

Fifty Years of Geomatics Education: The University of Technology, Jamaica

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SUMMARY

The University of Technology, Jamaica, recently celebrated sixty-five (65) years as a tertiary institution, which started as a college in 1958 and earned University status in 1995. Coinciding with the University's 65th celebrations, in 2023, the Land Surveying & Geographic Information Sciences course of study, ticked off its 50th year of existence, starting as a three (3) year diploma programme in 1973 and transitioning to a four (4) year Bachelors Degree in 2002. As this is a significant milestone, this paper will reflect on the achievements of the course of study, drawing on the results of a mixed methodology research on the status of recent graduates, who are Young Surveyors in their own right, but have not yet achieved legal professional status. The paper will reflect on the overall accomplishments of the course of study, in terms of its output of graduates and the disciplines and positions of influence within which they are employed. The paper will also highlight the geographic spread of our graduates or young surveyors and their level of job satisfaction. Readers will also get an overview of the course of study, some of the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats faced in its delivery, as well as an insight into efforts being made towards the modernization of the programme. The areas of improvement for both the course of study and industry, as proposed by our graduates, will also feature in the study.