



MUT past and present

Founded by legislation in 1979 as a Technikon to offer technical and vocational education at tertiary level and transformed into a University of Technology in 2007, MUT has transformed itself to be a university focused on offering technological, career-directed educational programmes with an emphasis on innovative problem-solving research and engaging with government/business/industry and communities as end-users. MUT's many programmes provide access and opportunity for large numbers of historically-disadvantaged and underserved students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend university.

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MUT is located in Umlazi, a township on the east coast of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa located south-west of the city of Durban. Umlazi is the fourth largest township in South Africa. Although townships are historic sites of Apartheid's spatial planning, their continued development through investment by government and private entities is central to economic redress and broader economic growth within South Africa. This location gives MUT a unique intermediary position of being integrally involved in the mix of social, developmental and economic investments made into the Township, from which it contributes and draws in providing access to higher education. Durban is the busiest port in the country and is home to the biggest sugar terminal in the world. It is a major tourism centre because of its warm subtropical climate and extensive beaches. The Mercer Quality of Life ranking places Durban first among South Africa's cities. The city forms part of the eThekweni metropolis which is one of the

most rapidly growing regions in the country. It is also home to two other public universities which are much larger than MUT. Over the past few years, the city has established itself as the convention centre of South Africa and is now well equipped for the entertainment of visitors.

Within this context, MUT plays a critical role in national and regional development by providing the rich knowledge base, innovation, and workforce required to grow and sustain the quality of life for an increasingly diverse and rapidly changing society. The University has achieved remarkable success over its relatively brief history and has developed a greater capacity to meet its responsibilities to the communities it serves. Academic programmes are offered in three Faculties: the Faculty of Engineering; the Faculty of Natural Sciences and the Faculty of Management Sciences.