



UF NEWS

A Newsletter of The Universities Fund

State Disburses Sh8.6 Billion for Scholarships, Loans as Students Appeal against Wrong Banding

The National Government has disbursed Sh8.6 billion for scholarships and loans for first year university students under the Student-Centred Financing Model (SCFM)

Universities Fund (UF) Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari said Sh2.8 billion has been set aside for scholarships and Sh5.8 billion for loans for students enrolling in public universities in the current financial year.

Mr Monari said the scholarships will be channelled to the universities while upkeep money will be credited to students' personal accounts by the end of the month.

Speaking during a media forum in Naivasha on August 23, Mr Monari urged students who do not have tuition fees to report to their respective universities as they await processing of their applications. He said they have engaged universities to ensure no student is turned away due to lack of fees.

"All the students who were expected to report to the universities that have opened have not been turned down. All the students have been allowed to report. If there is anyone who has an issue with reporting, let them get in touch with us," he said, adding that the funds will be released to students first to enable them meet their daily needs.

Mr Monari announced that more than 127,000 scholarship and loan applications have been successfully processed.

He also indicated that UF and HELB are reviewing more than 10,000 appeals lodged by students seeking to increase their funding after being placed in the wrong bands.

Under the SCFM, students are funded

based on their levels of need that is determined by a means-testing instrument (MTI), which relies on proxy indicators such as family size, expenditure in education, family structure, affirmative action, cost of programme, and national priority programmes.

"as of yesterday evening, there were



Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari speaks during a past event.

over 25,000 appeals have been processed. This shows that there are many Kenyans interested in ensuring they are in the correct band. This is a continuous process and our aim is to ensure that we place Kenyans in the correct band," he said.

The MTI categorises students into five bands through which they receive scholarship of between 30 and 70 percent and upkeep loan of between Sh40,000 and Sh60,000.

According to the criteria, students from households earning up to Sh5,995 monthly are classified in Band 1, where they qualify for 70 percent scholarship, 25 percent loan, and Ksh60,000 upkeep loan, while the household pays 5 percent of the fees.

For families whose monthly income does not surpass Sh23,670, the student will receive 60 percent scholarship, 30 percent loan, and

Sh55,000 upkeep loan. The family will cater for only 10 percent of the tuition fee.

Band 3 comprises households with a monthly income of between Sh23,670 and Sh70,000. Under this tier, the student will receive 50 percent scholarship, 30 percent loan and the family will pay 30 percent of the tuition fees while the student will receive Sh50,000 upkeep loan.

Families with an income above Sh70,000 but not exceeding Sh120,000 are placed in Band 4, where a student is entitled to 40 percent scholarship, 30 percent loan and Sh45,000 upkeep loan. The family caters for 30 percent of the fees.

Under Band 5, students receive 30 percent scholarship, 30 percent loan and an upkeep loan of Sh40,000. The family is responsible for paying 40 percent of the fees. This rank is for households with a family income of Sh120,000 and above.

Mr Monari explained that after the three-week long exercise is completed, the agency will notify universities to adjust the student's household income that will determine the amount the student should pay.

"We have field officers in all the universities that have opened. These officers will be able to help the students in the appeal process. They will also help students who come from marginalised areas who were not able to apply," he stated.

The information will equally be published on the higher education funding (HEF) portal and the students will also receive text messages notifying them of the outcome.

To enhance efficiency, Mr Monari pointed out that agents have been deployed to all public universities to aid students file appeals and submit their applications before the December 31 deadline.

UF in Talks with VCs over Reduction of Fees, Enhancing Access to Sustainable Education

The National Government has allocated Sh40 billion to support higher education, as it ramps up efforts to promote the transition rate of secondary school leavers to universities and colleges.

UF Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari disclosed that discussions are ongoing and that the plan is to make university education more affordable.

Mr Monari explained that the review of programme costs will be done continuously based on the number of students enrolled and

the courses undertaken.

While addressing a media sensitisation on August 23, Mr Monari indicated that universities had initially agreed to a 15 percent discount on the cost of all the programmes.

“We are looking at adherence to that and ensure it is done. Then continuously review based on the number of students they have and the course, the programs that they are undertaking,” he said.

The move is part of robust

strategies the government is undertaking to effectively implement the Student-Centred Financing Model (SCFM) launched last year by President William Ruto.

The model seeks to promote access to higher education by all students by prioritising funding of the neediest students.

