



August 2026

UF News



Hazina Trade Centre, 5th Floor
Monrovia Street, Nairobi


info@universitiesfund.go.ke


+254 746 737 935

Over 500,000 Funding Applications Submitted

More than 500,000 applications for funding have been submitted through the Higher Education Financing (HEF) portal, highlighting the pressing need for increased budgetary allocation to the Universities Fund.

This came as the Ministry of Education extended the application deadline

to allow more university students adequate time to apply.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba said that as of 31st August, university students and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) trainees had submitted

Cont'd on Page 2



As of 31st August, 789,422 loan and scholarship funding applications from university students and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) trainees had been submitted.

 **Julius Ogamba**
CS, Ministry of Education

Sky is the Limit: UF Receives ISO Recertification

The Universities Fund (UF) was awarded ISO 9001:2015 recertification by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), reaffirming its commitment to the delivery of quality financing of higher education in Kenya.

UF Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi underscored that the event demonstrates the Fund's capability to safeguard public funds and ensure it delivers its mandate of funding university students.

During the ceremony hosted by the Fund in Nairobi on 21st August 2026, Dr Wanyonyi pointed out that the recertification will help boost public trust, especially among students, and assure stakeholders that the scholarship application and disbursement processes are carried out through transparent and reliable systems.

"Today is not simply a ceremony



202,133 Students

Number of students placed by KUCCPS in public universities in the 2026/2027 academic year.



KSH 47.9 Billion

Amount disbursed to public universities from FY2023/2024 to FY 2024/2025 under SCFM.



KSH 2.5 Billion

First allocation of funds disbursed to public universities at the beginning of August 2026.



We remain committed to providing the leadership required to sustain this culture of excellence.

 **Prof Karuti Kanyinga**

Cont'd on Page 5

NEWS FOCUS

Over 500,000 Funding Applications Submitted

More than 500,000 applications for funding have been submitted through the Higher Education Financing (HEF) portal, highlighting the pressing need for increased budgetary allocation to the Universities Fund.

This came as the Ministry of Education extended the application deadline to allow more university students adequate time to apply.

Education Cabinet Secretary Julius Ogamba said that as of 31st August, university students and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) trainees had submitted 789,422 loan and scholarship funding applications.



University students receive assistance from Universities Fund to apply for scholarships during a campaign drive on 26th August 2026.

Extending the Window, Expanding Opportunity

CS Ogamba further said the Universities Fund (UF) and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) reopened the application window – which also targeted TVET trainees – until 21st September 2026 to ensure all eligible students apply. The initial deadline was 31st August 2026.

CS Ogamba added that the Fund disbursed KSh22.12 billion in first-semester funding to continuing students and TVET trainees.

UF Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi - while presiding over the Fund's ISO recertification ceremony on 21st August 2026 - said the growing demand for higher education financing demonstrates the importance of robust systems that ensure applications and disbursements are processed

efficiently, transparently and reliably.

“Under the SCFM, the Fund administers government scholarships to eligible students placed in public universities using assessed financial need as a key determinant of scholarship support. It is a responsibility that touches the aspirations of families, the future of young people and the human capital needs of our country,” Dr Wanyonyi said.

Dr Wanyonyi stated the Fund is advancing its quality management approach through digital transformation. Last year, the agency launched its Institutional Portal to provide a centralised mechanism for exchanging data between universities and the Fund.

AT A GLANCE

**500,000+****Applications Submitted**

Funding applications that were submitted through the HEF portal.

**202,133****Students Placed**

students placed by KUCCPS in public universities in the 2026/2027 academic year.

**21st****August 2026**

Recertification ceremony conducted successfully.

**HEF Portal**

Our digital platform continues to make scholarship application easier and faster for all.



As of 31st August, 789,422 loan and scholarship funding applications from university students and Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) trainees had been submitted.



Julius Ogamba
CS Ministry of Education



ASSURANCE

Sky is the Limit: UF Receives ISO Recertification



From left: Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Managing Director Esther Ngari, UF Board Chairperson Prof Karuti Kanyinga and UF Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi celebrate the recertification of the Fund in Nairobi on 21st August 2026.

The Universities Fund (UF) was awarded ISO 9001:2015 recertification by the Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS), reaffirming its commitment to the delivery of quality financing of higher education in Kenya. UF Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi underscored that the event demonstrates the Fund's capability to safeguard public funds and ensure it delivers its mandate of funding university students.



We remain committed to providing the leadership required to sustain this culture of excellence.



Prof Karuti Kanyinga
Chairman, UF Board

During the ceremony hosted by the Fund in Nairobi last month,

Dr Wanyonyi pointed out that the recertification will help boost public trust, especially among students, and assure stakeholders that the scholarship application and disbursement processes are carried out through transparent and reliable systems.

“Today is not simply a ceremony to receive a certificate. Today is a celebration of a culture of quality, continuous improvement and excellence,” Dr Wanyonyi said.

Dr Wanyonyi applauded his team and the Board of Trustees for nurturing a culture of prudence and accountability, which has enabled the effective processing and allocation of financial resources to needy students.

