



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.

Joint Sensitisation Forum to Boost Funding Uptake

The Universities Fund, Higher Education Loans Board and Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service held a joint sensitisation forum that equipped staff with first-hand information on student placement and loan and scholarship application processes ahead of enrolment of undergraduate students in universities.

The team will competently handle queries from stakeholders at huduma centres nationwide.

During the July 9, 2026 virtual session, Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) CEO Geoffrey Monari underscored that the team will also develop a comprehensive communication strategy to provide a structured road map of how the first-year students will receive timely assistance and increase uptake of scholarships and loans.

Mr Monari stated that the robust strategy was also borne out of the need to address key challenges emerging during



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Structured Response to Varsity Financing Proposed



Stakeholders discuss higher education financing, among other issues, at State House on July 7, 2026.

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. The scheme seeks to replace the Variable Scholarship and Loan Funding Model established in 2023.



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.

Joint Sensitisation Forum to Boost Funding Uptake

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funding applications, such as incomplete applications, failure by applicants to upload all the required supporting documents and the spread of misinformation and disinformation.

During the 2026/2027 placement cycle, the team is keen on creating awareness among students to submit their applications well before the deadline to avoid delays. Hence, the strategy will ensure dissemination of proactive, anticipatory, consistent and timely messages to applicants.

The team will also track how the means-testing instrument is functioning and ensure

the Higher Education Financing portal is operating optimally as applications for the 2026/2027 placement pour in.

Mr Monari added that they will continue to bolster their partnership to solidify relations with all partners, particularly to help them

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

to distinguish the difference between scholarships administered by UF and loans provided by HELB.

Transforming Higher Education Through Scholarships

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