

KUCCPS conducts sensitisation on student placement, new university funding scheme

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) and Universities Fund (UF) held a joint sensitisation of students at Murang'a University.

KUCCPS Chief Executive Officer Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome said measures have been put in place to simplify the placement process. Addressing first-year students on September 12, Dr Wahome urged freshmen to revise their choices ahead of admission to the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC).

KUCCPS published the programmes and capacities available in all the 71 satellite campuses, setting the revision window from September 12 2023 to September 16, 2023.

"The KUCCPS portal is open for revision of choices by applicants who applied for KMTC courses but were not successful. Courses that were available in the recent application but are not listed above were filled to capacity hence are not available for the revision of choices," Dr Wahome said in a statement. Officers from the Universities Fund flanked Dr Wahome and enlightened the students on issues relating to the new funding model.

The UF representatives explained that based on the New Universities and Colleges Funding Model, students will be awarded scholarships based on the four categories of need including vulnerable, extremely needy, needy and less needy.

The categories students are placed in are determined by a means-testing instrument (MTI) that utilizes information such as family economic background, whether a student comes from a marginalized region, and affirmative action.

During the sensitisation event, the UF team addressed issues faced by students while applying for the government loan and scholarship. The financing scheme is applied to the 2022 secondary school leavers, with continuing students in universities and colleges get State-funded based on the Differentiated Unit Cost (DUC) model.

The new model was introduced following President William

Ruto's directive that seeks to pull public and private universities out of a Sh61 billion financial hole.

Hence, the new model will enable universities to foster relations with private sector to finance research and innovations, boost autonomy of universities and make the institutions competitive by encouraging development of niche areas of study.



Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) Chief Executive Officer Dr. Mercy Wahome leads a sensitisation event at Murang'a University on September 12, 2023

Implementation of the scheme brings on board KUCCPS, UF and Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). The scheme has changed the status quo by restricting scholarship applications to students admitted to public universities through KUCCPS, while private university students being eligible for loans only.

According to 2023/2024 placement results announced in July 2023, 285,167 secondary school leavers were enrolled in higher learning institutions. Of these, 140,107 qualified for degree programmes in universities as 560 were admitted to secondary teacher training colleges and 144,500 will study diploma, craft artisan and certificate to TVETS, national polytechnics and colleges.

PICTORIAL

KUCCPS partnered with the Kenya Music Festival for the 95th edition of the competition that took place at Dedan Kimathi University of Technology in Nyeri County from August 11-23, 2023. Messages on KUCCPS' services featured prominently among the themes highlighted in the performances. The agency also conducted career sensitisation during the Mombasa International Agriculture Show from September 6-10, 2023.



KUCCPS' staff advise secondary school students about careers during the Mombasa International Show at ASK Jomo Kenyatta Showground in Mombasa on September 6, 2023.



Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service employees attend the Nairobi trade fair in Nairobi on September 2023.



President William Ruto presides over the Kenya Music Festival Winners' State Concert at Nakuru State Lodge on August 23, 2023



Education Cabinet Secretary Ezekiel Machogu (left) and his Sports counterpart Ababu Namwamba join other guests in marking the culmination of the Kenya Music Festival Winners' State Concert at Nakuru State Lodge on August 23, 2023



Students from colleges and secondary schools participate in a multi-stakeholder youth career and mentorship forum at Nyandarua National Polytechnic in Nyandarua County on October 13, 2023



Ngala Special School entertains guests with their celebrated dance during the national music event at Nakuru State Lodge on August 23, 2023



KUUCCPS employee Janet Arum explains the agency's mandate to secondary school students during a career forum held from October 13-14, 2023 at Nyandarua National Polytechnic



Students from various secondary schools take part in a mentorship programme at Nyandarua National Polytechnic, in Nyandarua, on October 13, 2023.



Basic Education Principal Secretary Belio Kipsang addresses stakeholders during the 95th edition of the national music fete at Nakuru State Lodge on August 23, 2023



National Music Festival Chairperson Frederick Ngala addresses stakeholders during the Kenya Music Festival Winners Concert at Nakuru State Lodge on August 23, 2023



Secondary school students learn more about KUUCCPS' services during the week-long Nairobi trade fair at Jamuhuri showground. The event ran from September 25-October 1, 2023.

