



Universities Fund Urges First-Year Students to Apply for Scholarships

The Universities Fund (UF) on July 8, 2026 urged all the 2025 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education Examination candidates placed in universities to pursue degree programmes in the 2026/2027 Academic Year to apply for Government scholarships.

Universities Fund Ag. CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi asked the 202,133 students placed in public universities by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) to apply for the scholarships through the Higher Education Financing (www.hef.co.ke) portal. The portal was opened on July 8, 2026 and will remain open until September 6, 2026.

"We congratulate all students who have secured placement



in our universities. We encourage public university students to apply for the Universities Fund scholarships as early as possible to facilitate timely processing, award and disbursement of financial support ahead of the commencement of their studies," said Dr Wanyonyi.

Under the Student-Centred Funding Model, students placed in public universities are eligible for the scholarship, while those admitted to private universities only qualify for loans offered by Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). The level of financial support is determined by a student's household need and the cost of the degree programme. The

model was introduced in 2023 by President William Ruto.

As per the eligibility criteria, the applicant must be a Kenyan, have sat KCSE in 2022 or later, and has applied through the portal. The applications are free.

For a complete first-time scholarship application, a student should have the following: a valid email address; a valid mobile phone number registered in the student's name; KCPE and KCSE index numbers and years of examination; a recent passport-size photograph; a university admission letter; a birth certificate or national identity card; the parent or guardian's registered mobile phone number and national identity card number; and, where applicable, a parent's death certificate.

**IT IS A GRANT
NOT A LOAN**

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I encourage university students who require financial support to apply for the Universities Fund scholarship. It's a grant, not a loan. No one will ask you to repay.

**Jephitha Wathiru,
Student, JKUAT**

Transforming Higher Education Through Scholarships

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UF Seizes Opportunity at Kisumu National Show



Universities Fund engages high school students at Kisumu National Show. The event ran from July 22-26, 2026.

The Universities Fund (UF) took part in this year's Kisumu National Show to provide valuable insights to students and other stakeholders into the role scholarships play in boosting education accessibility.

Throughout the five-day exhibition held from July 22-26, 2026, UF created awareness about the application process and eligibility criteria. The theme was "Promoting Climate Smart Agriculture and Trade Initiatives for

Sustainable Economic Growth". The UF also assisted prospective applicants to navigate the Higher Education Financing (HEF) application platform, check the status of applications and respond to enquiries.

The event attracted a huge turnout, with the funding agency sensitising more than 600 participants. The UF was able to strengthen public awareness about its mandate and reinforce its commitment to dissemination of accurate and adequate information.

Coordinated Approach to Boost Uptake of Funding

The Universities Fund (UF), Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) and Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) are collaborating to ensure seamless transition of students joining universities in the 2026/2027 placement cycle.

During a virtual sensitisation forum held on 9 July 2026, staff from the three agencies were equipped with updated information on student placement, scholarship and

loan application processes to enhance their capacity to respond to enquiries from students, parents and other stakeholders.

The forum underscored the importance of working as a single unit as opposed to operating in isolation given their interconnected roles in supporting students from placement through to accessing higher education financing.

The KUCCPS team took participants through the placement process and provided an update on the number of students selected



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Structured Response to Varsity Financing Proposed



President William Ruto (right, centre) hosts higher education stakeholders at State House on July 7, 2026. They included UF and HELB.

Ag. Universities Fund (UF) CEO Dr Edwin Wanyonyi participated in a consultative meeting on higher education funding chaired by President William Ruto.

Stakeholders convened at State House, Nairobi, on July 7, 2026 to deliberate

on strategies to strengthen sustainability of higher education financing while ensuring access to inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all students.

The meeting underscored the Government's resolve to implement a financing

model that responds to the prevailing financial and sectoral trends. Dr Wanyonyi reaffirmed that UF will continue to support initiatives aimed at expanding access to higher education.

The stakeholders called for strengthened collaboration to ensure all students receive the requisite financial support to pursue their academic and professional dreams.

Presently, the government is mulling over the enactment of Tertiary Education Placement and Funding Bill, 2024 under which every eligible student enrolled in a public tertiary institution would receive full government funding.



You've earned your university slot.

Now secure your Universities Fund scholarship.

Apply on Higher Education Financing (HEF) Portal:

www.hef.co.ke



Partnerships, Networking Advanced at Key Summit

Meaningful conversations, networking and a shared commitment to the future of higher education were the anchors of the 17th Inter-University Council for East Africa Annual (IUCEA) Conference in Nairobi.

On July 29, 2026, UF took participants through the Government scholarship programme, explained the

application process and eligibility requirements, and demonstrated how to apply through the Higher Education Financing portal. The UF is building stronger partnerships to expand access to quality and affordable higher education for more Kenyan students.

The conference convenes as a regional platform to take stock, align policies and partnerships around shared

goals, and define a path forward for higher education in East Africa — anchored in the aspirations of the East African Common Higher Education Area (CHEA). The theme was “Powering the Future of Higher Education in East Africa through Strategic Partnerships and Collaborations”. Higher Education Principal Secretary Dr Beatrice Inyangala led the event.



Higher Education Principal Secretary Dr Beatrice Inyangala (far right) joins other stakeholders during the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) conference in Nairobi on July 29, 2026.



Universities Fund staff at the IUCEA conference in Nairobi on July 29, 2026.

UF, HELB and KUCCPS Embrace Collaborative Approach to Boost Uptake of Funding

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to join public universities in preparation for the next phase - which is financing.

The UF and HELB will continue to support eligible students through scholarship and loan, respectively. The agencies also highlighted the need for a coordinated communication approach that will steer the dissemination of clear, consistent and timely information throughout the application process.

The approach will help to tackle challenges experienced during previous funding

cycles, such as submission of incomplete applications. The UF is running a campaign dubbed #WahiScholarship to urge students to apply for funding. The agencies will also

UF is running a campaign dubbed #WahiScholarship to encourage students to apply for scholarships.

monitor the performance of the Higher Education Financing portal to boost service delivery.

Transforming Higher Education Through Scholarships

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