

THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA



FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

(FASS)

ORIENTATION SPEECH FROM THE FACULTY DEAN

Dr. Felician Mutasa

2019/2020 ACADEMIC YEAR

Dear FASS students,

It is my pleasure to have this opportunity to welcome you all to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences for this new academic year 2019/20. I thank you all new students for choosing to study at the Open University of Tanzania and specifically the faculty of arts and social sciences. Let me assure you that your choice will be rewarded as planned. It is also my hope that continuing students have enjoyed their studies in the just ended academic year and are ready to enroll for yet another year in their academic life with the Faculty.

KNOW YOUR FACULTY

Dear students,

The Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences is the largest of the five faculties at the university. The faculty offers a wide range of courses and course combinations at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. The faculty has seven academic departments and one center as listed below:

1. Department of History, Philosophy and Library Studies (HPRS)
2. Department of Political Science and Public Administration (PSPA)
3. Department of Geography (GEOG)
4. Department of Linguistics and Literary Studies (LLS)
5. Department of Journalism and Media Studies (JMS)
6. Department of Tourism and Hospitality (T&H)
7. Department of Sociology and Social Work (SOSW)
8. Center for Economics and Community Economic Development (CECED) which hosts two departments: Department of Economics (ECON) and Department of Community Economic Development (CED)

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

Dear students,

At undergraduate level, we currently offer 17 programmes through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode of delivery. These include:

1. Bachelor of Arts in Tourism Management (BATM) – Host Dep't: T&H
2. Bachelor of Arts in Sociology (BASO) – Host Dep't: SOSW
3. Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) – Host Dep't: SOSW

4. Bachelor of Arts in Journalism (BAJ) – Host Dep't: JMS
5. Bachelor of Arts in Mass communication (BAMC) – Host Dep't: JMS
6. Bachelor of Community Economic Development [BCED] – Host Dep't: CECED
7. Bachelor of Arts in Economics [BA ECON] – Host Dep't: CECED
8. Bachelor of Arts in Natural Resource Management [BA NRM] – Host Dep't: GEOG
9. Bachelor of Arts in Population and Development [BA PD] – Host Dep't: GEOG
10. Bachelor of Arts in Literature [BA LIT] – Host Dep't: LLS
11. Bachelor of Arts in Kiswahili and Creative Studies [BA KISW] – Host Dep't: LLS
12. Bachelor of Arts in English Language and Linguistics [BA ELL] – Host Dep't: LLS
13. Bachelor of Library Information Management [BLIM] – Host Dep't: HPRS
14. Bachelor of Arts in History and Cultural Heritage [BA HIST] – Host Dep't: HPRS
15. Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and Religious Studies [BAPR] – Host Dep't: HPRS
16. Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration (BAPA) – Host Dep't: PSPA
17. Bachelor of Arts in International Relations (BAIR) – Host Dep't: PSPA

In order to qualify for the award of a degree, a student is normally required to complete a minimum of between 36 and 40 course units, depending on specific programme requirements. Further details about our programmes are also available in the OUT Prospectus and FASS website:

http://www.out.ac.tz/images/news_events/Prospectus and fass website <http://www.out.ac.tz/fass>

Mode of Delivery

All undergraduate programmes are delivered by Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode. Teaching and learning is done through the Blended Mode using e-learning platform (MOODLE). Each course is divided into six knowledge areas. Specific knowledge area contains notes, power point presentation, video, important references and review questions. A knowledge area is taught for one month, i.e., two weeks for reading the available materials and two weeks for discussion in moodle and submission of assignments. You are all encouraged to participate effectively in moodle in order to enhance your learning. Other Support Services include: compact discs (CDs), Internet (where available), library services and other teaching/learning media. Students should visit the OUT library website: <http://www.out.ac.tz/library/> for online academic resources.

FIELD PRACTICUM AND FIELD ATTACHMENT

In the spirit of blending theoretical knowledge and practical training, all students in the second and third year of the below mentioned departments are required to undertake field practical's/field attachment:

- (i) Journalism and Mass communication
- (ii) Sociology and Social work
- (iii) Political science and Public administration
- (iv) Geography
- (v) Tourism and hospitality services
- (vi) History, Philosophy and Library services

Continuing students are advised to contact respective heads of department and the FASS handbook 2018/2019 for more details on modality, duration and fees requirements.

