

Public Universities Receive KSh4.2bn Shot in the Arm for Student Scholarships



Government-sponsored students can continue with their education unencumbered after the Universities Fund (UF) disbursed KSh4.2 billion to public universities for scholarships.

The announcement was welcomed by thousands of continuing students pursuing various undergraduate programmes under the student-centred funding model (SCFM).

Universities Fund Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi said the funds are part of the allocations under the 2025/2026 financial year.

“In the 2025/2026 financial year, Universities Fund has already disbursed KSh8.4 billion to support undergraduate studies,” Dr Wanyonyi said during a workshop in Naivasha with

registrars and finance officers to streamline the student-centred funding model processes.

The announcement comes at a critical juncture when the Fund is gearing up to receive more scholarship applications in the 2026/2027 financial year by students who sat the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination last year.

The exercise saw 270,715 candidates score a mean grade of C+ or above, thereby qualifying for placement to public universities where they can apply for the grant.

To qualify for government scholarships, students must be placed in a public university by Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service

(KUCCPS), have sat the KCSE examination from 2022 onwards, and formally apply through the Higher Education Financing (HEF) Portal (www.hef.co.ke).

The country has witnessed significant increase in university student enrolment over the past nine years from 62,581 in 2017 to 270,715 in 2025, representing a 332% increase.

As a result, the government introduced the SCFM to streamline access to fair and equitable funding opportunities by all students.

The three-day workshop, which was held from 10-12 March 2026, targeted registrars and finance officers from public universities to strengthen their institutional capacity in scholarship management, data integrity, and reporting and reconciliation of funds under the revamped model.

The participants were taken through the Universities Fund Institutional Portal and KUCCPS student placement and transfers, which form the basis for scholarship funding allocations.

Dr Wanyonyi underscored that the institutional portal enables timely access and disbursement of funds once appropriated by the National Treasury.

Masii Boys High School Benefits from Scholarship Awareness Campaign



Masii Boys High School students converge at UF exhibition stands during a sensitisation forum at the school on March 21, 2026.

Hundreds of students at Masii Boys High School in Kitui County benefited from a career sensitisation forum organised by Universities Fund on 21st March 2026.

The session was part of the Fund's ongoing efforts to enhance awareness about higher education funding opportunities among secondary school students and support them in making informed career choices.

The forum was important as it equipped the students and teachers with the relevant information on funding ahead of their transition to tertiary education.

The Fund held interactive sessions with the students, demystifying the Student-Centred Funding Model and taking them through the scholarship application process, eligibility requirements and avenues for filing appeals.

The students also learnt about the importance of Universities Fund in supporting access to quality and affordable university education by all learners regardless of their economic background.

The learners asked questions and sought clarification on various aspects of university funding, in addition to being provided with guidance on joining public universities and the support systems available to them.

The school administration commended the initiative, underscoring that such engagements help students to make informed academic and career decisions.

Higher Education Experts Spotlight Innovation as Critical Game-Changer

Stakeholders in the higher education sector deliberated on strategies aimed at enhancing the performance and resilience of public universities in the country.

Vice-chancellors and other higher education partners explored emerging challenges facing the institutions and best practices for enhancing governance, resource mobilisation and operational efficiency.

Under the theme 'Strengthening Public Universities' Sustainability, Quality and Innovation for National Development and Global Competitiveness', the participants also focused on the role of academic quality and innovation as critical drivers of national development and global competitiveness.

The crucial 2026 Vice-Chancellors' Summit took place at PridelInn Paradise Hotel in Mombasa on 5th March 2026.

Universities Fund Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi took part in the summit, where he emphasised the agency's commitment to advancing sustainable financing models that support delivery of quality and affordable education.

Dr Wanyonyi also underscored that financing must remain responsive to national priorities.

The summit encouraged sectoral partnerships and collaboration between university leaders and policymakers. It further reinforced the urgency to bolster the local public university system to meet current and future demands.



