

A DECADE OF EMINENCE

OUR STORIES

2015 - 2025



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



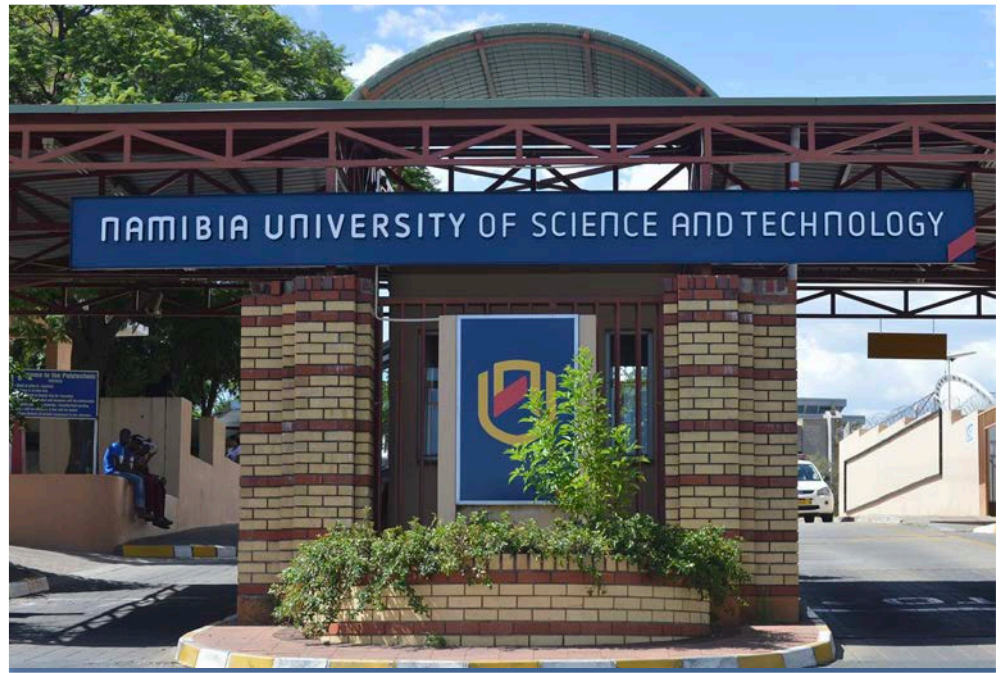
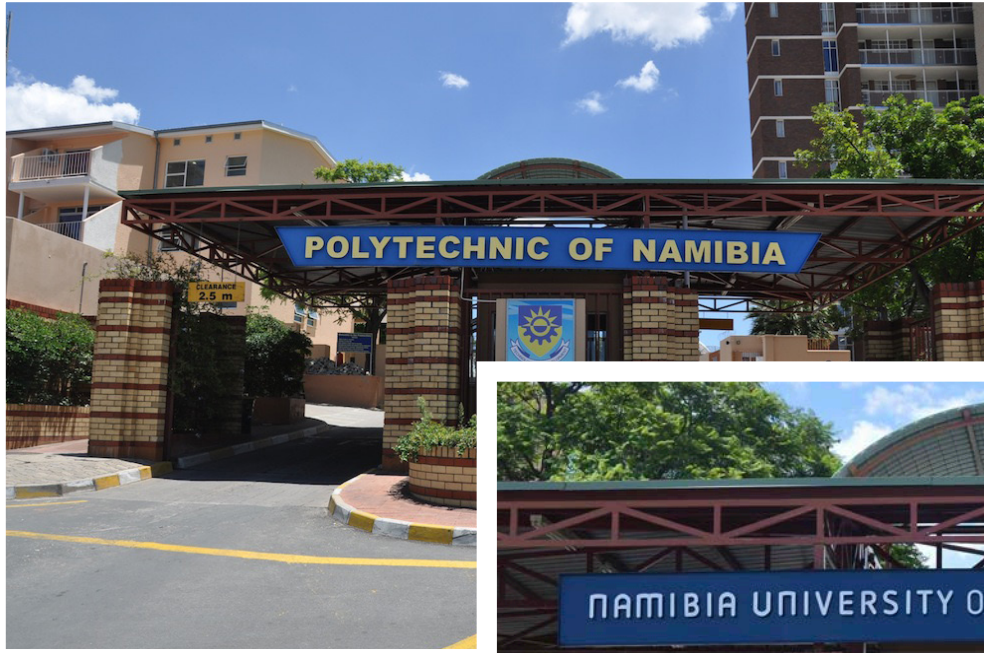
Graduating from a Polytechnic to a University

The year 2025 sees the Namibia University of Science and Technology reaching a significant milestone. As we celebrate NUST's 10th anniversary, we are called not only to mark this milestone but to reflect on the defining moments that have shaped the institution into a dynamic, nationally focused university. The transition from the Polytechnic of Namibia to NUST was a major step in strengthening higher education and positioning the university to drive development through science, technology, and innovation.