Placement body undertakes career guidance and sensitisation at 2023 Mombasa trade fair

A joint sensitisation of the public on student placement and State-funding of higher education through scholarships and loans was the highlight of the recent Mombasa International Agriculture Show.

The Kenya Universities and Colleges central Placement Service, the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) and the Universities Fund (UF) participated in the show jointly, providing an opportunity to students, parents and guardians to access information on placement, career guidance and government funding under one roof.

The show was held at the Mkomani Showground from 6th to 10th September, 2023 under the theme *‘Promoting climate smart agriculture and economic trade initiatives for sustainable economic growth’*.

KUCCPS is a government agency whose role is to coordinate the placement of students to universities and colleges and provide career guidance services and information to secondary school students, teachers, parents and guardians, among other functions.

HELB is responsible for disbursement of government loans to students, while the UF is in charge of scholarships.

Officers from the three agencies also enlightened the participants about the new higher education funding model and addressed related concerns.

The event attracted exhibitors from various sectors, including public and private institutions, agricultural entities, banks, educational institutions, small and medium enterprises, housing firms, and manufacturers, among others.

Placement body concludes course revision for Kenya Medical Training College intake

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) has concluded the exercise of accepting revisions on its portal for students placed to the Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC) wishing to switch courses.

The five-day window for revision of choices granted relief to thousands of students aiming to join KMTC in September 2023 but were not successful in the first application cycle.

Applicants were required to select a course from among the programmes on the student’s portal that remained with unfilled slots after the initial KMTC placement.

No charges were pegged on the revision, with applicants only required to utilise M-Pesa transaction codes from the recent application for KMTC courses.

“Applied for KMTC courses through KUCCPS but missed? Log in to <http://students.kuccps.net> and choose another KMTC course, free of charge,” read a KUCCPS Tweet notice.

KUCCPS chief executive Mercy Wahome said the revision window that opened from September 12 targeted individuals who completed the KCSE examination from the year 2013 to 2022.

The earlier deadline for application was August 4.

Applicants for KMTC courses were notified by SMS to the phone numbers provided in their previous applications.

The KMTC, which offers courses at diploma and certificate level, operates 71 campuses countrywide.

Among the courses it offers include public health, orthopedic trauma medicine, health nursing, mental health and psychiatry, midwifery, radiography and imaging, medical laboratory sciences, occupational therapy, pharmacy and physiotherapy.

Applicants wishing to revise their course choices were required to log on to the KUCCPS portal students.kuccps.net and choose another KMTC course from the programmes displayed on the portal –which were the only ones available for the KMTC September 2023 intake.

Inclusion of KMTC within the KUCCPS fold expanded

the placement service's scope, enabling the agency to place students to degree, diploma, certificate, and artisan courses across some 289 public training institutions and 30 private universities across Kenya.

It is anticipated that providing the KMTTC courses on the KUCCPS platform will ensure equity, fairness and balanced access to the training opportunities.

KUCCPS has a database of the KCSE examination results of all the potential applicants hence does not require applicants to provide their results.

Implementation of the new funding framework for higher education kicked off at the start of this financial year where financing shifts from block funding for the

institutions to apportioning to individual students according to their level of need.

The new model has delinked student placement with funding, thus requiring students to submit applications to the Higher Education Loans Board (HELB) and Universities Fund (UF) for loans and scholarships, respectively.

Funding to students now combines scholarships, loans and household contributions on a graduated scale that is scientifically determined. The categorisation of students is in four levels of need – vulnerable, extremely needy, needy and less needy.

Stakeholders adopt multi-sectoral approach to strengthen regional mentorship, career forums

The Placement service adopted a multisectoral approach to conduct career guidance and mentorship forums in Nyandarua County.



Higher education stakeholders, among them representatives from State Department for TVET, KUCCPS, and Colleges and Institutes Canada Young Africa Works in Kenya lead a youth career and mentorship forum at Nyandarua National Polytechnic on October 13, 2023.

