



# UF NEWS

A Newsletter of The Universities Fund

## Relief for Students as Ministry Extends Scholarship, Loans Application Deadline

**University students seeking government funding have until October 7 to submit their applications after the Ministry of Education extended the deadline from September 7.**

Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu said the extension will allow more students to apply for scholarships and loans through the Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), respectively.

At the time of the extension, 156,532 students out of the 265,000 2022 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) cohort placed to higher learning institutions had applied for funding.

“To ensure all eligible students have adequate time to apply, and to guarantee that none of them is left behind, the application period for loans and scholarships that was initially scheduled to lapse on September 7 has now been extended to October 7,” said Hon Machogu in a statement on September 6.

In a bid to increase the number of applicants, Hon Machogu said the Cabinet had waived the mandatory requirement of a national ID card for learners who have not attained the age of 18 years.

“The Ministry has accordingly directed HELB to review its portal to ensure all the 2,000 students yet to attain the age of 18 years apply for loans,” he directed.

The new model only applies to students who sat their KCSE examination last year and were placed by KUCCPS to universities and TVET institutions.

The new model has shifted focus from block funding of universities to funding



**Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu presides over the release of universities and college placement results at the Kenya School of Government on July 31, 2023**

of individual students based on their levels of need. However, continuing students will be funded through the Differentiated Unit Cost model.

Under the new funding model, students are required to make formal applications to UF and HELB once they receive their admission letters.

Financing of university and college education is now a combination of scholarships, loans and household contributions with students being subjected to a formula that classifies

them as vulnerable, extremely needy, needy and less needy.

Hon Machogu said: “Out of the 2022 KCSE graduates placed by KUCCPS, students categorized as vulnerable and extremely needy will get full government funding through scholarships and loans.”

The new model aims to ease the financial burden afflicting public and private universities who face a collective debt of Sh61 billion.

Mr Machogu instructed the funding agencies to deploy enough staff in Huduma Centres across the country to assist students to apply.

He urged them to expedite processing of the requests, while appealing to universities to provide adequate time to allow first-year students to report to school.

He encouraged eligible students to apply for funding, reiterating that no student will be locked out of accessing education due to failure to pay fees.

**The new model only applies to students who sat their KCSE examination last year and were placed by KUCCPS to universities and TVET institutions.**

# Universities Fund Kicks-off Regional Sensitisation Campaigns on Financing Model

**The Universities Fund (UF) carried out a week-long sensitisation campaign in four counties to boost awareness on the new higher education funding model.**

The campaign exercises that took place in Nakuru, Kisii, Kisumu, and Kakamega followed the launch of the Higher Education Financing portal by Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu to allow students to make scholarship and loan applications.

Under the new model, the government will channel financial assistance directly to students

enrolling for college and university education.

The campaign led by UF's Grants team targeted county officials, university administrators and students with an aim of helping them to understand and embrace the new model.

The sensitisation was conducted through workshops and seminars, radio drives and partnerships with stakeholders.

The UF team held a meeting with Kenyatta University student leaders that promoted dialogue about the funding model, and helped assuage concerns raised by the students.

In Kisii, the team utilised Egesa FM's

programme 'Egesa Career Clinic'.

The team also met with Malava Sub-County Members of the County Assembly (MCAs) to forge mutual partnerships.

In Kakamega County, the sensitisation team engaged students, parents, and local leaders in Butali Chegulo Ward to consolidate gains made in promoting access to quality higher education and create awareness about the model.

The eight-day campaign helped increase the number of scholarship and loan applicants and enhanced virtual engagement about the new framework.

## Malawi Benchmarks on Kenya's Improved Higher Education System, Visits UF

A delegation from Malawi's higher education funding agency has visited Kenya to benchmark on ways of improving financing of universities and colleges.

The mission, jointly organised by Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), sought to provide insights into identifying best practices for financing public universities.

During the meeting with Higher Education Students and Loans and Grants Board (HESLGB) on August 24, 2023 in Nairobi, UF Assistant Director for Grants Silas Owiti made a presentation on the New Universities and Colleges Funding Model that is aimed at enhancing access to quality education.

Mr Owiti said the new model will promote equity and fairness in funding of students and cure the problems caused by the Differentiated Unit Cost model.

Under the new model that is

applicable to the 2022 secondary school graduates, students will no longer receive automatic funding as they will be required to apply for scholarships and loans.