While this transformation was significant, it also highlighted the ongoing need to strengthen middle-level and vocational training to support Namibia's growing technical sectors. As we look ahead, closing these gaps remains essential.

NUST's expanding national footprint, through new campuses and research centres—reflects its commitment to widening access, despite the challenges of decentralisation. Strengthening technological capabilities and ensuring programme relevance will be critical in the coming decade.

Over the years, NUST has contributed meaningfully to Namibia's innovation ecosystem, supported by the dedication of its staff, students, and partners. To sustain this progress, policymakers and stakeholders must continue investing in and protecting the institution's strategic mandate. Collaboration at all levels will be key to advancing teaching, research, and innovation.



As Chancellor, I am proud of NUST's journey and confident in its future. This anniversary affirms what vision and commitment can achieve. May the next decade further strengthen NUST's role in empowering citizens, supporting industry, and contributing to national development. Congratulations to the entire NUST community and the nation at large.

The journey continues, with more to come.

Sincerely,
Prof Peter Katjavivi
NUST Chancellor





“ During our University’s 10th year, we are reminded that 10 is not just a milestone. Ten is both an ending and a beginning. It symbolises completion, but also the perfect place from which to start again. And that is exactly what this anniversary represents: the closing of one chapter, and the opening of another, full of promise, possibility, and purpose.

- **Prof Andrew Niikondo, Acting Vice-Chancellor**



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Over the past 10 years, NUST has made remarkable strides in higher education, research, and innovation, solidifying its position as a key driver of national development. Our journey has been one of resilience, excellence, and unwavering commitment to producing graduates who are not only skilled, but also ready to lead and transform the world. As we reflect on this decade of progress, we must also look ahead with renewed ambition and determination to build an even stronger and more impactful university. Let us remain focused on our mission: To be a catalyst for sustainable development through knowledge creation, application, and innovation.

- **Prof Eroid Naomab**



NUST 10-year parade in Independence Avenue in February 2025.

Key Achievements Timeline

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- Digital Arts and Animation Department Launched



2018

Celebrating the First-Ever Doctoral Graduates

Two years after officially transforming from the Polytechnic a University (NUST), the institution has reached another historic milestone, the awarding of its first-ever doctoral degrees.

At a proud and emotional graduation ceremony, Suama Hamunyela and Jude Osakwe became the first NUST scholars to be conferred with Doctorates in Informatics. Their achievements mark a significant step in NUST's growth as a research-led university, capable of producing world-class scholars who contribute to national and global knowledge creation.

The two graduates' research in Informatics reflects the University's strong focus on technology, innovation, and applied sciences, fields central to Namibia's vision for a knowledge-based economy. Their success underscores NUST's commitment to advancing postgraduate education and nurturing the next generation of researchers and innovators.





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2021

High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS) launched

The vision for the High-Tech Transfer Plaza Select (HTTPS) became a reality through a landmark partnership valued at N\$51 million with Namibia's largest mobile telecommunications and Internet service provider, MTC. HTTPS represents more than just an initiative; it is a long-term strategic platform designed to transform future innovations from academic research into market-ready solutions, empowering start-ups, entrepreneurs, and industry partners alike.

Beyond fostering innovation, HTTPS serves as a groundbreaking experiment in developing next-generation skills, acting as a conduit for identifying and recruiting top talent. Through this initiative, resilience, connectivity, and forward-thinking problem-solving become defining features, shaping the future workforce of Namibia.

Plans are already underway to expand the concept through additional partnerships, including potential collaborations with the German Development Agency (GIZ) and other key industries such as mining and information technology.

At a national level, HTTPS promises transformative benefits: it strengthens university-industry-community partnerships, unlocks specialised expertise, supports research and development, and creates investment opportunities. It provides a fertile environment for nurturing a Namibian 'unicorn', drives the country's long-term digital transformation, and aligns with strategic efforts to compete both locally and internationally.



2021

The Eenhana Campus Fundraising Campaign

A fundraising campaign in support of the establishment of a satellite campus at Eenhana in the Ohangwena Region, was launched. Prime Minister of the Republic of Namibia, Saara Kuugongelwa-Amadhila, formally launched the fundraising campaign and praised the project for bringing tertiary education closer to the community in the region. "At the outset, I wish to commend NUST for continuing to expand its reach to the outer lying areas, to many of our youth who are still without access to tertiary education institutions," said Kuugongelwa-Amadhila before announcing her donation of N\$10 000 towards the project. The Ohangwena Region has approximately 270 schools with a learner population of about 115 000. This translates to Ohangwena being one of the most densely populated regions in Namibia with limited access to higher education, according to the Minister of Higher Education, Technology and Innovation, Dr Itah Kandjii-Murangi.