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) teamed up with Colleges and Institutes Canada (CICan) to implement the Young Africa Works in Kenya- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) initiative at Nyandarua National Polytechnic, Nyandarua County, from October 13-14, 2023.

During the event, more than 200 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examination candidates were given a demonstration on course application and sensitised on the factors to consider to make informed career choices.

The students were equally sensitised on the application and placement process, cut-off points and inter-institution transfers. KUCCPS also distributed information materials such as fliers and brochures to the students. KUCCPS' Placement and Career Services Officer John Parsupore took the participants through the organisation's mandate, the placement process and emerging developments such as publicising cost of higher education programmes. Mr Parsupore highlighted the importance of embracing TVET education and competence based education training courses.

Other partners present were Deputy Director, State Department for TVET, Dr. Frank Mukuna, Chief Principal, Nyandarua National Polytechnic, Mr Felix Mung'atu, and Nakuru County Education Committee Chairman, Hon Peter Njoroge. KUCCPS is a partner in the Young Africa Works – Kenya: Youth Employability through TVET programme, which aims to enhance career guidance and mentorship services.

Spearheaded by Mastercard Foundation, the project involves mobilising Canadian college partners to collaborate with Kenyan TVET institutions to build the institutions' capacity to deliver market-relevant, industry-responsive and gender sensitive programmes. Launched in 2020, the five-year programme advocates for partner-driven participatory approach and establishment of centres of excellence.

The programme also targets to increase the number of young Kenyans – especially women – participating in market-relevant skills training programmes to ultimately increase the number of youth in dignified and fulfilling work in the Big Four and digital sectors.

Open University of Kenya advertises applications for undergraduate, postgraduate programmes

The Open University of Kenya (OUK) has advertised applications for admission of students to undergraduate and postgraduate programmes in the 2023/2024 academic year.

According to the announcement placed in local newspapers on October 17, 2023, students are encouraged to apply for the October–November intake through the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service portal (<https://ouk.kuccps.net>) free of charge.

“The University aims at providing open, distance and flexible learning opportunities to Kenyan citizens and beyond. International students from the region as well as beyond are also encouraged to apply,” the advert read.

The notice by OUK acting Vice Chancellor Elijah Omwenga indicated that undergraduate programmes offered are: Bachelor of Data Science, Bachelor of Economics and Statistics, Bachelor of Science in Business and Entrepreneurship, Bachelor of Data Science, Bachelor of Technology Education as well as Bachelor of Cyber Security and Digital Forensics.

Prof Omwenga said that only students who attained a mean grade of C+ and above in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) examination should submit their applications.

Other minimum entry requirements for the degree courses include a diploma or professional qualification from recognised institutions, a KCSE certificate or its equivalent, and a foundational certificate or bridging course from acclaimed institutions.

Additionally, prospective students should present a portfolio for the purpose of recognition of prior learning with respect to workplace training of two years or two short courses lasting at least three months each in relevant fields.

On the postgraduate level, the courses offered are Postgraduate Diploma in Learning Design and Technology and Postgraduate Diploma in Leadership and Accountability. Interested applicants should have a bachelor’s degree from an institution recognised by the Commission for University Education.

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The capacity and cost of the programmes were published on the KUCCPS website to enable parents, guardians and students apply for courses favourable to them.

Prof Omwenga said that the students will be eligible for scholarships and loans based on the New Higher Education Funding Model.

The model, which was effected in the 2023/2024 academic calendar, shifts higher education financing from block funding of universities and colleges to funding of individual students based on their levels of need. The need categories – extremely vulnerable, vulnerable, less needy and needy – are determined by a means testing instrument that utilises factors such as household income band and affirmative action (people with disabilities, orphans, and those from marginalised areas).

According to the model, students placed to public universities and colleges by KUCCPS are eligible for scholarships and loans while their counterparts in private institutions only qualify for loans. Students, therefore, are now required to apply for scholarships and loans through the Universities Fund and Higher Education Loans Board, respectively.

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