

University Students Urged to Take Full Advantage of Government Scholarships

Secondary school leavers awaiting placement to public universities have been urged to apply for government scholarships to enable them complete their education.

Amid the rising cost of living in Kenya, Universities Fund (UF) acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi appealed to the students to take up the scholarship to help ease the cost of their education.

Dr Wanyonyi was speaking during the 1st National Career Conference and Exhibition organised by Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) from January 27-29, 2025 at KICC.

The event drew hundreds of students, many of whom comprised the batch of candidates that sat the 2025 KCSE examination.

Other participants included parents, teachers, universities, TVET institutions and key government stakeholders.

During the event, students were engaged in informed conversations on career pathways, labour market trends, skills development and education-to-employment linkages.

Dr Wanyonyi said the scholarship is offered under the SCFM to ensure the education of learners is not disrupted due to financial constraints.

“Scholarship enables you to reduce the cost so that you can finish your studies and go into the job market,” he explained.

Dr Wanyonyi said 270,715 Form Four graduates qualified for placement to public



Universities Fund acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi (centre) alongside students and teachers who were awarded gift hampers during a career fare at KICC on January 28, 2026.

universities and therefore are eligible for scholarship.

Dr Wanyonyi underscored that funding is dependent on a student’s level of need, with the most vulnerable receiving higher allocation.

He underscored that “without financing higher education is doomed”, and cautioned the learners that “if you fail to apply for scholarship your household contribution will be higher”.

Speaking at the same event, KUCCPS Board Chairperson Cyrus Gituai said the organisation is planning to review its career guidance approach to align it to the new education policy and emerging market trends.

“We will adopt a new method of career guidance where it is education for creating opportunities not just education for employment,” Mr Gituai said, adding that the expo will be held annually ahead of course selection.

Fund Braces for Increased Demand for Scholarships



The Universities Fund is bracing for a tough academic year that will potentially see increased demand for government scholarships, with more students qualifying for university education.

Based on the recent data on the performance of candidates in the 2025 KCSE examination, the Fund will likely face more financial pressure to fund all the learners, with enrolment rates to universities surging yearly.

The Ministry of Education announced in January this year that 270,715 candidates attained a mean grade of C+ and above,

a rise from the 246,391 (25.53 per cent) registered in 2024, earning them direct entry to public universities.

Furthermore, the number of candidates who sat the examination rose to 993,000 compared to 962,512 in 2024. The examination took place between October 21 and November 14, 2025.

The gradual rise in university enrolment indicates that the agency will have to lobby the Exchequer for additional funding as it ramps up resource mobilisation efforts.

Under the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM), the government provides scholarships depending on the student's level of financial need. Students can source for the deficit through HELB loans and household contributions.

The model was launched in 2023 and has won accolades for prioritising equity and fairness and easing the financial strain on universities.

As such, students are required to apply for financial assistance through the Higher Education (HEF) Financing portal, enabling the neediest students to actualise their

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UF, Family Bank Group Unveil Scholarship Initiative

The Universities Fund (UF) in collaboration with Family Bank Group launched a scholarship programme for senior school students.

The move reaffirms the Fund's commitment to expanding equitable access to education opportunities for vulnerable students through partnerships with industry leaders.

The event was held at Moi Forces Academy on 7th January 2025, bringing together key education stakeholders and partners.

Universities Fund Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi emphasised the role of partnerships between government agencies, financial institutions and other stakeholders in strengthening education financing to widen learners' access to higher education.

Dr Wanyonyi said the programme, which targets bright and needy students across the



Senior school students during the launch of the 2026 Family Bank Group scholarship project on January 7, 2026 at Moi Forces Academy, Nairobi.

country, will complement national efforts to enhance inclusivity and sustainability of the sector.

Fund Set to Open Scholarship Application Portal

The Universities Fund is preparing to open the application portal for undergraduate university students to apply for funding during the 2025/2026 academic year.

The number of applications is expected to rise following the increase in the number of students who qualified for placement to public universities after sitting the 2025 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination.

Data from the KCSE results released on January 9, 2025 some 270,715 candidates secured slots in public universities after attaining the university entry grades of C+ and above.

