ZAMBIAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY ( ZACU )

Zambian Christian University as a Liberal Arts University. Under the Brethren in Church Zambia Conference the above university was registered with Higher Education Authority ( H E A )to offer degrees at Bachelors level to begin with and move on to Masters and PhD levels as time goes on .

ZACU’s considers itself a liberal arts institution. By this we mean that we offer students: a) broad knowledge, b) critical thinking, and c) self teaching such that when all these are put together ZACU intends to produce students who are lifelong learners capable of achieving high levels of success. This philosophy differs substantially from institutions that emphasize knowledge in specific areas of speciality or expertise without the addition of general knowledge.

According to Wikipedia, a liberal arts university or institution of higher education is a university or college with emphasis on under graduate study in the liberal arts and sciences. Indeed such universities aim to impart a broad general knowledge and develop general intellectual capacities, in contrast to a professional, vocational, or technical curriculum.

Students in a liberal arts university generally major in a particular discipline while receiving exposure to a range of academic subjects including sciences as well as the traditional humanities subjects taught as liberal. Although it draws on European antecedents, the liberal arts university is strongly associated with American higher education, and most liberal arts colleges or universities around the world draw explicitly on the American model.

As stated above, Zambian Christian University (ZACU) has been established on this model. This means that ZACU will offer initially Bachelor of Arts in Business Studies with specialisations in Accounting, Human Resource Management, Marketing, Business Administration, ICT and Civic Education. Some examples of top ranking liberal arts institutions. There is no formal definition of liberal university , but one American authority defines them as schools that “ emphasize undergraduate education and award at least half of their degrees in the liberal arts fields of study. “

Referring to the second paragraph above, a liberal arts university can be summed up as a university that offers a student with broad knowledge, i.e. exposes a student to wider knowledge and experience which becomes beneficial to the student in real life situations, e.g. instead only concentrating in Accounting under Business Studies, the student learns about Bible knowledge, Music, ICT, and entrepreneurship skills. The student is also taught about critical thinking, which is about developing thinking skills on problem solving dictated by the prevailing situation, By applying critical thinking they are able to reframe or restructure organisations they find themselves as managers or leaders to make them efficient and more effective in their operations. Liberal arts institutions lead students to self teaching through what they learn or exposed to at the institution. They eventually become lifelong learners, i.e. people who do not just end up with what the university trained them in. This is exactly what ZACU will stand for now and in the foreseeable future.