



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Mamelodi dipolelelo

Fostering excellence in pathways to STEM education

#ChooseUP 4 August 2018

The University of Pretoria (UP) is a leading university in South Africa and throughout the world. It is positioned among the top 1.9% of tertiary institutions globally as reported by the QS World University Rankings. You have the opportunity to join the ranks of this world-class university through the Foundation Programmes, hosted on UP's Mamelodi Campus. Mamelodi Campus offers young people alternative pathways to careers related to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), as well as health, veterinary science, and economic and management sciences, through the University's flagship initiative. These programmes offer students who are willing to work hard the opportunity to develop excellent academic skills and complete academic modules during their first year at university in preparation for their final degrees. The Foundation Programmes come highly recommended by alumni of Mamelodi Campus, who emphasise the positive contribution the Campus has made to their lives.

Please consider Mamelodi Campus and the Foundation Programmes as your first choice this #ChooseUP Day.

Dream big: The success story of alumna, Nkateko Masinga



Although I eventually found my passion in the arts, I studied medicine at the University of Pretoria. During my studies, I was invited to join the Golden Key International Honour Society for outstanding academic achievements.

My time at Mamelodi Campus was a necessary foundation. During 2010, when I started with the four-year BSc (Biological Sciences) programme, I learnt important problem-solving and time management skills that I used as a medical student intern.

I am now best known as a writer and my work has been nominated for various accolades. In 2016, I started my own publishing company, NSUKU Publishing Consultancy, to help other writers publish their work. NSUKU means "gold" in my home language of Xitsonga. A few months after its establishment, the company proved to be successful. In 2018, I was nominated for a Woman of the Year Award for my entrepreneurship.

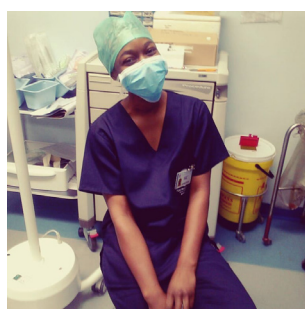
Among other things, I have also founded a non-profit organisation, Pass the Mic, that encourages women to share their experiences through various art forms, gave a talk at TEDx Pretoria and studied at Wagner College in New York as part the 2018 Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders.



Nkateko Masinga, alumna of Mamelodi Campus



Nkateko at the 2018 Woman of the Year Awards



Nkateko during her medical studies

Mamelodi Campus helps its students to achieve success



Onalenna Valerian Diphoko

I am a final-year BSc (Quantity Surveying) student. I come from a small village in North West called Moruleng. Getting admitted to the University of Pretoria (UP) was not easy for me. My Grade 10 and Grade 11 marks were not great at all, but it never put my spirits down. I had no idea of the opportunities for study available in South Africa because I did not have access to internet nor had a mentor to guide me. Our teachers at that time did not give us any information about life after high school. At that stage of my life, all I knew was that I wanted to go to university, but I did not know what I wanted to study. I did people's hair after school or over weekends to raise money for the application fees.

At first, I was not accepted to UP, but this motivated me to get great marks in matric. I worked hard. My matric marks were good enough and I ended up applying to study engineering. I was not accepted for engineering, but the lady who helped me told me about the Foundation Programmes, which are four-year extended programmes. All I had to do was to write the National Benchmark Test (NBT), which would determine my acceptance into university. I remember attending classes for a good two weeks without knowing whether I was accepted or not. Nevertheless, I believed in myself so much that I kept on going so that I would not be left behind. I was accepted into the Foundation Programmes and that was when my success began. I used to be a very isolated person, and I was always afraid to ask for help. As time went by, and after a couple of consultations with advisors, I started becoming aware of what I needed for my future.

This programme became a solid foundation, because I got to know myself, learnt to interact with people from other races and backgrounds, and learnt to set goals. Mamelodi Campus also gave me a platform to help others. In 2014, I started an organisation that aims to help girls who want to go to university, but lack information about what to study and where.



