

NELSON MANDELA
UNIVERSITY

Living the Legacy, Founding the Future



Index



The Journey Continues	3
Leaving a Legacy... Living a Legacy	6
Leaving a Legacy. Leading a life of Change	9
Education	10
Shared Values	14
Nelson Mandela University	18
The Way Forward	21
Looking Ahead	23



The Journey Continues



Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) was established in 2005 as part of a national drive to make education accessible to many more South Africans, and to innovatively respond to the challenges and opportunities facing South Africa, the continent and the world in the 21st century.

The University was formed from a merger of three institutions – the University of Port Elizabeth, the Port Elizabeth Technikon and the Port Elizabeth campus of Vista University – together contributing to more than a century of higher education. During the merger, academic rigour was complemented with robust applied practice and business and industry partnerships to make NMMU a sought-after educational destination of learning for 27 000 students and 4 000 staff members across six campuses in Port Elizabeth and George. The new Ocean Sciences Campus in Port Elizabeth opening in 2017 will be the seventh.

The University embraces Nelson Mandela's challenge to be *"caring, responsible and innovative"*, and recognises the importance of continuously growing and adapting in the pursuit of knowledge, emancipation and lifelong learning.

And so the journey towards a more just, healthy and equal society for all continues in this new generation university that uniquely carries Nelson Mandela's name.

“My view is that no society, no civilisation has ever been successfully built without present generations investing in the education of future generations... It is extremely important to create a strong culture of giving together for education, and coming together to create a more just and equal society.”

– Professor Derrick Swartz, Vice-Chancellor of Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University,
2008 - 2017



Change the World

Leaving a Legacy... Living a Legacy



Nelson Mandela University is the only university in the world that carries the name of Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

We will honour this name by leading the University into a new era of transformative innovation, development and change.

Nelson Mandela's moral values, the importance he placed on education as a force for good, his servant leadership, his deep concern for people, his nation building, his belief in enabling change through transformative leadership and innovation, and his relentless campaign for social and environmental justice, all deeply resonate with our vision and mission, and the institution we are striving to become.

We are based in the Eastern Cape, the province where Nelson Mandela was born and grew up in the rural Mvezo and Qunu communities. We understand the range of challenges facing our young people in both the rural and urban areas, and our goal for all young people in the Eastern Cape and South Africa is to help them to achieve their full potential through our University.

We are increasingly focusing our efforts on building partnerships with schools and communities to help address the chasm between secondary and higher education that many young people in South Africa battle to overcome.



For our students, we are committed to providing a welcoming and inspiring environment that is supportive, innovative, diverse and safe. Our students need to feel they are in a place of learning and discovery, founded on strong, egalitarian values that encourage them to express themselves, stretch themselves, and seek new solutions for a better world.

It is our sincere ambition that Nelson Mandela University will increasingly become the learning destination of choice for staff and students who:

- are pioneering change agents for a better world;
- are committed to creating jobs in an entrepreneurial economy
- work together across disciplines in seeking solutions and innovations to achieve quality of life and a healthy environment for all people, and
- are instilled with a deep need to serve and to give back.

We are confident that society will seek out our graduates because of their attributes, values, skills, thinking ability, drive and academic excellence.

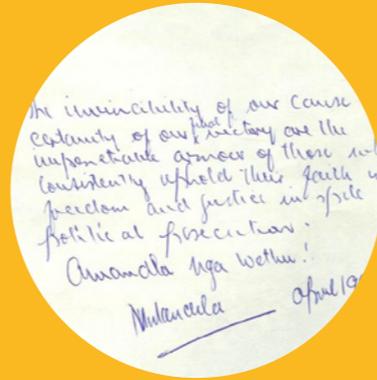
Leaving a Legacy. Leading a Life of Change



