

TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF KENYA



Blazon of the Visual Representation

The visual representation is derived from an escutcheon based on an 11th century European traditional shield and the timeless African drum surmounted by seven rays. The shape of the shield represents oneness in the pursuit of knowledge as a tradition of universities everywhere for over a thousand years. In the shape of the drum resides the idea of continuity of the time-seasoned information-communication system we in Africa use to convey knowledge and wisdom.

This escutcheon form is divided into upper and lower fields separated by a traditional Kenya Maasai *oldung'oto* (cut) consisting of alternating bands of green, white, gold, white and navy blue. The cut also represents an open book and is symbolic of an open invitation to education for all. All borders are in high contrast to their fields; the high contrast represents the Maasai concept of harmonious interaction of unequals and opposites.

Rising in the upper field is a stylized image of the human spirit arising from the centerfold of an open book; this signifies flight and freedom that is metaphoric of pronouncing graduates to do all that appertains to the awards for which they qualify. Standing on a pinpoint, the image of human spirit invokes the delicate balance between ingenuity and precision, on the one hand, and theory and practice, on the other hand. The figure's head, together with the seven rays, represent the sun shining on and empowering mankind. The rays emanating from the figure's head symbolize the turning pages of a book and sharing of knowledge through movement in space and over time. Light also symbolizes knowledge gained through research, talent, creativity, innovation, entrepreneurship and extension work, to benefit society.

In the lower field are stylized objects representing the world, from the smallest element to the universe itself, with elements moving in orbit. These represent universality and timelessness of knowledge, the range of scientific thought and technological practice. The same lower field is a section of the drum that resembles the heart as a symbol of love and devotion to learning and scholarly enquiry.

Gold, green and blue are colors in the visual representation. Gold represents the wealth of knowledge students require to be successful; it also speaks premier education and training for the real world. Navy blue represents dignity, God, good health, and the hope for excellent outcomes in many traditions. And green indicates the freshness of young minds that we all require to meaningfully engage in scholarly undertaking. Green also represents sustainability, especially sustainable design, technology and development. In a snapshot, the visual representation is embedded in history, African aesthetics, and university education with emphasis on creativity, science and technology.