Thabang Ngwenya

I am a young man who aspires to be a systems engineer and lecturer. I am currently in my third year of the BEng (Industrial Engineering) degree at University of Pretoria (UP), and I dream of completing a PhD in engineering. I started my university journey with the Foundation Programme in Physics. My goal is to comprehend the fundamentals of engineering with a better understanding of the diversity of science in industry, agriculture, medicine and maintenance, all comprising combined systems of people. I want to use the knowledge I acquire to offer solutions to community outreach programmes, companies and the economy at large.

I am a co-founder of Keep That Gold Shining (KTG), which is a non-profit company that was initiated in 2014. KTG is aimed at unleashing the potential of high school learners and university students through tutoring, motivation and mentorship programmes. To date, I have been engaged in mentorships, tutoring and inspirational talks with the aim of helping people live up to their biggest capabilities.

Since 2015, I have been one of the mentors of Tuks Naledi (one of UP's residences for students of the Foundation Programmes) where I have mentored at least 50 students. In 2015, I was awarded a bursary and in 2017 I was recognised as an outstanding mentor. I was also part of the house committee of Tuks Naledi, where I was in charge of the sport portfolio for 2016/2017.

The Foundation Programmes ensured the proper development of my leadership and academic skills, which prepared me for my future.



Busisiwe Kamolane

I first came to Mamelodi Campus in 2012, the year the Foundation Programmes were launched. Were it not for the Foundation Programmes, I would not have had the opportunity to study at one of the best universities on the African continent – the University of Pretoria (UP). My experience at Mamelodi Campus was eye-opening and challenging, yet adventurous. Because the Campus is smaller than Hatfield Campus, I had the opportunity to foster close-knit relationships and build long-term friendships. My time at Mamelodi Campus led to my growth and strength of character, and made me resilient. This is not a campus for failures, nor should anyone be viewed as such by virtue of being there. It is rather an opportunity to really prosper, and I chose to grab the opportunity with both hands.

After my year at Mamelodi Campus, I enrolled for an LLB, and in 2015 I launched a non-profitable organisation aimed at addressing the socio-economic needs of children and the youth. In 2016, I became a mentor for the University's STARS mentorship programme, which aims to provide first-year students with capable mentors to assist them with the transition from high school to university. In the same year, I was elected as a Judge of the Constitutional Tribunal of UP. Here I served by protecting the rights and best interests of students amidst great uncertainty regarding student governance at UP at the time.

I am currently working at the Constitutional Court of South Africa, the highest court in the land. Here, I serve as a law researcher for the Honourable Chief Justice Mogoeng Mogoeng. My goal is to study towards an LLM in Human Rights and to become one of the youngest human rights lawyers so that I can continue to make a lasting impact in the lives of others.



Suzan Maboane

I started my BSc (Biochemistry) degree at Mamelodi Campus in 2013. At first, the idea of attending classes at the Campus was daunting, mainly because it seemed isolated and the idea of finishing my degree a year later than my peers was unsettling. However, I can say with confidence that I am who I am academically because of the strong foundation that was laid there. I forged lifelong friendships and had tremendous support from the lecturers and advisors. The atmosphere at Mamelodi Campus enables one to acquire independence and good time management skills. When I went to Hatfield Campus in 2014, I was better equipped to handle the pressure and subsequent challenges. I became involved in student leadership roles at NATHouse, the faculty house for the Faculty of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and Hatfield Studios. Despite the busy schedule, I still managed to complete my degree in record time. I completed my BScHons Biochemistry degree in 2017 and I am currently in my first year of an MSc Biochemistry degree, which focuses on malaria research. Mamelodi Campus is a true representation of excellence.



Karabo Shabangu

In 2012, I started studying towards a BCom degree as part of the Foundation Programmes on Mamelodi Campus. After my time at Mamelodi Campus, I pursued my degree in economics. I believe that the Foundation Programmes prepared me so well for my studies on Hatfield Campus.

