

VICE-CHANCELLOR'S ADDRESS AT THE 2023/2024 FRESHERS' ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

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BUILDING A LEGACY OF LEARNING BEYOND BOUNDARIES

As-Salam alaikum waramatuhullah wabarakatuhu,

I am thrilled to express my heartfelt welcome to each of you, dear freshers, as you commence yet another educational journey in our esteemed institution. Your decision to select Fountain University, Osogbo, as your university of choice marks the commencement of a transformative odyssey in your pursuit of knowledge. Congratulations on choosing a university that stands at the forefront, setting the pace for others to follow. You are now part of a vibrant community committed to the pursuit of knowledge, personal growth and the fulfilment of aspirations. This orientation programme is more than just an introduction to campus life, it is a guiding compass for you, the newest members of the Fountain University family, steering you through the academic expanse of our esteemed institution. The orientation programme is designed to immerse your minds in the values and ethics that define our university life.

Fountain University, your choice university, was established in 2007 by the Nasrul-Li-Lahi Society of Nigeria, as an Islamic faith-based institution with a mission to lead in learning, character-building and service to humanity. Our vision extends to developing graduates who are not only capable and resourceful but also uphold high moral standards, irrespective of their ethnicity, tribe, religion or political affiliations.

At the heart of our philosophy lies an unwavering commitment to excellence, intellectual curiosity and the relentless pursuit of knowledge. We aim to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that stimulates critical thinking, nurtures creativity and empowers individuals to make positive impact on society. Our actions are guided by principles that underscore our dedication to excellence in education, research and service.

In the words of our beloved Prophet Muhammad (SAW), "The seeking of knowledge is obligatory for every Muslim." Within the framework of Islamic teachings, education transcends the mere accumulation of facts; it is a sacred journey toward self-discovery, service to humanity and nearness to Allah. Your university life is a holistic experience, encompassing not only textbooks and exams but also the embrace of diversity, cultivation of critical thinking, and the endeavour to become the best version of yourself.

While navigating the academic challenges that lie ahead, do not lose sight of the spiritual dimension of your journey. Let your studies be an act of worship, a means of drawing closer to Allah. Here, at this blessed institution, you are not merely students; you are ambassadors of

faith, knowledge and character.

Throughout your time here, you will encounter not only rigorous academic courses but also a myriad of opportunities for personal and professional development. The friendships you forge, the experiences you gain and the lessons you learn will weave into the fabric of your identity.

Furthermore, as you onboard your academic journey at Fountain University, I encourage you to explore the diverse range of facilities available to enhance your learning experience. The extensive library, housing a wealth of both traditional books and cutting-edge e-library resources, serves as a treasure trove for intellectual exploration. Our state-of-the-art sports facilities are designed not only for physical well-being but also to encourage teamwork, discipline and a healthy lifestyle. Additionally, our counselling unit stands ready to provide support and guidance, ensuring your mental and emotional well-being throughout your university years.

Moreover, Fountain University places a strong emphasis on practical, real world skills. Our entrepreneurship and skill acquisition programmes are tailored to empower you with the tools necessary for success in today's competitive world. Use the courses under entrepreneurship to develop not only academically but also professionally, preparing yourself for the challenges and opportunities that lie beyond the academic realm.

For spiritual development, engage with our Fiqh sessions that delve into the profound teachings of Islam, providing a unique space for reflection and growth. The Madrasah, dedicated to Qur'anic learning, offers an environment where you can deepen your understanding of the tenets of Islam and strengthen your connection with your faith. Lastly, a serene mosque stands at the heart of our campus, welcoming you for moments of contemplation, prayer and community. These facilities are not just physical spaces; they are integral components of your holistic development. Embrace them, utilize them to the fullest and let them become catalysts for your growth as individuals with a well-rounded education that extends beyond the confines of traditional classrooms. We encourage you to make the most of these resources, as they are here to enrich every facet of your university experience

Remember to embrace every opportunity to learn from setbacks, celebrate your successes and, above all, build meaningful relationships with your peers and even your lecturers. The bonds you establish during your time at Fountain University will be a wellspring of strength throughout your life and the skills you develop will empower you to confront the uncertainties and complexities of the world beyond our institution's walls. View challenges not as roadblocks but as stepping stones to personal growth.

As we commence this academic journey, I emphasize the importance of adhering to university regulations outlined in the student handbook. Offenders will face consequences accordingly, so do away from all forms of atrocities. I urge you to read and study consistently. Proper

preparation prevents failure.

In conclusion, recognize that you are not alone on this journey. The entire university community is here to guide and support you. Use the available resources, seek mentorship, and never hesitate to ask for help. Your success is intricately linked to ours and we are deeply interested in your growth as both scholars and individuals. Our collective goal is to equip you with the tools to overcome barriers, construct bridges of understanding, and contribute meaningfully to the betterment of society.

Once again, I appreciate the Dean of Student Affairs and the resource persons for their valuable contributions to the orientation while welcoming the students to Fountain University. I extend my best wishes for an inspiring, fulfilling and transformative journey ahead. May your time here be characterized by curiosity, discovery and the sheer joy of learning. Always bear in mind that education is not a destination, it is an on-going, lifelong journey.

Fountain leads, others follow!

Professor Olayinka Ramota Karim
Vice-Chancellor