Vice-chancellors and other stakeholders convene for the 2026 Vice-Chancellors' Summit at PridelInn Paradise Hotel in Mombasa on March 5, 2026.

Universities Fund Engages Registrars, Finance Officers to Streamline Funding Model Processes



Technical officers from public universities, including registrars and financial officers, convene at Lake Naivasha Resort for a capacity building forum on student financing on March 10, 2026.

The Universities Fund convened a three-day workshop for university technical teams to strengthen institutional capacity in scholarship management, reporting and reconciliation of funds under the Student-Centred Funding Model (SCFM).

The workshop was organised ahead of the planned opening of the Higher Education Financing (HEF) Portal around May, which will allow students placed in public universities to apply for government scholarships.

Speaking at the workshop, which brought together registrars and finance officers from all the public universities, Dr Edwin Wanyonyi, Ag. Universities Fund CEO, emphasised the importance of accurate institutional data in ensuring effective management of the scholarships.

“We are here with the technical teams from all public universities to discuss their preparedness in reporting on the scholarship funds they receive,” he said at the workshop held from March 10-12, 2026 at Lake Naivasha Resort.

The participants received practical guidance on the Universities Fund Institutional Portal, a standardised digital platform that enables universities to submit, validate and reconcile student data.

He added: “This is one of the most important forums where we engage our stakeholders. It is based on the understanding that for us to efficiently deliver resources to universities — based on what we receive from the National Treasury — we must work closely with registrars and finance officers to ensure they are able to submit their reports and returns on time. This enables us to process and disburse funds to universities promptly.”

They were also taken through KUCCPS student placement and transfers processes, which determine funding allocations.

“Through the use of the Universities Institutional Portal, we are now able to process funds immediately after receiving them from the Treasury, and within 48 hours, the funds can be disbursed to universities,” Dr Wanyonyi added.

Introduced in 2023, the SCFM is one of the most significant reforms in Kenya’s higher education financing system. Unlike previous models where funding was allocated directly to institutions, the new approach ensures that funding follows the student, with support allocated based on financial need.

So far, 437,648 students have benefited from model under the model, with over KSh37 billion disbursed to support undergraduate education. The first cohort of students under the system are expected to graduate from next year.

Dr Wanyonyi also highlighted the rapid growth of Kenya’s higher education sector, noting that the country now has 83 universities, both public and private, serving thousands of students nationwide.

437,648

Scholarship beneficiaries since 2023.

KSh37bn

Funds disbursed since 2023.

MMUST to Set Up New Campus after Asset Handover

Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) has received the green light to establish Butula Campus as part of concerted efforts to expand access to quality education.

The development follows the transfer of assets, including land, to the university by Butula Centre for Education, Research and Development.

Higher Education Principal Secretary Dr Beatrice Inyangala presided over the ceremony in Benga, Busia County, on 21 March 2026. Dr Inyangala was accompanied by Universities Fund (UF) Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi.



Higher Education Principal Secretary Dr Beatrice Inyangala (seated) presides over the transfer of ownership of Butula Centre for Education, Research and Development's assets to Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology on March 21, 2026.

By bringing university education closer to students, reducing cost of learning and enhancing regional development, research and innovation opportunities will be expanded.

The participants included Principal Administrative Secretary Arthur Osiya, Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology (MMUST) Vice-Chancellor Prof Solomon Shibairo and Butula MP Joseph Oyula.

The leaders underscored the importance of strengthening higher education infrastructure

as a means of enhancing access, promoting equity and driving the government's Bottom-Up Economic Transformation Agenda (BETA).

Tree Planting Conducted at Alliance Girls, Lenana Boys Secondary Schools to Bolster Conservation Efforts



A stakeholder takes part in a Universities Fund-led tree planting drive at Alliance Girls High School on March 27, 2026.



UF staff team up with Lenana Boys High School students to plant tree seedlings at the school on March 28, 2026