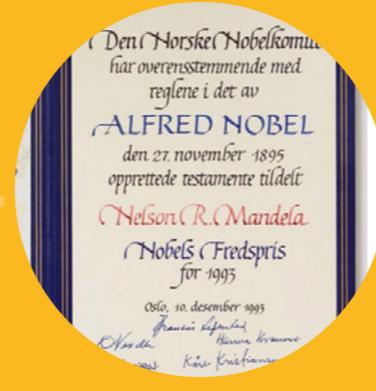
1918



1953



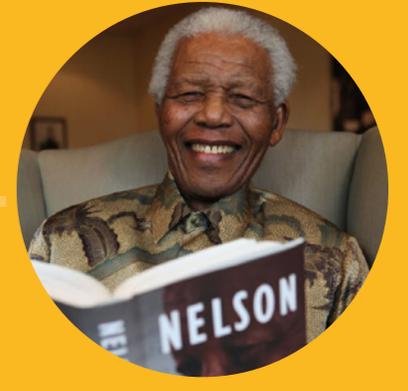
1964



1993



1994



2013



1969



1982



1990



2015



2016



2017

* Images courtesy of the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

Education



Nelson Mandela called on all South Africans to treasure knowledge and education and to never stop learning. He emphasised education as a priority to advance our democracy. It is education that will create a new generation of leaders who will draw on their knowledge, consciousness and compassion to grow the economy and empower communities to move far beyond poverty.

Nelson Mandela University takes this ethos into our lecture halls and community engagement programmes.

Humanising pedagogy

This University has a distinctive, forward-looking culture of enquiry and engagement. Its teaching philosophy is recognised as a leader in the field of 'humanising pedagogy'. It is about dislodging outdated theories and narrow-minded preconceptions of teaching, learning and human engagement in order to stimulate an oxygenated, enquiring approach to education. It is about igniting young minds to take flight and become passionate, compassionate and resourceful graduates and members of society. It is about holding people to high expectations and helping them to achieve this.

Humanising pedagogy further recognises the diversity of backgrounds of our staff and students, and ensures this is recognised and developed within our University. These deep-rooted socio-political and philosophical foundations require of all people associated with Nelson Mandela University to make a heartfelt and lived commitment to a transformed culture of equality, democracy and respect.



Trans- and interdisciplinary approach

Nelson Mandela treasured the value of diversity – especially the coming together of different minds, different backgrounds, different talents and different approaches to achieving greatness. Likewise, Nelson Mandela University is committed to promoting a trans- and interdisciplinary way of working within the University, with our higher education partners in South Africa, Africa and the world to create 21st century solutions for the greater good.

This is where Science meets Art; Engineering meets Business, and Health Science meets Law. It is how our staff and students research, discuss and resolve challenges. It is about the co-creation of knowledge and seeking solutions together. It is about taking a whole-view of our history and our future.

“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

- Nelson Mandela

Innovation and entrepreneurship

Nelson Mandela made it clear that his contribution was just the beginning; he called on all students, academics, and universities to forge new paths, and to bring about new cycles of economic innovation, democratic change, and equality.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the single most important factor for the future of our country is education.”

– Nelson Mandela



Education



He highlighted the value of education as a force for good. He walked the talk as a life-long learner. The BA Law degree he started in 1939, he finally completed in 1989.

Nelson Mandela University will be a *“living laboratory for experimentation and innovation”* where students will be encouraged to develop new ideas, new inventions, and new approaches to being in the world.

Our goal is to produce innovators and entrepreneurs, those who will start companies and create new jobs, not simply add to the growing number of graduates seeking jobs. Our graduates are encouraged to pursue new growth areas such as the creative, ocean, food and township economies. In addition to their entrepreneurial drive, our students are instilled with a desire to invest in their communities and in social advancement for others.

“Our university is a living laboratory for experimentation and innovation where our 27 000 students are encouraged to develop new ideas, new inventions and new approaches to being in the world. The answers to the epic challenges of our time are right here, on earth, in our oceans and within ourselves.”

– Vice-Chancellor Professor Derrick Swartz



Servant leaders

The new era of staff, students and graduates of the University are agents of innovation and positive change for South Africa and Africa, as Nelson Mandela envisaged. They exercise freedom of thought and expression, and at the same time they grow as servant leaders in the tradition of Mandela, investing in others and in their communities, and contributing to ecosystem conservation for the benefit of all people.

“By ancestry I was born to rule. Xhamela (Walter Sisulu) helped me to understand that my real vocation was to be a servant of the people.”

