



# UF NEWS

A Newsletter of The Universities Fund

## Monari Encourages Varsity Students to Apply for Government Scholarship

**The placement exercise for university admissions has concluded, marking a pivotal moment for 153,274 students who are set to embark on their higher education journey.**

With this milestone achieved, the spotlight shifts to funding. Universities Fund CEO Geoffrey Monari sheds light on the new higher education funding model, providing insights into how it works, its benefits, and what students and their families can expect in terms of financial aid.



### **What necessitated introduction of the new higher education funding model by President William Ruto in May 2023?**

Our universities were suffering from debt. For about 35 years the model in use had not been reviewed amid the rising costs of running these institutions. The Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) model adopted block funding for universities instead of the neediness of the students. This means the rich and poor students received the same amount, which does not go well with best practice. To remedy this, the government introduced a new funding framework that is student-centred, predictable and sustainable. Additionally, the new funding model addressed inefficiencies in the old model. Now students only apply for funding when they require it, which also allows us to monitor their progression.

### **What distinguishes the new funding model from the previous DUC system?**

It is student-centred and need-based, while the DUC is centered on the programme the students are

pursuing. For instance, if a student is pursuing medicine based on the available funds, they are given a grant without considering their level of need. Meaning that whether a student is rich or poor, the amount given is same. Under the new funding model, the needy students are funded more and the better-enabled ones are funded less.

### **How has the implementation of the new model progressed, including the involvement of implementing partners?**

There are three other implementing partners for this model, namely the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB), the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service which handles students in colleges. We have all come together and centralised the placement and funding so that students can be served based on their levels of need.

### **Who's eligible for government scholarship under new higher education funding model and how can one apply?**

The eligible students are the ones placed to public universities and colleges by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). Those are the only students who are eligible for scholarship. However, for loans, students can apply even if they went directly to a university.

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### **How much funding has been disbursed by Government to support scholarships thus far, and how many students have benefited?**

From September last year to date, we have funded 112,000 students, and they have been given Sh12.4 billion.

### **Elaborate on how the means testing instrument is used to assess student financial need?**

The means testing instrument looks at the student's household income, the number of dependants the parents/guardian's employment status, disability of the student and household ownership, including vehicles. This mix of variables as provided by the student are processed through a programme to determine the level of need of the applicant and thus fund them appropriately.

### **Elaborate more on the bands students are categorised into**

We have five bands. The first band gives students scholarships of 70% and a loan of 25%, while the household contributes 5%. In the second band, students are awarded scholarships of 60%, loan of 30%, while households contribute 10%. The third band is based on 50% scholarship, 30% loan and 20% household contribution. The next one is 40% scholarship 30% loan and 30% household contribution. Then the last one is where we give a scholarship of 30%, 30% loan and the household raises 40% of programme cost.

### **Some of the major concerns regarding the model pertain to the funding criteria and delays in disbursement of scholarships. How are these issues being addressed?**

The delays in disbursement are because we depend on allocation by the National Treasury, which also depends on revenue from taxes and other sources. However, we are working with the Ministry of Education and the

National Treasury to come up with a cash flow when we require the funds. This cash flow enables us to plan.

### **What advice do you have for students whose higher education aspirations are hindered by financial constraints?**

I want to assure them that the government is committed to supporting them, and that the application process is free. In case they are stuck in the process, they can seek assistance at Huduma Centres to fill the application forms. They should provide the correct information to make the process smoother.

### **Does an applicant require a national ID to apply for scholarship?**

Since scholarship is not paid back, one does not need a national identity card. For loans, the Cabinet waived the need for an ID for underage applicants. However, the students should update their details after they reach age 18.

## **UF Targets Student Leaders in Campaign to Promote Awareness about Funding Model**

### **Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari shared insights into the higher education funding model with student leaders at a workshop in Naivasha.**

The student leaders from public universities gained further understanding about the student-centered financing model that was unveiled in May last year by President William Ruto.

Mr Monari underscored that the model prioritises the needs of students. "Our goal is to ensure that every student has



**Student leaders follow proceedings at the New Higher Education Funding Model workshop in Naivasha May 23, 2024.**

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equitable access to quality higher education regardless of their financial background,” he told the gathering at Lake Naivasha Resort.

