



Universities Fund Sensitises Students on Scholarship Applications Nationwide



First-year students at Kibabii University converge for an awareness session on government funding and application of scholarships, on August 28, 2025. The Universities Fund carried out the sensitisation drive in other public institutions too.

The Universities Fund has organised sensitisation campaigns to assist students to apply for scholarships, as public universities ushered in first-year students in the ongoing September 2025 intake.

Led by the acting Chief Executive Officer, Dr Edwin Wanyonyi, UF team setup help desks in universities from August 25-29 to create awareness about government scholarships and aid interested students in applying through the Higher Education Financing (HEF) portal.

So far, the sensitisations have taken place in Kibabii University, Kisii University, Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Kenyatta University, and Kirinyaga University.

Others are University of Embu, Murang'a University of Technology, South Eastern Kenya University, University of Eldoret, Tharaka University, and Chuka University.

The deadline for submission of scholarship

applications for continuing students was August 31 and September 14 for first-time applicants.

The Fund has lined up more sensitisation sessions in other public institutions to ensure all students access higher education. In

Continued on page 2

UF Extends Scholarship Application Deadline

First-year university students were given a reprieve after the Universities Fund extended the scholarship application deadline by two weeks.

The move will likely increase the number of students applying for government funding and minimise learning disruptions over lack of tuition fees.

Continued on page 4

UF Lines Up Scholarship Sensitisation in Varsities

Continued from page 1

September, Universities Fund will visit Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology, and Tharaka University.



Mark Your Calendar!

Universities Fund Campus Students Engagement Dates

	University	Dates
1	KIBABII UNIVERSITY	25th to 29th Aug of 2025
2	KISII UNIVERSITY	25th to 29th of Aug 2025
3	JARAMOGI UNIVERSITY	25th to 29th of Aug 2025
4	KENYATTA UNIVERSITY	25th to 27th of Aug 2025
5	KIRINYAGA UNIVERSITY	25th to 29th of Aug 2025
6	UNIVERSITY OF EMBU	Online - 20th of Aug 2025, Physical 30th of Aug 2025
7	MURANGA UNIVERSITY	25th to 29th of Aug 2025
8	SOUTH EASTERN KENYA UNIVERSITY	28th to 29th of Aug 2025
9	UNIVERSITY OF ELDORET	25th to 29th of Aug 2025
10	THARAKA UNIVERSITY	1st to 3rd Sept of 2025
11	CHUKA UNIVERSITY	2nd to 5th Sep of 2025
12	JKUAT	4th to 5th of Sep 2025
13	MASINDE MULIRO UNIVERSITY	8th to 12th Sept of 2025

FAQs on the Student-Centred Funding Model

1. What is the Student-Centred Funding Model?

The government established the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM) in 2023 to address the growing financial strain on public universities and TVET colleges caused in part by increased enrolment and limited funding. This model replaces the Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) system, shifting from block funding of universities to a student-focused approach. Therefore, students receive government scholarships based on their financial need to cover tuition. Additional costs are met through HELB loans and household contributions.

2. How do I apply for a scholarship?

If you are a first-year university student, apply online through the Higher Education Financing (HEF) Portal - www.hef.co.ke. Continuing students can apply by dialing *642# on their mobile phones, using the numbers registered on the HEF Portal.

3. Who is eligible for the scholarship?

To qualify for government scholarship under the SCFM, applicants must: have sat their KCSE examination in 2022 and beyond; be placed by KUCCPS in a public university; be enrolled in an accredited university; and be a Kenyan citizen.

4. What are the requirements for first-time application for the scholarship?

To save time during application, ensure you have the below:

- Valid email address.
- Valid telephone number.
- KCPE and KCSE index number and year of examination.
- Passport-size photo.
- College/university admission letter.
- Your birth certificate.
- Your parents'/guardian's registered telephone number and ID number.
- Death certificate, if applicable, for deceased parents.

5. What is the application process for first-year students?

Interested students should: Register and log in on the student portal on www.hef.co.ke; fill in profile and upload relevant documents; tick box to apply for scholarship; submit



TAG AND REMIND CHALLENGE

I've applied for a government scholarship. Now it's your turn.

First-time applicants:

- www.hef.co.ke
- www.universitiesfund.go.ke

Subsequent applicants:

- Dial *642#

Spread the word!

Tag or share with 3 friends who haven't applied yet.

application; and wait for an award letter.

6. How are continuing university students applying for scholarships?

Students who enrolled in university in 2023 or 2024 should apply via USSD code *642#. It is recommended that they use the mobile number registered on HEF portal to make the application.

7. Are government scholarships only for A students?

No. All eligible students under the SCFM can apply. Allocation is based on need, not grades.

8. Should a student apply for scholarship, loan, or both?

The SCFM gives you the flexibility to choose - **Scholarship**: Free financial support from the government; **Loan**: Repayable support from HELB; or **Both**: If you need additional help.

9. How do I know if my application is successful?

You can confirm the status of your application by checking your email inbox, including spam or junk folders, for a copy of your submitted Application Form bearing our official logo.

10. Where can students get help to apply for scholarships?

Students may visit Huduma Centres and UF offices at Hazina Trade Centre, 5th Floor, Monrovia Street, Nairobi. They can also contact us on: +254 020 2329383, info@universitiesfund.go.ke or www.universitiesfund.go.ke.

Government Disburses Sh4.1bn in Scholarships



The Universities Fund has disbursed Sh4.1 billion in government scholarships to support needy students in public universities.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba, on August 29, called on the 802,159 beneficiaries in public institutions to log into their Higher Education Funding portals to confirm the status of the disbursement.

Mr Ogamba added that an additional Sh19.06 billion had been disbursed by the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) for tuition fees (Sh7.6 billion) and student upkeep (Sh11.46 billion).

He said the upkeep funds are channeled to students' personal accounts while tuition fees are sent to their respective institutions.

"The government will continue to provide the requisite funding to ensure that higher education remains accessible and affordable," he said.

The timely disbursement highlights the Government's resolve to strengthen higher education financing.

To make sure no student is left behind, Mr Ogamba directed the funding agencies to extend scholarship and loan application deadline for first-year students from August 31 to September 14.

Scholarship Application Deadline Extended

Continued from page 1

The deadline was extended from August 31 to September 14.

In an August 29 press statement, Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba said the extension will give all students sufficient time to submit their applications for both scholarships and loans through the Higher Education Financing (HEF) model.

The decision reflects the Government's commitment to ensuring that no student is left behind on account of financial limitation.

CS Ogamba affirmed that the Government will also continue to provide the requisite funding to make higher education accessible for all.

The move comes at an opportune moment when universities are admitting new students for the 2025/2026 academic season. The cohort was placed by Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS).

The new system of funding was rolled out in 2023 by President William Ruto to address pressing concerns of university debts, quality of education, and affordability of education to all students regardless of financial status.

Scholarship, Loan, Ama Zote?

The Student-Centred Funding Model gives you the flexibility to choose:

- **Scholarship:** Free financial support from the government.
- **Loan:** Repayable support from HELB.
- **Both:** If you need additional help.

Applications are **FREE!**

First-time applicants

- www.hef.co.ke/www.universitiesfund.go.ke

Subsequent applicants

- Dial ***642#**