As per the scheme, students are required to apply for financial assistance upon which they are grouped into five categories based on their families’ incomes.

President William Ruto Assents to Bill Allocating Sh40 Billion to Support University Education

The National Government has allocated Sh40 billion to support higher education, as it ramps up efforts to promote the transition rate of secondary school leavers to universities and colleges.

This follows the assenting to the Supplementary Appropriations Bill by President William Ruto on August 5, 2024 after the National Assembly approved it.

The Bill was put forth as a measure of protecting the delivery of critical government services despite fiscal deficits resulting from the collapse of the Finance Bill, 2024.

The Bill allocated Sh17 billion for scholarships under the Student-Centred Funding Model and Sh23 billion for students’ tuition fees under the Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) model.

The move quells disquiet over the fate of students’ education ahead of enrolment for the 2024-2025 Academic Year beginning this September.

Application for scholarships was opened on June 18, 2024 for the 2023 KCSE graduates placed in public universities by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). Students are required to apply through the HEF portal (www.hef.co.ke).

co.ke).

In a press statement on August 5, State Department for Higher Education and Research Principal Secretary Dr Beatrice Inyangala said KUCCPS had placed 153,275 students to public and private universities.

As of August 4, 79,038 students had applied for both scholarships and loans but 74,237 have not. Dr Inyangala urged the remaining students to apply before the deadline on August 15.

“The government remains committed to providing quality and affordable education to students in universities as well as TVETs. Under ‘Leave No One Behind’ framework, we urge all students who have not yet applied for loans and scholarships to do so,” she said.



President William Ruto signs the Supplementary Appropriation Bill into law on August 5, 2024 at State House, Nairobi.

In the 2023/2024 Academic Year, a total of KSh12.6 billion was disbursed to 113,075 university students for scholarships.

sure that we produce the skills that are needed in the market? We need to scale up talent and skills,” he said.

It was also proposed that universities offer programmes that were in line with the country’s needs, and prioritise those with the potential of providing higher returns.

Students Urged to Provide Accurate Information for Better Funding



Mr Geoffrey Monari, Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer, gives his views on the new funding model during an interview on Spice FM on August 2, 2024.

Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer Geoffrey Monari called on students to provide reliable and information when applying for government funding to aid in accurate assessment of their financial needs.

Mr Monari lamented that provision of misleading information has affected categorisation of student across the five bands used to determine funding allocation.

He observed that the implication of inaccurate information is dire as funding under the Student-Centred Financing Model is solely based on a student's level of need – the degree to which a student requires financial assistance to cover the cost of higher education.

Mr Monari disclosed that UF flagged several application forms containing similar information, noting that individuals at bureaus – where students visit to get assistance – fill out the forms the same way.

“When you look at the way the forms have been filled; there is a certain trend we noticed. If you go to a certain area, you find most of the forms are filled out the same way. The good thing is that with technology it is easy to verify the information,” he said during a radio interview on August 2.

To help verify the information provided by students, Mr Monari said responses to certain questions will determine the financial capability of a student, for instance the rate a parent or guardian remits to National Health Insurance Fund and Kenya Revenue Authority monthly.

Under the new plan, students are categorised into five tiers through which they receive a scholarship of between 30 to 70 percent, loan of 25 to 30 percent and upkeep of between Sh40,000 to Sh60,000. The most vulnerable students – those in band one – receive 95 percent government financing.

A Means Testing Instrument (MTI) that has been in use for the past 25 years does the categorisation. The MTI relies on critical socioeconomic factors including family income, family size, marginalisation and cost of the programme to vet the applicants.

The funding model that was introduced last year as a solution to the financial crisis in universities prioritises funding of individual students rather than universities, promotes equity through allocation of funds based on students' needs and enhances investment in resources for promoting quality education.

It replaced the old model known as differentiated unit cost that centred on block funding approach of universities, which principally allocated funds directly to institutions as a block.

If placed in the wrong band, Mr Monari said students have the right to get respite through an appeal process.

In the 2023-2024 academic year, disgruntled students lodged 9,800 appeals, with UF successfully moving 4,000 students across the bands – about 574 students were shifted from band 4 to band 1.

“The reality we must face is education is not cheap. We must, as a country, support those who are not able to pay, and those who are able to pay let them continue to pay,” he added.

He mentioned that the organisation is open-minded, welcoming feedback and ideas on how to improve the mechanism.

Regarding alleviating the quality of education, Mr Monari said focus should be on ensuring the current ones are supported adequately as opposed to creating new ones.