HARAMAYA UNIVERSITY

Unified Institutional Profile, Chronological History & Freshman Guide

1. INSTITUTIONAL HISTORY & OVERVIEW

Established in 1954 as the Imperial Ethiopian College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts, Haramaya University (HU) is one of the oldest and most respected public universities in Ethiopia. Today, it operates as a comprehensive research university highly esteemed for academic excellence, innovation, and community service. Tracing its historical roots back over seven decades, it has evolved from a specialized agricultural college born out of an international partnership into a massive, multi-disciplinary research institution.

1952

The Foundation & Point Four Agreement

The foundation of the university was officially laid on May 15, 1952, when the Imperial Ethiopian Government signed a historic agreement with the United States government under the Point Four Program. Through this technical cooperation initiative, the Technical Cooperation Administration gave a direct mandate to Oklahoma State University (OSU) to help establish, build, and operate an agricultural college in Ethiopia aimed at modernizing the nation's agricultural sector.

1954

Birth of IECAMA at Lake Haramaya

With the personal counsel and recommendation of Emperor Haile Selassie I, a site covering 440 hectares of land was selected near the historic Lake Haramaya. The school officially originated as the Imperial Ethiopian College of Agricultural and Mechanical Arts (IECAMA). By 1956, the initial phase of campus construction—including student dormitories, classrooms, and a dining hall—was complete, allowing a pioneer batch of 14 senior students to transfer from Addis Ababa to the new campus for their final semester.

1958

The Formal Inauguration

On January 10, 1958, Emperor Haile Selassie I formally inaugurated the college campus. In its formative years, the college relied heavily on Oklahoma State University for leadership, administrative infrastructure, and academic faculty.

1966

Historic Leadership Milestone

The college reached a significant turning point in local institutional capacity when Mekonnen Kibret was appointed as the very first Ethiopian Dean of the institution.

1968

Alemaya College of Agriculture

The operational contract with Oklahoma State University officially concluded in 1968. The college transitioned fully into national hands and became a chartered member of Haile Selassie I University (later renamed Addis Ababa University), operating under the name Alemaya College of Agriculture.

1985

Elevation to University Status

Recognizing its expanding academic reach and the launch of robust postgraduate programs, the institution was spun off from Addis Ababa University in 1985. It was elevated to an independent standalone university status, chartered as the Alemaya University of Agriculture.

2006

Transition to Haramaya University

Throughout the late 1990s and early 2000s, the institution diversified far beyond agricultural sciences, establishing new faculties in Education, Health Sciences, Business, Economics, Law, and Technology. To reflect this multi-disciplinary reality, the institution was officially renamed Haramaya University in February 2006. Today, it operates across multiple campuses, serving tens of thousands of students across diverse professional fields.

2. ACADEMIC PROGRAMS & SCALE

Haramaya University stands as one of Ethiopia's leading research institutions, offering undergraduate, master's, and PhD programs through its various colleges and institutes. It has partnered globally with leading international universities and organizations to advance research and innovation. The institution has successfully produced thousands of highly skilled graduates serving diverse fields in government, business, agriculture, healthcare, engineering, and education.

PROGRAM LEVEL	OPTIONS AVAILABLE
Undergraduate Programs	72 Programs
Master's Programs	137 Programs
PhD Programs	46 Programs

3. KEY STRUCTURAL & STRATEGIC DISTINCTIVENESS

What makes Haramaya University different for freshmen:

- **Expansive Fields:** It features numerous specialized fields of study, including exclusive additions such as Dental Medicine and Architecture, which were newly launched last year.
- **High Intake Capacity:** It possesses an exceptionally high student enrollment and intake capacity compared to alternative public universities in Ethiopia.
- **Complimentary Material:** All first-year students receive their academic module books completely free of charge to offset educational expenses.

4. SOCIAL CLIMATE, SAFETY & DISCIPLINE GUIDELINES

Campus Peace & Zero-Tolerance Policies:

Haramaya University provides a highly secure and peaceful learning environment. The institution takes tribalism, ethnic division, and related conflicts very seriously. Students entering any campus are strictly required to remain free from ethnic discrimination; ethnic politics and polarizing divisions are completely unacceptable.

Outside of these structural behavioral parameters, the campuses remain safe from safety concerns or robbery. Dedicated arrival and welcoming services are fully structured to receive all incoming freshman students.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS & ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Climate & Daily Infrastructure:

- **Weather & Logistics:** The university features a peaceful learning environment with a pleasant, generally favorable climate throughout most of the year. However, from November to late January, it can become sharply cold, especially during the mornings and evenings. Incoming students should disregard false reports characterizing Haramaya and Harar as hot areas; the cold dominates, requiring you to carry thick clothing. For convenience, affordable heavy garments can be purchased cheaply at local markets directly upon campus entry.
- **Water Security:** Reliable water infrastructure spans the campuses. Even during worst-case regional shortages, the cafeteria facilities retain independent water access. Dedicated water utilities are continuously provided for female students inside their respective residential blocks.
- **Dining Quality & Meal Schedule:** The university cafeteria infrastructure is recognized as one of the top-tier and highest-quality campus dining facilities across Ethiopia. Meat meals are served to students twice a week: Tuesday dinner and Saturday lunch.
- **Learning Facilities:** Campuses are equipped with comfortable classrooms, modern lecture halls, and extensive libraries containing both printed and digital learning resources.

6. GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES & CAMPUS LOCATIONS

📌 Location

- Located in **Haramaya**, East Hararghe Zone, Oromia Region.
- About **510 km east of Addis Ababa**.
- Close to **Harar** and **Dire Daw**

The main university complex is geographically positioned 17 km from Harar, directly along the Qabri road entry point. Though operating as a unified institutional system, academic programs are separated across three interconnected sub-campuses alongside one independent medical campus in Harar city:

1. Main Campus

- All Social Departments
- Computer Science
- Business
- Economics
- Natural & Computational Sciences
- Law
- Teaching and Agriculture (*Note: Agriculture, Law, and Computer Science are noted as exceptionally comfortable departments*)

2. Gandajay (Techno Campus)

- Engineering (above second year)
- Food Science
- Architecture

3. Station Campus

- Veterinary Medicine

4. Hareri Campus (Harar City)

- Medicine
- Health Sciences
- Pharmacy

> *Comprehensive Consolidated Institutional Profile & Freshman Entry Briefing.*