Central to the model is its emphasis on tailoring financial assistance to meet the specific needs of individual students, enabling them realise their full academic potential. The participants discussed the

rationale of the model and offered feedback on how it can be improved.

Student leaders lauded the initiative, recognising its potential to transform the landscape of university education in Kenya. “The Student-Centered Financing Model represents a significant step in ensuring that no student is left behind due to financial constraints,” remarked

one participant.

The workshop came on the back on an announcement by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service, that 153,274 students have been placed to degree programmes in universities.

The students are hence eligible to apply for government funding.

## Funding Agency Plants 4,000 Tree Seedlings in Nairobi and Nyeri to Combat Climate Change



**UF Board Chairman Prof Karuti Kanyinga plants a seedling alongside KFS officers at Roysambu on May 10 2024.**

### Staff of the Universities Fund (UF) planted 4,000 trees in Nairobi and Nyeri counties in May as part of efforts to combat climate change.

The team lead by board Chairman Prof Karuti Kanyinga collaborated with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to plant 1,000 trees at Marurui, Roysambu, during the National Tree Growing Day on May 10.

Another 3,000 trees were planted at Naromoru Girls High School in Kieni, Nyeri County, alongside other stakeholders on May 19 2024.

These are part of efforts to boost forest cover in Kenya in compliance with the presidential drive aimed at reversing deforestation and mitigating the effects of climate change.

President William Ruto committed to the government's

strategy of planting 15 billion tree seedlings by 2032 to increase the country's forest cover and restore degraded landscapes.

This common goal highlights UF's collective dedication to creating a greener and more sustainable future for Kenya. Planting trees not only boosts the country's forest cover but also supports biodiversity, improves air and water quality, and mitigates the effects of climate change.

When unveiling the tree-planting drive in December last

year, President Ruto noted that the devastating effects of climate change had burdened other sectors, including health and infrastructure, and disrupted local and international supply chains.

The initiative seeks to mitigate the effects of climate change, including unpredictable rainfall patterns, floods, drought, disease and pest outbreaks.

Among the objectives of the national forest policy in Kenya is to increase and maintain tree and forest cover to at least 10 percent of the land area in the country.

Other objectives include promoting investment in commercial tree growing, the forest industry, and trade, as well as promoting public, private, and community participation and partnership in forest sector development.



**UF team joins other stakeholders to plant trees at Naromoru Girls High school in Kieni on May 19, 2024**

# ISO Training to Improve Universities Fund's Competitiveness in Service Delivery

**The Universities Fund management team took a significant step towards excellence by participating in a comprehensive ISO training workshop to be in tandem with best global practice.**

The team gathered at a hotel in Machakos for the five-day training that seeks to enhance their Quality Management System (QMS) in accordance with ISO 9001:2015 standards.

The sessions focused on reviewing and improving the organisation's QMS, ensuring it meets international benchmarks for quality.

On day one, the team was taken through the fundamentals of quality management, covering the purpose and benefits of a QMS.

On day two, the training focused on improving and documenting standard operating procedures (SOPs) and mandatory procedures.

Day three was focused on risk and opportunity assessment, a crucial step that ensures potential risks are identified and mitigation strategies put in place. The team spent the day developing and improving risk registers and assessment documents.

On day four, focus was on establishing quality objectives. Through detailed

discussions and collaborative efforts, the team developed objectives aligned with the organisation's strategic goals.

UF Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari took over the final session that involved reviewing the quality policy and the scope of the QMS.

The consultant thereafter verified the completion of all documents, confirming their compliance with ISO standards.

The training underscores the Universities Fund's commitment to operational excellence and continuous improvement, positioning it to achieve its strategic objectives.

**HOW TO APPLY FOR GOVERNMENT SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNIVERSITY EDUCATION**

● Visit [www.universitiesfund.go.ke](http://www.universitiesfund.go.ke) or [www.hef.co.ke](http://www.hef.co.ke) ● Click on the student portal and follow the below steps:

- STEP 1**: Register and log-in
- STEP 2**: Fill profile and upload documents
- STEP 3**: Submit your application
- STEP 4**: Tick box to apply for scholarship
- STEP 5**: Wait for award letter (Download once received)
- STEP 6**: Fill profile and upload documents

**APPLICATIONS ARE FREE**

**ELIGIBILITY**  
Students who sat their KCSE in 2022 and 2023