"The NUST Eenhana Campus Project fulfils the Government's policy of taking higher education to the masses. For NUST, the envisaged Eenhana Campus is historic and very special in that it will be the first fully fledged NUST campus in another region of our country," she elaborated. More than N\$2 million was raised for the establishment of the campus during the launch event. "This event signifies the progress we have made as a nation, in the development of our country and people since independence, especially in the area of education," said Former President Dr Hifikepunye Pohamba, Patron of the NUST Eenhana Satellite Campus. The Former President also pledged N\$100 000 to support the project. In total, an amount of N\$1.2 billion is needed to set up the NUST Eenhana Campus over a period of 10 years. Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma was also present at the launch, and he pledged an amount of N\$5 000 towards the project. "We will overcome challenges when we work together as a team, because a people united, striving to achieve a common good for all members of society, will always emerge victorious," Dr Nujoma said.





**2022**

Winners of Organisational Growth in Research Management Award

The president of the Southern African Research and Innovation Management Association (SARIMA), Dr Andrew Bailey, congratulated the team and highlighted that this is the first time this accolade is awarded. Prof Colin Stanley, the Acting Vice-Chancellor of Research, Innovation and Partnerships, said that "receiving such recognition amongst institutions that have been in the education sector for several decades is indeed remarkable and speaks volumes."

Dr Anna Matros-Goreses, the Executive Director of the Directorate of Research, Innovation and Partnerships (DRIP), who is also vice-president for research management of SARIMA, emphasised that "this award speaks to the promotion of a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship, underpinned by a well-established research base which is aligned to leading the next generation of impactful researchers."

NUST graduated a cohort of nine PhD candidates in May 2025, its largest group of doctoral graduates to date.







2023

Expanding Access to Education: Rietfontein Campus

In 2023, the University marked a major milestone with the official opening of the Rietfontein Campus in the Otjozondjupa Region. The campus, established in partnership with the National Youth Service (NYS), focuses on technical, agricultural, and vocational training, broadening access to higher education for communities in the region and beyond.

The Otjozondjupa Region, home to 84 schools and over 48 000 pupils, previously had no tertiary education institution. Until now, post-secondary opportunities were limited to the Okakarara Vocational Training Centre (OVTC) and the NYS Rietfontein Training Centre. The establishment of the NUST Rietfontein Campus therefore fills a critical gap in the regional education landscape, offering pathways for young people to pursue further studies and skills development closer to home.

Strategically located, the Otjozondjupa Region borders seven other regions, Oshikoto, Omaheke, Kavango East, Kavango West, Erongo, Kunene, and Khomas. Together, these regions represent a combined population of over one million people, according to the 2011 Census (a figure expected to be significantly higher today). This central positioning allows the Rietfontein Campus to serve as a convenient and accessible hub for students from across Namibia seeking quality technical and applied education. Through this expansion, NUST continues to strengthen its commitment to regional development, inclusive education, and the national goal of building a skilled and innovative workforce for Namibia's future.





2023

UNESCO Chairs Launched

Dr Hilma Amwele from NUST was chosen as the UNESCO Chair on Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments, while Prof Dharm Singh Jat was chosen as the UNESCO Chair on Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research. This event marks a long-term engagement in the development of water and agricultural solutions as well as digital services and innovations in support of socio-economic development in Namibia.

“NUST is strategically positioned to take advantage of the Chairs to move beyond academia into more implementation-based policy-informing processes, aiming at the ultimate improvement of livelihood opportunities across the region and internationally,” NUST Vice-Chancellor, Dr Eroid Naomab, said.



A UNESCO Chair is a project and a team at a university or a higher education institution that partners with UNESCO to advance knowledge and practice in an area that is a priority for all parties involved.

Our proven research, education, and outreach activities under the UNESCO Chairs programmes focus on four key interrelated areas:

1. Sustainable Water Research for Climate Adaptation and Saline Agriculture in Arid Environments
2. Gender and Digital Technologies, and
3. Secure High-Performance Computing for Higher Education and Research
4. Digital Technology Design with Indigenous People (launched 2025)





2024

Lüderitz Campus Launched

In the vibrant and historic coastal town of Lüderitz, where the Namib Desert meets the Atlantic Ocean, the Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST) officially marked the launch of its new southern Campus with a series of events on 24 and 25 September 2024. The celebrations began with a Public Lecture, followed by a Fundraising Gala Dinner and the grand finale of the Official Launch, marked by a ribbon-cutting ceremony and plaque unveiling.

The Public Lecture, sponsored by Reconnaissance Energy Namibia (ReconNamibia), was held under the theme 'Community Participation, Engagement, and Consultation in Oil and Gas'. The lecture, facilitated by Prof Samuel John from NUST, a Green Hydrogen expert, brought together panelists from academia, industry and the community. As the aforementioned industries continue to boom, the discussions placed emphasis on the need to ensure sustainability, highlighting the need to build trust with local communities.



