

# MY EXPERIENCE AS AN INTERN AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NAIROBI

*By Caroline Wambui Macharia*

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The day March 1, 2021 when I started my internship program at the University of Nairobi was a dream come true. At exactly 8.00 a.m. on that chilly Monday morning, I arrived at the Planning department where I had been directed to, for assignment of duties. There, I met one of the members of staff whom I later came to know as Mercy, and whom we immediately struck a hearty chat with. I found her so hospitable. She offered me the much needed cup of tea and went ahead to brief me on what was expected of me as an intern.

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Later, the ever jovial and motherly Ms Annmaria Mahaga, the Assistant Registrar would stride in. Annmaria would become my immediate supervisor. Annmaria conducted some quick job orientation and training on my duties as a Secretary in the department. Among other duties, I was to be responding to telephone calls and replying to emails.

I would later for the first time in my life learn how to do photocopying and scanning of documents that I found this very interesting and fun. I promised myself to learn as much as I could so as to be on track and start my program within the shortest time possible.

Getting an opportunity to do my internship at the University of Nairobi to me wasn't just any win, I must admit it was among my daily prayer since I had a strong desire to one day set foot at this prestigious institution. University of Nairobi is known for its sterling and outstanding performance. Indeed, the University of Nairobi is the dream University of almost all high school form four leavers. I never thought that in one way or another, my dream shall ever come true and find myself landing at this great university, leave alone as an intern! I am super excited for this opportunity to intern at the University of Nairobi and especially in the Planning office which provides one with an opportunity to see the full view of the institution

Back in my mind, I envisioned a very different picture on how a university looks like and operates. I thought of a place with super humans, professors talking vocabularies after another. To my surprise, I found out that dons and university staff alike are humble and down to earth beings who are ready to assist and listen. Indeed, the welcome exceeded my

expectations. Right from the gate to the lecture halls and to offices, everything is so neat and done so systematically. The institution is full of very kind persons especially at these difficult times of COVID\_19 pandemic.

I intend to make my stay here worthwhile, productive and a memorable experience which I am certain to achieve with the help of the Planning department staff. I find the staff nurturing, supportive, welcoming and ready to share knowledge. As I plan to resume my secretarial training, I shall say without fear of contradiction that the UoN is indeed a world class university committed to scholarly excellence.

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