



## Public University Placement Key to Accessing Government Scholarships

**The Universities Fund has called on students, especially those from vulnerable backgrounds, to seek placement in public universities as a key step toward accessing government scholarships and ensuring a smooth transition into higher education.**

The Universities Fund Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr. Edwin Wanyonyi explained that under the current Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM), placement in a public university is mandatory for students to qualify for scholarships.

“The journey toward accessing scholarships begins with students completing their Form Four examinations



and attaining the minimum grade required for university admission. The next step is placement through KUCCPS. Once placed, you move to the third stage, which is applying for funding for your university education,” said Dr Wanyonyi.

Under the model, government funding comes in the form of scholarships and loans. Students placed in public

universities can access both scholarships and loans, while those placed in private universities are only eligible for loans. In both cases, the remaining balance is covered through household contributions by parents or guardians.

“All students should take advantage of scholarships. It is free support from the government, and you will not be expected to pay back. This is the equity pillar of the model. It allows you to jumpstart your university journey,” Dr Wanyonyi said.

The call comes just days before the closure of the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) placement portal, which is expected to

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## Honesty Vital during Scholarship Application

**University students applying for government scholarships under the SCFM have been urged to provide truthful information even as Universities Fund (UF) moves to combat fraud.**

The UF lamented the numerous cases of students providing false information during application, which adversely affects their allocation.

UF Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi revealed the challenges UF faces when students fill out self-declaration forms. For instance, he said some

students indicate they are orphaned but during fact-checking, the applications are flagged for containing misleading information.



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## UF Earns Praise for Best Practices in Internal Audit



*Universities Fund Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi receives the trophy for 1st runner-up during the 3rd Internal Audit and Risk Awards held on April 10, 2026 at Emara Ole Sereni Hotel.*

**The Universities Fund earned recognition for promoting excellence, integrity and innovation in internal audit and risk management.**

During the 3rd Internal Audit and Risk Awards on 10th April 2026, Universities Fund emerged 1st runner-up in Risk Management Function of the Year (Public Sector) category.

The notable achievement reflects the institution's strong commitment to sound governance, accountability and effective risk management practices.

It also affirms the Fund's continued investment in resilient systems, strong internal controls and prudent management practices that support sustainable financing of higher education in Kenya.

The recognition further builds on the Fund's previous success in 2025 when it was the 1st runner-up in Overall Risk Function of the Year during the 2nd Annual Internal Auditors Gala Dinner organised by the Institute of Internal Auditors Kenya.

The Fund intends to continue strengthening its systems to ensure transparency and sustainable impact.

According to the Institute of Internal Auditors Kenya, the occasion presented an opportunity for participants to understand the Global Internal Audit Standards (GIAS) that became effective on January 9, 2025 and the role of the standards in strengthening Internal Audit Governance.

## Secondary School Students Learn About Funding Opportunities

**More than 100 secondary school students were sensitised on available funding opportunities that will help them fulfil their academic dreams.**

Universities Fund Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi engaged the students on financing opportunities available through scholarships. The forum was held at Africa Nazarene University on March 31, 2026.

The students are supported by Education for All Children (EFAC), an education-to-employment programme serving Kenyan youth living in extreme poverty and hailing from urban and rural communities across the country.

The scheme supports students in their academic, social and pre-professional

development throughout secondary school, college and into their careers.

The students learned about the pathways to higher education funding and the support mechanisms available to those enrolled in universities.

Dr Wanyonyi also encouraged the students to remain focused on their academic goals, emphasising the importance of discipline.



*Students learn about university funding during a forum held at Africa Nazarene University on March 31, 2026.*

## Notable Progress Realised in SCFM Implementation

**Since the introduction of the student-centred funding model (SCFM) three years ago, Universities Fund has recorded significant milestones in streamlining access to affordable university education.**

UF Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi highlighted that despite challenges such as submission of false information by first-time applicants to insufficient funding, UF still has success stories to write home about.

Dr Wanyonyi recalled that some students below the age of 18 were applying for scholarships using their parents' IDs instead of birth certificates, leading to rejection of their applications due to inaccuracy.

**The Fund has witnessed a turnaround following deployment of technology and data management.**

He also highlighted the last minute rash to apply for scholarships as a major concern.

“Now we don't have those errors in IDs. The second challenge that we had was the last-minute applications. You find in the early days when you are asking people to apply, there is very little movement. Then last minute there is pressure to apply,” he said during a media interview with Radio Jambo on April 28, 2026.

However, he said the Fund has witnessed a turnaround following deployment of technology and data management.

Dr Wanyonyi observed that more students are applying for scholarships on time, and with full



*UF Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi during a meeting with a delegation from Zambia on April 30, 2026.*

automation, the Fund is now able to process thousands of applications efficiently.

“Now we see many more students, like from last year's cohort, applying in advance. Because we have automated our systems, we are able to run the process better,” he said

About 430,000 students are benefiting from SCFM, with another 268,000 expected to be onboarded in the 2026/2027 cycle.

## KUCCPS Placement Key to Accessing Scholarships

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process applications for more than 268,000 students who qualified for university admission.

Under the Student-Centred Funding Model, students from low socioeconomic backgrounds receive the highest level of support compared to those requiring minimal or no financial assistance.

Dr Wanyonyi noted that students must first apply through the Higher Education Financing (HEF) Portal to be considered for funding. He emphasised that awarding of funds is not automatic, but is determined by

the applicant's level of financial need.

As the government continues to push for 100 percent transition from basic to tertiary education, he noted that the Ministry of Education has capped tuition fee support at a minimum of KSh 5,900 and a maximum of KSh 75,000 per semester under the model.

“To achieve those funding levels, you must receive both a scholarship and a loan. If you fail to apply for a scholarship, then you will not qualify for the minimum fees support because the scholarship covers its portion,” he added.

# Honesty Crucial during Scholarship Application

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Dr Wanyonyi explained that by utilising data validators, UF is able to link the identification card (ID) of the student with that of their parent for authentication.

“We are able to link with the disability agency to confirm that you are actually a person with disability because we must find a way of confirming your declaration,” he said during an interview with Radio Jambo on April 28, 2026.

And added: “We continue to engage other agencies to try and see how we can confirm the information.”

He cautioned applicants, pointing out that honesty will enable them to receive the appropriate amount of scholarship.

Dr Wanyonyi emphasised that the Fund has invested heavily in technology to enhance data management.

Presently, he disclosed, UF is able to process the data of 400,000 students within minutes, courtesy of artificial intelligence and multi-source data integration.

The UF cross-checks data with Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) through a live data link to help determine the status of the student.

“We are also able to link it straight with HELB. And that is something that happens behind the scenes. We have linked our systems such that they are able to read from each other,” he added.

Dr Wanyonyi stated that by eliminating human intervention, technology has promoted integrity of the application process.

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**We are also able to link it straight with Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) system. And that is something that happens behind the scenes.**

He said the portal is likely to be opened for scholarship application in July after completion of course selection, revision and issuance of university admission letters to students.

Presently, students are selecting their preferred programmes in public universities ahead of admission in September this year. The KUCCPS portal closes on May 6.

## Zambian Delegation Visits UF for Benchmarking



*Universities Fund Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi, centre, leads a discussion with a delegation from Zambia Higher Education Authority at UF offices in Nairobi on April 30, 2026. The Zambian delegation was led by Dr Martin Mushumba (Director, Quality Assurance). The team benchmarked on Kenya's Student-Centred Funding Model.*