The Lüderitz youth actively took part in the conversations, posing hard-hitting questions to the panelists and expressing their interest in getting access to education, especially in the programmes available at the campus.

During the Official Launch, Prof Eroid Naomab, the NUST Vice-Chancellor, highlighted that: "The campus is built on a Science and Technology Park (STP) model. STPs are not just physical spaces—they are ecosystems of innovation.

They bring together academia, industry, and government to collaborate on solutions that drive economic growth, foster entrepreneurship, and create jobs. The Lüderitz Campus STP will be the first of its kind in Namibia, offering state-of-the-art facilities where research meets real-world applications."



2024

Meet AIRA - NUST's Latest AI Robot

In September 2024, through partnership with the bank of Namibia, NUST launched a fully fledged AI laboratory featuring the university's latest advanced robot designed to immerse students in the fundamentals of robotics and artificial intelligence (AI) was recently introduced to the campus community. The Bot is part of the University's Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Accelerator (AIRA) - befittingly, her name is also AIRA.

Head of NUST's Computer Science Department, Mr Edward Nepolo, explained AIRA's current abilities, which are intended to introduce students to Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) through a practical lens. "AIRA can patrol, record audio and video as she navigates her surroundings, set reminders, project information, and respond to voice commands.

These foundational functions allow students to explore the complexities of automation and robot interactions," he said excitedly. AIRA enables students to examine how humans can work alongside robotic systems, an essential area of study within HCI. Currently, Honours students and an exchange student from Aalborg University in Denmark are investigating how humans can trust interactions with robots, focusing on building confidence in such digital collaborations. This hands-on approach helps students gain a realistic understanding of how robots can be allies in tasks requiring precision, repetition, and responsiveness. AIRA's functions align directly with upcoming AI programmes at the University.





Bloomberg

2025

Namibia's First Bloomberg Finance Lab Launched

NUST and Mobile Telecommunications Limited (MTC), in collaboration with Namibia Investment and Finance Academy (NIFA), has announced the opening of Namibia's first Bloomberg Finance Lab at the University's High-Tech Transfer and Technology ([HTTPS](https://www.nust.ac.na)).

Equipped with 12 Bloomberg Terminals, the lab positions NUST alongside more than 1 000 academic institutions worldwide that integrate this leading technology into their curriculum. The Bloomberg Terminal provides real-time and historical data, analytics, market-moving news, and electronic trading tools, enabling users to make informed investment decisions and connect securely with a global professional network. Prof Eroid Naomab, Vice-Chancellor, said, "At NUST, we are dedicated to nurturing the next generation of financial professionals. Our collaboration with Bloomberg, NIFA and MTC allows us to bridge the gap between academic theory and real-world financial applications, enhancing our students' career prospects and boosting Namibia's global competitiveness."

"As Namibia's leading digital solutions and connectivity provider, we believe in leveraging technology to drive sustainable growth. The Bloomberg Finance Lab exemplifies our commitment to innovation and collaboration to position the country at the forefront of digital transformation in finance," added Dr Licky Erastus, Managing Director at MTC.

"NIFA was founded to cultivate world-class financial capabilities in Namibia. By making professional training and certifications more accessible, we ensure that our workforce and industry professionals acquire the global competencies required to excel in today's fast-paced markets," said Arinze Okafor, Founder and CEO of NIFA.



2025

Digital Arts and Animation Department Launched

NUST launched a new department, focusing on Digital Arts and Animation (DAA). The department, a dedicated space for aspiring creatives to gain industry-relevant skills, is aligned with global technological advancements, while complementing NUST's 2021-2025 strategic direction. The launch of the DAA heralds an opportunity for Namibian creative scholars and practitioners to develop advanced skill sets in the arts and animation sector.

The DAA was established to meet the growing demand for digital skills and expertise, while positioning NUST and the department as a hub for 2D and 3D animation, gaming design, visual effects, performing arts, digital advertising, motion capture, content creation, scriptwriting for film, and children's television production. This initiative aligns with NUST's strategic vision, particularly Goal 4, which focuses on advancing human-centred digital transformation for Industry 4.0 and beyond.

As part of its industry engagement, the department has partnered with Luno Pictures from London to introduce the Animation Skills Accelerator Programme (ASAP), a structured workplace training programme aimed at equipping participants with industry-standard skills in animation, film, television, content creation, and visual effects. The Department was launched by Hon Dr Sanet Steenkamp, the Minister of Education, Innovation, Youth, Sports, Arts and Culture.



The 2025 Journey in Frames



NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
The late applications fee patiently waiting for you to miss the 26 September 2025 deadline.





**NAMIBIA UNIVERSITY
OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Corporate Engagement and
Internationalisation**

**A DECADE OF EMINENCE:
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