I graduated with distinction, after which I pursued an honours degree in economics, which opened the door for me to study a short course in emerging markets and country risk analysis at Fordham University in 2016. Going to New York for the first time exposed me to so many people and I enjoyed studying at Fordham. I decided that pursuing my master's degree in a different environment such as that would be beneficial for my growth as an individual. I now hold a master's degree in economics from Fordham University, New York.

At first, you tend to feel like a failure when you do not qualify to study on Hatfield Campus. For me, it was motivation. I loved Mamelodi Campus and the friends I made. I want the students there to know that the sky is the limit and they should always challenge themselves. Nobody should ever tell them that they are incapable of achieving anything.



Dipuo Boshomane

I am studying towards a master's degree in agricultural economics at the University of Pretoria (UP). My journey began at Mamelodi Campus in 2013.

As a child, I often visited my aunt who worked in Brooklyn during the December holidays. It was not far from UP, so we passed the premises now and then. A few years later, I was not just a student at UP, but a member of the Golden Key International Honour Society (top 15% in academics internationally). In my final year, I was one of two students from the Department of Agricultural Economics, Extension and Rural Development who got invited to attend the Produce Marketing Association (PMA) Career Pathways Programme with 36 other students from around the world. Recently, I was also one of three students from the Department who attended the Agricultural Business Chamber (Agbiz) Student Case competition in Port Elizabeth.

If you have ever felt like you have taken a step away from your dreams, my story should prove to you that dreams postponed are not dreams foregone. It is not about where one starts, but where one is heading. Stay motivated and remember why you started when things get hard.



Boitumelo Mogola

I was at Mamelodi Campus in 2015 and I am currently a final-year BSc (Food Science) student. I am also a tutor for the practical component of the Chemistry 133 module. I love Mamelodi Campus so much. It eases you into varsity and all the staff members there care for you. Mamelodi Campus is like a family. If you come to Mamelodi Campus as a shy person like I did, you would have built on your personality and be ready to take on varsity life by the time you leave. Everyone at Mamelodi Campus is there for one goal, and the fact that all the students there are first years makes it even better.

When I arrived at Hatfield Campus in 2016, I looked back at my journey and thought that, if I had not started at Mamelodi Campus, I would not have survived Hatfield Campus. Mamelodi Campus is a great experience and anyone who thinks they are not ready for varsity should start at "Mams". By the time you leave there, you are stable enough and well prepared to swim in the deep end.



Mateke Mananyetjo

After completing matric in 2010, I improved my Mathematics and Physical Sciences marks in 2011 because I did not qualify to study medicine. However, I was still not admitted to study because the BSc (Medical Sciences) programme was full. The only alternative was to enrol for the Foundation Programmes at Mamelodi Campus.

I started attending the Foundation Programmes in 2012 with the hope of getting into medicine, but I realised that I wanted to study medicine for the wrong reasons. Although I enjoyed chemistry, I still had a passion for health sciences, so I studied BSc (Biochemistry) with a second major in chemistry. I graduated in time without repeating biochemistry or chemistry. The Foundation Programmes helped me to make the right career choice. Had I gone straight to the main stream, I would not have figured out what I wanted to do with my career and I was not going survive the first-year chemistry module. I am thankful that I studied through the Foundation Programmes.

Here's your chance: Foundation Programmes and admission requirements

Foundation Programme	NSC with admission for degree purposes	NBT	APS	Mathematics	Physical Sciences	Two languages, of which one must be English or Afrikaans	Life Orientation (excluded when calculating APS)	Other
BSc (Mathematical Sciences)	Yes	Recommended	26	Level 5	–	Level 4	Level 4	Three other subjects
BSc (Physical Science)	Yes	Recommended	26	Level 4	Level 4	Level 4	Level 4	Two other subjects
BSc (Biological and Agricultural Sciences)	Yes	Recommended	24	Level 4	Level 4	Level 4	Level 4	Two other subjects
BCom	Yes	Recommended	26	Level 3	–	Level 4	Level 4	–

For information regarding your Foundation Programme study career, as well as application and admission to the programmes, please visit <http://www.up.ac.za/en/faculty-of-natural-agricultural-sciences/article/16226/up-four-year-programmes>