The applications will be subjected to a means-testing instrument that will classify students based on four levels of need: vulnerable, extremely needy, needy and less needy.

Classification is determined by factors such as household income band and affirmative action (people with disability, orphans, and those from marginalised areas).

The government switched to the funding regime in efforts to address inequitable capitation witnessed under the DUC model that had plunged universities into financial distress owing to ballooning bills.

The UF team took the delegates through challenges faced in implementing the DUC, the solutions offered by the new model, and the quest for alternative sources of funding.



**Universities Fund (UF) Grants team and Malawi Higher Education Students' Loans and Grants Board when they concluded a benchmarking event at UF's offices in Nairobi on August 25, 2023**



# Students Learn about New Education Funding Model at Mombasa Trade Show

**H**undreds of secondary and university students have been sensitised on the new higher education funding model in Mombasa County.

The Universities Fund sensitised the secondary school students during the week-long Mombasa International Agriculture Show.

Students from various schools, universities and colleges were treated to insights into the revamped scholarship and loan applications system, career choices and student placement process during the fair at ASK Jomo Kenyatta Showground in Mombasa County from September 6-11.

UF partnered with Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), who are the implementing partners of the new funding model.

**The theme of the event was 'Promoting climate-smart agriculture and trade initiative for sustainable economic growth'.**



**UF team gives secondary school students insights into the new funding scheme during the Mombasa International Show at the ASK Jomo Kenyatta Showground in Mombasa County on September 6, 2023**

The theme of the event was 'Promoting climate-smart agriculture and trade initiative for sustainable economic growth'.

Making a debut in the annual event, the Universities Fund gave incisive presentations explaining the advantages of the government scholarship, eligibility criteria and application process. The agency also distributed informational materials such as brochures, pamphlets, and flyers.

The initiative came days after Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu directed the agency to mount publicity drives and deploy

staff to Huduma Centres to assist students to make applications ahead of the October 7, 2023 deadline.

"The Universities Fund and HELB have been directed to put in place measures to commence immediate and speedy procession of scholarships and bursaries for all students who have already applied," Mr Machogu said in a press statement on September 6.

To ensure all eligible students apply for funding, UF embarked on intensive online and offline campaigns to boost awareness of the model and support students to make their applications.



**Universities Fund team led by CEO Geoffrey Monari at the Mombasa International Show on September 8, 2023.**

# FAQs about New Government Scholarships for University Students

## 1. Are Government Student Scholarships based on financial need, merit or both?

The scholarship is based on the financial needs of the applicant and academic merit. One must be placed by KUCCPS to a public university or TVET institute to apply.

## 2. Is the application for the Government Student Scholarship a one-off for a learner throughout the degree?

For you to get the Government Student Scholarships, you must apply through [www.hef.co.ke](http://www.hef.co.ke) and submit an application every year for the course duration.

## 3. What happens if one receives less than the Government Student Scholarship award applied/or?

An individual may appeal or request a review of their Government Student Scholarships award if they were not satisfied with the amount given. This includes unsuccessful scholarship applications.

## 4. Can a foreigner apply and receive the Government Student Scholarship?

No, this scholarship is restricted to Kenyans only. International students should check with their institutions, governments or financial aid offices to determine if they are eligible for other scholarships.

## 5. How can a student use the Government Student Scholarship fund?

This Government Student Scholarship fund takes care of the tuition fees. These funds will be disbursed directly to the university or college the applicant is undertaking their studies.

## 6. Can the Government Student Scholarship affect other forms of financial assistance to the learner?

Yes. If a student is fully funded by another agency, individual or institution, the government Student Scholarship cannot provide a scholarship to the same student since it will lead to overfunding. Students are expected to fully disclose agencies sponsoring them and the amounts applicable for their sponsorship. Non-disclosure may lead to withdrawal or cancellation of the scholarship.

## 7. Are there any requirements or responsibilities for Student Government Scholarship recipients?

Beneficiaries of the Government Student Scholarship are required to complete their studies within the stipulated course/ programme duration. Any extended study duration cost will not be catered for by the scholarship. Secondly, the students will be required to give accurate information to assist the award of the scholarships.

## 8. Will a student need a guarantor to be eligible for the Government Scholarship?

No guarantors are needed.



**Universities Fund team and delegates from the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, Nigeria conclude a benchmarking tour to expand their knowledge base and best practices on higher education. UF team presented comprehensive information on the new and the old Funding Models on September 20, 2023.**

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