unit, as early as possible, during the year prior to application so that we can assist you. Please familiarise yourself with NMMU's Policy on Disability, which is available from the Disability Unit's website <http://disability.nmmu.ac.za/Home>. Services offered to students include:

- ▶ Co-ordination of placement into adapted on-campus student housing
- ▶ Volunteer Buddies
- ▶ Provision of adapted transport (available in and around campus)
- ▶ Facilitation of assistive technology and portable devices
- ▶ Facilitation of the NSFAS Disability bursary
- ▶ Facilitation of links with relevant support organizations.

Social, cultural and sport events

CAMPUS LIFE FESTIVAL (later in February)

This festival consists of a series of events: Campus Life concert, a sports programme and the first-year social.

CAMPUS LIFE CONCERT

What good is sitting alone in your room? Come hear the music play!

Most of you are probably too young to know this song by Liza Minnelli. Nevertheless, come and showcase your talent! Can you sing, dance, play a musical instrument, recite poetry or perform magic? The Campus Life concert is a HUGE event. If you are just going to watch, get there early as this event is jam-packed!





SPORTS PROGRAMME

On the last Saturday in February there is a sports programme for first-year students along with dance formations by the residences at the NMMU Stadium, South Campus. Witness the precision and dramatic displays. Following this, there is usually a rugby match, NMMU versus an opposition university. Come and show support for your team! Go NMMU!

FIRST-YEAR SOCIAL

At the end of this day, join the party at the first-year social. Relax and let your hair down. Well, be careful as well ...

Looking ahead

HOMESICKNESS & LONELINESS WORKSHOPS

Are you missing Mama’s food, your friends, your pet cat and the dog? Seriously, missing home and being lonely when you leave home for the first time is very real and not a good feeling. One misses one’s culture and the comforts of home and having one’s family and old friends close. You are not alone. So come and join others and let our team help you deal with this. These workshops will be offered later in the term. Enrol at Student Counselling on your campus.

THINKING OF CHANGING YOUR COURSE?