– Nelson Mandela on the death of Walter Sisulu, South Africa, 5 May, 2003



Shared Values



Nelson Mandela stood firm on matters of humanitarian values and justice. Nothing shook his resolve. It goes without saying that some of his decisions have been questioned and criticised, but what holds true throughout his life is that he was an ethical leader of high integrity.

"... I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But, if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

- Nelson Mandela, Rivonia Trial, June 1964

Nelson Mandela championed fairness, justice, and the dignity of all people. He actively spoke out against racism. Freedom for all was critical for him, as was his need to serve all South Africa's people, especially the poor and downtrodden.

Similarly, Nelson Mandela University embraces the values of integrity, excellence, Ubuntu, respect for the natural environment, respect for diversity, hard work and taking responsibility for decisions and actions within a free-thinking environment.

The recent student protests and campaigns highlighted many weaknesses in the current higher education sector, not least the failure of universities and the government to be relevant to the needs of changing times and the financial needs of financially-stressed students who constitute the greater part of the country's student body.

Nelson Mandela University



Our new name offers us the opportunity to re-imagine our identity and our future.

Nelson Mandela University is committed to ensuring our curricula and fields of study are relevant to the times and to the needs of our students, staff and society, as illustrated by the following key projects.

Ocean Science Campus

Our new generation University is set to become the leading “go-to” destination in Africa for all marine and maritime teaching, learning, engagement, innovation and research at postgraduate level. A dedicated Ocean Sciences Campus will be launched this year as part of the University’s strategic drive to unlock the potential of the blue economy in a sustainable manner to benefit all South Africans.

The development and expansion of our University’s Ocean Sciences academic programmes will offer new opportunities to all South Africans, including students from townships and rural areas who previously could never imagine careers in such disciplines and professions.

Our transdisciplinary ocean sciences approach will see Nelson Mandela University working across all disciplines, in partnership with government, business, industry, other universities and coastal communities.



Interprofessional Education & New Medical School

The University’s new Interprofessional Education (IPE) programme, launched in March 2017, brings together 3500 students and lecturers from all ten disciplines in the Faculty of Health Sciences. As part of the programme they work with a range of under-resourced communities in the greater Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage area to holistically improve primary health care and wellbeing.

IPE takes an assets-based approach, where the students learn from each other and from the community members, which gives them a far greater understanding of the dynamics, health and environmental issues in each community.

It is this approach and the development of a curriculum that will allow for greater access of students from less privileged backgrounds, that will underpin an innovative new model for our new Medical School, the 10th in South Africa.

The University is geared to welcome our first cohort of medical students in 2020. Related programmes, such as dietetics and emergency medical care are already in place as part of the University’s commitment to offering health care that is relevant to the needs of the people.

“We cannot be a competitive and winning nation in a modern world without education and training of the highest quality”

– Nelson Mandela

An Exciting Journey



How did a young child, born in a remote rural part of the Eastern Cape, rise to become the greatest statesman of the twentieth century and a world icon?

Just as Nelson Mandela’s life’s journey evolved, so it will be for the new Nelson Mandela University. We already have a strong sense of who we are, and our great excitement lies in who and what we can continue to become.

The inspiring mantle that we carry – Nelson Mandela – will guide us to future greatness. This greatness will belong to those who work and study at Nelson Mandela University and go on to share their knowledge, insight and goodwill with others.

We are confident that in partnership with our students, staff, community, the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro, the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa, southern Africa and Africa, we can open new global frontiers with relevant teaching, learning, research and engagement that does justice to the legacy of Nelson Mandela.

Looking Ahead



The roll-out of our new identity and the institution's new look will be a phased approach. The University is mindful of the many challenges facing the higher education sector, not least the financial constraints.

At Nelson Mandela University, the academic project remains the priority. As such, the transition from the old branding to the new will happen over time, as funding becomes available. At the same time the University is confident that any investment in promoting the new name, identity and brand will be a deeply worthwhile investment in Nelson Mandela University's inspiring, transformative future.

We welcome you to our world.





Change the World

PO Box 77000
Nelson Mandela University
Port Elizabeth, 6031

info@mandela.ac.za



mandela.ac.za