“Most importantly, it is a reaffirmation of our commitment to both public and private universities and students whose dream of university education depends on the effectiveness



Today is not simply a ceremony to receive a certificate. Today is a celebration of a culture of quality, continuous improvement and excellence.



Dr Edwin Wanyonyi
Ag. CEO, UF

of the systems we operate,” he stated. Similarly, Universities Fund

Board Chairman Prof Karuti Kanyinga said the achievement reflects the Fund's commitment to strengthening institutional capacity to effectively deliver its mandate.

“This achievement reflects your professionalism, commitment and collective effort. I commend you for attaining and maintaining the standards required for recertification,” he said.

The ISO provides a framework that supports consistent delivery



This achievement reflects your professionalism, commitment and collective effort. I commend you for attaining and maintaining the standards required for recertification.



Prof Karuti Kanyinga
Chairman, UF Board



Visit our website www.universitiesfund.go.ke for more information



+254 746 737 935

STATISTICS

6 Key Facts on Universities Fund Scholarships

**608,879**

Number of students Universities Fund is projecting to finance in FY2026/2027.

**202,133**

Number of students placed in public universities by KUCCPS in the 2026/2027 academic year.

**KSH 47.9BN**

Amount of scholarship funds disbursed to public universities from FY2023/2024–FY2025/2026 under SCFM.

**KSH 30.1BN**

Amount of scholarship funds disbursed in FY 2026/2027, totalling KSh 78bn since 2023.

**KSH 19.96BN**

Amount disbursed to private universities under DUC from FY2016/17–FY2025/26.

**KSH 2.5BN**

First allocation of funds disbursed to public universities at the beginning of August 2026.



University Spotlight

Strathmore University, Impax Ink Research Deal



Strathmore University's iLabAfrica Research and Innovation Centre and Impax Business Solutions Limited ink a partnership focused on research and technology on 19th August 2026.

ThStrathmore University's iLabAfrica Research and Innovation Centre and Impax Business Solutions Limited formalised a strategic partnership that will connect university research with industry expertise to develop practical technology solutions.

The partnership aims to accelerate the development and application of technology solutions. The new collaboration will also strengthen digital skills and support information and communications technology innovation across Kenya.

It addresses real-world challenges facing businesses and institutions in the country and the wider region.



We can create opportunities for our researchers and students to engage with real industry challenges.

The partnership was formalised in Nairobi on 19th August 2026. The move merges iLabAfrica's research, innovation and academic capabilities with Impax Business Solutions Limited's experience in enterprise technology and digital transformation.

"By working closely with Impax Business Solutions Limited, we can create opportunities for our researchers and students to engage with real industry challenges while advancing solutions that have practical relevance beyond the university,"

Dr Joseph Sevilla, Director, iLabAfrica Research and Innovation Centre, said.

The collaboration will focus on translating research and emerging technologies into practical applications while strengthening the pipeline of digital talent equipped to respond to industry needs.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Nairobi International Trade Fair

28th Sep - 4th Oct 2026
Jamhuri Park Showground,
Nairobi



Kitale National Show

7th-10th October 2026
Kitale Showground



Customer Service Week

5th-9th October 2026
Universities Fund HQ,
Nairobi

The agreement will bring the two organisations together in several areas, including research, innovation, skills training, mentorship, and the sharing of knowledge.



The partnership aims to accelerate the development and application of technology solutions.

The new collaboration will also strengthen digital skills and support information and communications technology innovation across Kenya.



Visit our website www.universitiesfund.go.ke for more information

+254 746 737 935

PICTURE SPEAK



Universities Fund (UF) Ag. Chief Executive Officer Dr Edwin Wanyonyi (centre) and Kenya Bureau of Standards (KEBS) Managing Director Esther Ngari (front left) lead staff in celebrating the Fund's ISO recertification at the Fund's headquarters on 21st August 2026.



Secondary school students visit the UF exhibition stand at the Mombasa International Show on 4th September 2026. The fair took place from September 2nd-6th.



Universities Fund Board of Trustees celebrate the Fund's ISO recertification on 21st August 2026.



Staff from Universities Fund's Grants department assist students to apply for government scholarship on 26th August 2026 at University of Eldoret. The team also visited other universities, including Karatina, Kirinyaga and Kisii to support first-year students.

FREQUENTLY ASKED

QUESTIONS

**01**

Can I apply for a government scholarship if I am enrolled in a private university?

A: No. Government scholarships are only available to students placed by the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) in public universities in Kenya.

**02**

Can I apply for a scholarship on my own, or must I seek assistance at a cybercafé?

A: Yes. The process is easy. Just make sure all the required documents are ready on your device before you begin. If you need assistance, please contact us through our official communication channels.

**03**

Can I apply using my smartphone?

A: Yes. You can apply for a Universities Fund scholarship through the HEF portal using your smartphone. Before you begin, ensure all required documents are saved on your phone in the correct format.



Have you applied for your Scholarship?

First-year students:

Visit www.hef.co.ke.

2nd, 3rd and 4th year students: Dial *642#

Deadline: 21st September 2026

Apply Today

