



# Research and Innovation Department Newsletter

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## Message from the Head

Dear Colleagues,

As we continue to foster a strong research culture at Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences, I am pleased to share the latest updates in this mini edition of our newsletter. Research plays a vital role in shaping innovation and informed decision-making, and we are committed to strengthening our governance structures to support ethical and impactful studies.

In this issue, you will find brief highlights of recent research activities and key insights on departmental activities. I encourage you to engage, collaborate, and contribute towards advancing our institution's research excellence.

Thank you for your dedication, and I look forward to seeing our collective progress.

**Madalitso Tsakama, PhD.**  
Head of Research and Innovation

## Mid-day Minds: RSU Launches Monthly Lunchtime Research Seminars

The Research Support Unit (RSU) in partnership with WASHTED has launched its Monthly Lunchtime Research Seminars, a key initiative to strengthen the university's research culture. The inaugural session, held on 28th February 2025, featured Dr. Limbanazo Matandika, a bioethicist, who led a thought-provoking discussion on research ethics titled **"Why Does Ethics Matter in Research – Guiding Principle or Just a Requirement?"** The session emphasized the critical role of ethics in research, academic integrity, and societal trust.

With an engaging and interactive format, participants shared experiences and explored real-world ethical challenges across various research disciplines. The informal lunchtime setting, with meals provided, fostered networking and cross-disciplinary collaboration, making the event both intellectually stimulating and socially engaging.

The RSU celebrates the seminar's success and looks forward to upcoming sessions featuring diverse topics and expert speakers. Stay tuned for more insightful discussions that continue to shape the research landscape at MUBAS.



Dr. Limbanazo Mindiera Matandika delivering a session during the inaugural lunch hour series at MUBAS

## Internal Research Grant to Fuel Research and Innovation at MUBAS

The Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS) has set aside MK450 million for the 2024 to 2025 fiscal year for internal research grants, offering up to MK50,000,000 per research proposal over a period of three (3) years. The grant has been established in recognition of the importance of collaborative research and commitment to fostering mentorship and professional development.

Beyond funding, the grant equips early and mid-career researchers with essential skills through structured mentorship and training workshops on proposal writing, ethics, and stakeholder engagement. By prioritizing interdisciplinary research and impactful dissemination, MUBAS is preparing its researchers for global funding success.

As the next funding cycle approaches, scholars are encouraged to refine their proposals and drive meaningful research and innovation projects.

## MUBAS Conducts Orientation for Research Ethics Committee Members

The newly established MUBAS Research Ethics Committee (MUBASREC) held a two-day orientation in Nalipiri, Mulanje, to equip its members with essential skills for upholding research ethics.

Speaking during the meeting, Mr. Isaac Kachedwa, Research Director at NCST highlighted the role of ethics in research and national development. MUBASREC includes experts from diverse fields, ensuring ethical oversight. The committee, chaired by Associate Professor Peter Mhagama, with Dr. Dickson Ndeguma as deputy chair, meets monthly to review proposals, safeguarding research integrity and participant protection.



MUBASREC members, flanked by Mr. Isaac Kachedwa (center) from the National Commission for Science and Technology, during the orientation workshop at MUBAS

## MUBAS Innovation Hub Launches Hello Tomorrow 6th Cohort

On February 8, 2025, MUBAS Innovation Hub launched its sixth **Hello Tomorrow** cohort. Running until March 22, the program equips participants (ages 6–17) with coding skills in Scratch and Python, fostering problem-solving, innovation, and digital literacy to prepare future tech leaders. Enthusiastic learners embraced their first coding experience. The next cohort will run from July 2025.

## MUBAS, FDH Bank Officially Launch Graduate Startup Program (GSP)

MUBAS Entrepreneurship Centre, in partnership with FDH Bank plc, launched the **FDH Graduate Startup Program** in 2024. Open to final-year students, the initiative fosters innovative startups through annual competitions, business plan development, and pitching opportunities, ensuring viable, sustainable, and high-growth ventures upon graduation. For the second cohort, the program identified five business enterprises that will be incubated and supported financially.

## MUBAS Partners with University of Strathclyde in Entrepreneurship Development

MUBAS Entrepreneurship Centre has partnered with the University of Strathclyde to enhance its functions, including training, research, mentorship, and networking. This collaboration supports MUBAS' vision of becoming an Entrepreneurial University and aligns with its 2022–2030 Strategic Plan, fostering growth in innovation and entrepreneurship.

## Celebrating Innovation: Unipod Hosts The 2024 Sciencepreneurship Grant Awards

On December 19, 2024, the Faculty-Student Programme (FSP) "Sciencepreneur" Grant Awards took center stage at UniPod, located at the Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences (MUBAS). The event brought together innovators, educators, and policymakers to celebrate groundbreaking ideas and entrepreneurial excellence.



Guest of Honor Dr. Mangani Katundu, Associate Professor Nancy Chitera (Vice Chancellor of MUBAS), and Mr. Challa Getachew (UNDP Deputy Resident Representative) awarded students and faculty members during the award giving ceremony

## Zantchito Entrepreneurship and Access to Finance Project (2023–2028)

MUBAS Incubation Centre is implementing the EU-funded Zantchito Project, creating jobs for young people through financing businesses at the idea stage. The first cohort of 29 incubates has received pitching skills, business registration support, and funding. Eighteen participants are now developing prototypes for market introduction.



Entrepreneurs during orientation meeting under Zantchito project

## First-ever Intellectual Property (IP) Audit at MUBAS

MUBAS, with support from NCST and UNDP, conducted its first comprehensive Intellectual Property (IP) audit. The initiative, piloted in the School of Engineering, assessed the university's IP landscape from 2014–2024 to enhance innovation management.

Creating a clear inventory of patents, copyrights, and trademarks helps determine ownership, protection status, and risks of IP assets while identifying gaps and commercialization opportunities, ultimately strengthening MUBAS's role in technology transfer and industry collaboration.

This audit marks a major step in protecting and leveraging university-generated innovations.

## Contact Information

For inquiries, submissions, or collaborations, please reach out to us. We look forward to engaging with you.

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