The figure is an increase from the 246,391 (25.53 per cent) registered in 2024.

The report indicated that 1,932 candidates (0.19 per cent) achieved an overall mean grade of A (plain), which is an increase from 1,693 (0.18 per cent) recorded in 2024.

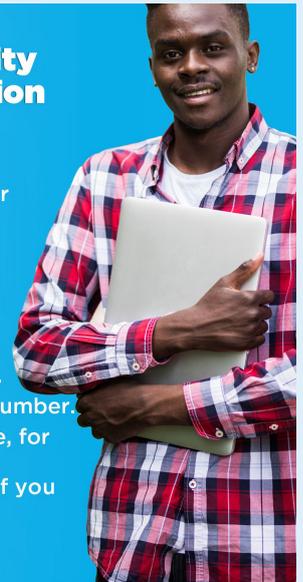
The examination took place between October 21 and November 14, with 993,000 candidates participating.

Before applying for scholarship, the learners will first select their preferred academic programmes through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) portal.

Requirements for Government University Scholarship Application

- 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.
- Your parent's/guardian's ID number.
- Death certificate, if applicable, for deceased parents.
- Copy of a sponsorship letter if you were sponsored in secondary school.

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Thereafter, the Universities Fund will open the Higher Education Financing (HEF) portal for the students to apply for funding.

According to the Student-Centred Funding Model, scholarship awards range between 30 to 70 percent.

Additionally, the model prioritises vulnerable students, ensuring they get access to quality and affordable education.

In the 2024/2025 financial year, the Universities Fund released Sh16.9 billion to public universities to cover tuition expenses for 257,523 students.



Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board employees plant tree seedlings during the Tinderet Barg'etuny National Mountain Run on January 17, 2026 to promote environmental conservation.

UF Participates in Tinderet Barng'etuny Mountain Run

The Universities Fund (UF) participated in the 5th Edition of the Tinderet Barng'etuny National Mountain Run on 17th January 2026 in Nandi County.

Led by acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi, Universities Fund employees raced and planted trees to safeguard the environment under the theme "Running for Education and Conservation".

The initiative aligns with the Fund's commitment to environmental conservation and climate action.

The event, which attracted hundreds of local athletes, was graced by Prime Cabinet Secretary Musalia Mudavadi, Chief of Staff and Head of Public Service Felix Koskei, Senate Majority Leader Aaron Cheruiyot, Sports Principal Secretary Peter Tum, Tinderet MP Julius Melly and Athletics Kenya president Lt Gen (Rtd) Jack Tuwei.

Others included education stakeholders, community members and partners, who came together to promote education



Participants during the Tinderet Barng'etuny National Mountain Run in Nandi County on January 17, 2026.

and environmental sustainability.

Universities Fund recognises the strong link between education, environmental stewardship and national development.

By participating in similar events, Universities Fund continues to demonstrate its commitment to partnerships that expand access to

education while advancing sustainable development.

The event also provided an opportunity for nurturing local talent, promoting healthy lifestyles and marketing Tinderet's scenic views.

Saturday's race is the first leg of the Magical Kenya Trail Series, which is organised by Athletics Kenya and the Kenya Tourism Board.

Winners in the senior men's 14km and senior women's 14km categories walked home with KSh500,000 and a heifer whereas second and third-placed finishers received KSh200,000 and KSh100,000 - along with a heifer and sheep respectively.

Fund Braces for Increased Demand for Scholarships

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academic dreams.

Universities Fund acting Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi said that in the 2024/2025 financial year, Sh40.5 billion was disbursed to both public and private universities under both the SCFM and the soon-to-be-phased out Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) model.

Of this, Sh23 billion was directed to public universities under DUC, Sh574 million to private universities under DUC and Sh10

billion to public universities under SCFM.

Additionally, Dr Wanyonyi, in a past media forum, said 577,526 students were funded: 320,003 under DUC and 527,523 under SCFM.

To forestall funding challenges, UF established the Institutional and Online Donations platforms to enhance accuracy, transparency and accountability during funding and mobilise for more support from partners.