EXAMINATION ARRANGMENTS

Under normal circumstances, a student is expected to sit for examinations, present in seminars and participate in the Modular Object-Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment (MOODLE) platform. The examinations are normally held in January/February and May/June. However, with open and distance mode students enjoy quite maximum flexibility with regard to sitting for their examination sessions. If it happens, for example, a student fails to sit for the said sessions, they may be given a slot on demand basis known as On Demand Examination (ODEX). This is a flexible mode of examination which is requested by individual students when they feel they are ready for a particular examination. These type of examinations are not strictly scheduled but are supposed to be 'open' in the sense that they will be taken when a candidate is ready for such an examination. Currently they are conducted in September of each year, but later they will be determined purely by individual student requests. Such examinations attract an extra fee which is determined by the University from time to time.

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

The Faculty also offers a number of postgraduate programmes. These include Masters Programmes, PhD Programmes, and Postgraduate Diplomas. There are two broad categories of Masters Degrees: Masters Degree by Thesis and Masters Degree by Coursework. All masters' degrees by coursework are

offered through blended mode. The following are 18 masters degree by course work offered by FASS in the 2018/2019 academic year.

1. Masters of Social work (MSW)
2. Masters of Arts in Gender Studies (*MA GS*)
3. Masters of Science in Economics (MSc. Economics)
4. Masters in Community Economic Development (MCED)
5. Masters of Arts in Monitoring and Evaluation (*MA M&E*)
6. Masters in Tourism Planning and Management (MTPM)
7. Masters of Arts in History (*MA HIST*)
8. Masters of Arts in Natural Resource Assessment and Management (*MANRAM*)
9. Masters of Arts in International Cooperation and Development (*MA ICD*)
10. Masters of Science in Humanitarian Action, Cooperation & Development (*MSc HACD*)
11. Masters of Arts in Governance and Leadership (*MA GL*)
12. Masters of Arts in Kiswahili (*MA Kisw*)
13. Masters of Arts in Linguistics (MA Ling)
14. Master of Arts in Geography (*M.A. (Geog)*)
15. Masters of Arts in Mass Communication (MA MC)
16. Masters of Arts in Journalism (MA Journalism)
17. Masters of Arts in Library information management (MLIM)
18. Post Graduate Diploma in Social Work- (*PGDSW*)

The duration of postgraduate programs with course work is on average 18 months. A minimum of 18 units (including dissertation) must be passed for the award of any master's program and 12 units for the award of any postgraduate program

PHD AND MASTERS BY THESIS

The faculty offers masters by thesis in all specialization and a Doctor of Philosophy degree. Interested students are required to apply through the postgraduate directorate by submitting a proposal/concept note. Upon admission the student will be assigned a supervisor(s) appointed by the senate on recommendation of the faculty. The duration for a master by thesis is maximum five years, while for doctor of philosophy degree maximum duration is six years.

Minimum entry qualifications are as specified in the OUT General Regulations Governing Masters and undergraduate Degrees as provided in the OUT Prospectus. For specific details about each of the FASS programmes please visit FASS website: <http://www.out.ac.tz/fass> and the FASS handbook 2019/2020.

Dear students,

You have chosen to study through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) mode, and you therefore need abide to values and norms embedded in it. The key norms in an ODL mode of learning are *self-discipline, commitment, determination* and *time management*. Students are advised to set specific time for studies and attach themselves to a particular study group.

Communication is an important tool that facilitates effective learning and teaching in ODL system. It is highly advised to communicate to course instructors through e-mail by using official student email accounts that will be given to students by directors of respective regional centers. Telephone calls may be used when it is quite necessary. The instructor is supposed to respond to a message in three days time. If s/he fails a student can send him/her a reminder and wait for another three days. If one gets no response even after a reminder then s/he can call. The Dean will be closely monitoring the student-instructor interactions to see how active they are and intervene if and when need arises. At departmental level, WhatsApp groups have been established for each programme in order to enhance communication and learning.

IMPORTANT FACULTY CONTACTS

DEPT/CENTRE	NAME	EMAIL	MOBILE
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I encourage all students to access the FASS handbook. The handbook contains all the important information about the Faculty which may not easily be found in the general OUT prospectus. A copy of the handbook can be accessible on our faculty website: <http://www.out.ac.tz/fass>

Lastly, I wish you all a successful academic year



Dr.Felician Mutasa

Dean, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences