



KARATINA UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE VICE CHANCELLOR

P.O Box 1957-10101 KARATINA
Tel: (+254) 0202176713/0729721200
Email: vc@karu.ac.ke
info@karu.ac.ke

OUR REF: KarU/VC/EXT/1/VOL.1/15

Date: 15th July, 2015

H.E. Dr. Harald Gunther,
Ambassador,
Austrian Embassy, 536 Limuru Road,
P.O. Box 30560-00100,
NAIROBI.

Dear Dr. Gunther,

APPRECIATION AND REQUEST FOR SUPPORT TO COLLABORATE WITH AUSTRIAN UNIVERSITIES

First, I would like to sincerely thank you for hosting our team from Karatina University at your office on 18th June 2015. We are grateful for the warm welcome that you extended to us.

Karatina University is a Chartered Public University located in Nyeri County. Academic programmes in the University are offered in five schools: School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, School of Business, School of Education and Social Sciences, School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies and School of Pure and Applied Sciences. Within these schools are some 6,000 students undertaking postgraduate, undergraduate and diploma programmes.

Karatina University is interested in collaborating with Universities from Austria. This was the main agenda during our meeting which proposed some universities for consideration. We have visited the websites of these universities and have settled on four universities; University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences (BOKU), University of Innsbruck, University of Vienna and Vienna University of Economics and Business. We were not able to get information on Mountain Studies at the University of Leoben.

The purpose of this letter is to forward to your office the attached concept on the request for collaboration with the universities and the proposed areas of collaborations. We are looking forward to a strong partnership between our University and the proposed Universities.

Once more, thank you very much for hosting us in your office.

Yours sincerely,

PROF. MUCAI MUCHIRI
VICE CHANCELLOR

LIST OF UNIVERSITIES AND AREAS OF COLLABORATIONS WITH AUSTRIAN UNIVERSITIES

PREAMBLE

Karatina University is a Public chartered institution located 165Km away from Nairobi in the central highlands of Kenya. The university is located within the vicinity of the famous Mount Kenya and near Mt. Kenya forest which provide a natural laboratory for students taking programmes in Natural Resources and Applied Sciences. Additionally, the university is located in a rich agricultural region where a variety of horticultural crops are grown.

Programmes in the university are offered in five Schools, namely School of Agriculture and Biotechnology, School of business, School of Education and Social Sciences, School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies and School of Pure and Applied Sciences. Within these Schools are some 5,830 students taking various programmes. The Schools offer unique, quality and relevant programs including Bachelors, masters and PhD programmes. Recently, the University has developed a Masters programme on tropical Mountain ecosystems besides plans to establish centre for Mountain Studies.

Given the above background and based on the discussions held during our visit to the embassy, Karatina University is requesting to be introduced and assisted in developing collaborative linkages with the respective Austrian Universities as follows:

1. University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna (BOKU)

The University offers programmes which are relevant to Schools at Karatina University as follows:

School at Karatina University	Proposed Department/School for Collaboration
a) School of Agriculture and Biotechnology	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Sustainable Agriculture• Department of Food Science and Technology• Department of Biotechnology
b) School of Natural Resources and Environmental Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Integrative Biology and Biodiversity Conservation• Department of Forest and Soil Science• Department of Water, Atmosphere and Environment
c) School of Pure and Applied Sciences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Department of Chemistry• Department of Intergrative Biology and Biodiversity Conservation

2. University of Vienna

The University is relevant to the School of Education and Social Sciences. They are keen to establish collaboration with the following Faculties/Centres.

- Faculty of History and Cultural Studies
- Faculty of Psychology
- Centre for Teacher Education
- Centre for German Studies

3. Vienna University of Economics and Business

This University is suitable for the School of business. The areas identified for collaboration include:

- Financial Research
- Small Business and Entrepreneurship
- Entrepreneurship and Innovation
- Public Management and Governance
- Economic Policy and Industrial Economies

In all the three Universities, the areas of collaboration will include and not limited to the following:

- Joint Research
- Mounting joint academic programs
- Co-supervision of Postgraduate Studies
- Exchange of students and staff
- Receiving and accommodating/working with professors on sabbatical leave
- Hosting visiting professors
- Hosting public lectures
- Holding joint academic conferences/seminars/workshops.

PROF. M. MUCHIRI
VICE CHANCELLOR