



Subsequent Scholarship Application Now Open for Continuing Students



The Universities Fund (UF) has invited continuing students to apply for scholarships under the Student-Centred Funding Model for the 2026/2027 academic year.

The Fund encouraged eligible students who are either in their second year of study and beyond to apply for funding via USSD code *642# using their mobile phones.

The announcement is targeting the students who were placed to public universities by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS). The students can apply for assistance every year.

Additionally, the Fund will also invite applications from

first-year undergraduate students who sat the 2025 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination.

The students are expected to join universities from September this year. The applications will be made online via the Higher Education Financing (HEF) Portal.

KUCCPS had opened its system from April 7, 2026 to May 6, 2026 to allow the Form Four leavers to

FACTS & FIGURES

KSh31bn

The Fund was allocated KSh 31 billion for scholarships under the SCFM for the 2026/2027 financial year.

select their preferred public institutions and academic programmes.

Data from the first application exercise showed that 212,510 eligible students had applied for various courses in the 43 public universities, representing 79.1% of the 268,714 candidates eligible for university placement.

For a student to qualify for scholarship, he/she must have attained a mean grade of C+ or above and placed to a public university by KUCCPS.

In March this year, UF Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi disclosed that KSh4.2 billion in scholarships had been disbursed to public universities to support continuing students. The funds were part of the allocations for the 2025/2026 financial year.

According to the budget estimates for the 2026/2027 financial year, the Fund was allocated Sh31.1 billion for scholarships.

Under the model, which aims to enhance access to affordable university education for vulnerable students, scholarship awards range between 30 to 70 percent.

Education Reforms Dominate National Conference

Experts highlighted the urgency for education reforms, collaboration and skills development in delivering quality and sustainable education in the country.

Stakeholders speaking during the 2nd National Education Conference underscored the need to prioritise transformation leadership and accountability in bolstering access to quality and



Universities Fund Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi (left), HELB CEO Geoffrey Monari (centre) and KUCCPS CEO Dr Mercy Wahome take part in a panel discussion during the National Education Conference in Naivasha on May 7, 2026.

affordable education.

The event took place in Naivasha from May 7-9, 2026, with players in the sector, including President William Ruto and Higher Education Principal Secretary Dr Beatrice Inyangala, calling for enhanced governance frameworks and financing mechanisms to promote equity.

President Ruto reiterated the importance of stakeholder collaboration in harnessing ideas and

streamlining education programmes.

The President stressed the need for bold leadership in implementing education reforms aligned to the present needs and future aspirations of the country.

“Education transforms societies, reduces poverty, expands opportunities for women, promotes social cohesion and civic stability. In many ways,

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3,500 Trees Planted at Nambale Boys High School

Kenya’s National Tree Growing Restoration Campaign is gaining steam following the planting of 3,500 trees at Nambale Boys High School.

Joint efforts by Universities Fund (UF), Kenya Forest Service and the school’s fraternity saw the planting of the trees to promote environmental conservation and combat climate change.

The Fund also utilised the 15th May 2026 drive to sensitise the students and teachers about the Student-Centred Funding Model and youth empowerment efforts through education financing.

The Fund promoted awareness about scholarship eligibility, application process, and other available support mechanisms for students enrolling for university courses.

The activity is part of the Fund’s robust efforts to inform and educate stakeholders

on scholarship opportunities and increase the number of students applying for funding.

The students worked alongside the facilitators to dig, plant and water the trees.



Universities Fund, Kenya Forest Service and Nambale Boys High School management plant trees at the school on May 15, 2026.

Kenyatta University Students Wowed by Field Trip

A section of Kenyatta University students paid a courtesy call to Universities Fund to enhance their understanding of higher education financing and public sector funding frameworks.

UF Deputy Director of Grants, Dr Richard Ngali, received the School of Economics students and enlightened them about the Fund's mandate and the policy environment it operates in.

During the engagement on 14th May 2026, the students learned how the Fund safeguards university education financing, promotes sustainability and improves access to quality education within the frameworks of the Student-Centred Funding Model.

The UF team highlighted how the model seeks to align student needs with government support,



Universities Fund's Grants Deputy Director, Dr Richard Ngali (right), engages Kenyatta University students during a visit on May 14, 2026. The students are from the School of Economics.

promote fairness in resource allocation, and enhance financing efficiency.

Through a question-and-answer session, clarification was provided on the various aspects of the funding model, such as eligibility, assessment processes and the overall structure of support.

The engagement further exposed the students to

broader considerations in public sector financial management, particularly education financing, planning and sustainability, which complemented their academic studies.

Dr Ngali reaffirmed the UF's commitment to supporting knowledge sharing, institutional collaboration and capacity building among students and academic institutions.



NOTICE!

Joining 2nd, 3rd or 4th year in 2026/2027?

If you are a continuing university student under the Student-Centred Funding Model, the Universities Fund **Subsequent Scholarship Application** is now open.

Dial ***642#** to apply

Trust, Problem-solving Skills and Morale Boosted during Team Building



Employees of Universities Fund participate in a team building activity at Lake Naivasha Resort. The event ran from May 20-22, 2026.

Employees from Universities Fund held a team building exercise to strengthen their cohesion, create stronger work relations, and improve teamwork and communication.

One of the staff gives a personal account:

“The three-day retreat at Lake Naivasha Resort, which iTouch Consultants facilitated, turned out to be a memorable moment for us. Set against the calm, scenic backdrop

of Lake Naivasha, the environment alone seemed to signal a pause from routine work pressure and a shift into something more refreshing, interactive and unifying.

iTouch Consultants took charge of the programme with a structured but lively approach, ensuring that every session balanced fun, learning and bonding. We were grouped into teams, which encouraged all colleagues to work together.

The activities were light-hearted but cleverly designed: trust games, quick problem-solving challenges, and communication exercises that quickly got everyone laughing, strategising, and engaging beyond their usual departmental silos.

The retreat also featured outdoor challenges that tested coordination, leadership and resilience. They included relay races, obstacle courses and group strategy games, which kept everyone active.

Even those who were initially reserved found themselves fully involved, cheering others on and celebrating small wins as a team.

iTouch Consultants kept the energy high, rotating activities smoothly and ensuring inclusivity so that everyone played a role regardless of their physical ability or personality trait.

By the time we were leaving, those who had barely spoken before were exchanging contacts, sharing jokes and reflecting on their favourite moments.

Education Reforms Take Centre Stage at Key Event

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education is the single greatest investment a nation can make in managing its present and shaping its future,” he said.

The delegates – who included government officials, university leadership, teacher unions, and donor – deliberated on key policy reforms ranging from digitisation, student financing and infrastructure to the implementation of the Competency-Based

Education.

On a similar note, Dr Inyangala emphasised that collaboration across the sector is vital in producing well-rounded graduates who are both employable and entrepreneurial.

She said that the national conversation should not be restricted to education reforms but extended to the role of innovation in driving the country’s growth.

“At the university level, we are working to produce graduates who are employable and possess an entrepreneurial spirit. We are working to develop the technologies that would lead us on the road to ‘Singapore’,” she said.

UF Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi underscored the need for improved financing and how scholarships are enhancing access to affordable education.