

Recognition and Equation of Qualifications

For those Kenyans who have obtained qualifications from local private universities or foreign universities, the Commission examines the content the respective training programmes in order to equate the content and achievement levels with those that have been obtained within the Kenyan university system.

To this end, the Commission has developed guidelines for the equation and recognition of degrees and diplomas. These guidelines have proved useful to employers and students intending to pursue further education in other higher education institutions. The applicant requirements and fees are readily available to applicants through the Commission website.

Resource Centre

The Commission has a specialist resource centre with collections of materials on higher education. The usage is currently limited to students and staff of accredited universities and for those undertaking various degrees. The centre has a seating capacity of 30 readers.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The Commission acknowledges that ICT is a critical service and asset and ICTs are increasingly utilized by universities and education institutions worldwide. ICTs are emerging as a part of on- campus delivery as well as open and distance modalities of higher education.

To this end, the ICT services at the Commission are aimed at enhancing operational efficiency, information systems and data management, applications and customer-orientation in service delivery.



Commissioners with members of staff and e-Board consultants at the CUE offices

HIV & AIDS Control

An AIDS Control Unit (ACU) was launched in the Commission for University Education in 2003 to coordinate HIV and AIDS mainstreaming in the Commission itself and in universities in Kenya. In this role, the Commission works in partnership with the universities, the National AIDS Control Council (NACC) and other key stakeholders such as UNESCO and I Choose Life - Africa. Major activities that are undertaken include capacity building, organizing forums for sharing best practice and support for mobilization of university communities, including Management, to respond to HIV and AIDS.

Exhibition by Kenyan Universities

The Commission organizes the Exhibition by Kenyan Universities on an annual basis. The exhibition provides an opportunity for universities to market and showcase the range of academic programmes they offer.



Education Cabinet Secretary, Prof Jacob Kaimenyi being taken through the process of moulding clay pots at the Kenyatta University stand during the 12th Exhibition by Kenyan Universities held in Eldoret in March 2014

Consultancy

The Commission continues to offer guidance to nations establishing quality assurance bodies in their respective countries. The Commission has received representatives from South Africa, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda, Namibia, Botswana, Sudan and Somalia.

Performance Contracting

As a State corporation, the Commission has since 2006 entered into a Performance Contract with its parent Ministry, the Ministry for Education, Science and Technology, where performance targets, commitments and obligations are clearly stipulated. The introduction of Performance Contracts has inculcated a culture of professionalism, prudent quality management systems and enhanced customer-satisfaction.

Ethics

The Commission has implemented a Code of Conduct and Ethics which establishes the standards of ethical conduct and behavior that staff members are expected to adhere to as a basis for creating confidence amongst their customers.

Membership in regional and international bodies

The bodies that the Commission has signed up as a member to include Inter-University Council of East Africa (IUCEA), High Level Task Force on East African Common Market Protocol, International Network of Quality Assurance Agencies for Higher Education (INQAHE) and African Quality Assurance Network (AfriQAN).

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**COMMISSION FOR
UNIVERSITY
EDUCATION
(CUE)**



GENERAL INFORMATION 2014 - 2015



Commission offices in the leafy suburbs of Rosslyn area

Quality - The Agenda

Introduction

The Commission for University Education was established as the successor to the Commission for Higher Education following the enactment of the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012. The mandate of the Commission is to ensure the maintenance of standards, quality and relevance in all aspects of university education, training and research.

The Commission mainstreams quality assurance practices in university education and encourages continuous improvement in the management of the quality of university education.



Education Cabinet Secretary Prof Jacob Kaimenyi (centre) with CUE Commissioners during their inauguration at Jogoo house.

Vision

Accessible, relevant and sustainable quality university education

Mission

To regulate and assure quality university education by setting standards & guidelines and monitoring compliance to achieve global competitiveness

Corporate Values

The values and principles that underpin the operations of the Commission and provide operational guidelines for service delivery are:

- Professionalism;
- Integrity;
- Teamwork;
- Accountability; and
- Responsiveness.

The Universities Regulations, 2014

The Universities Regulations, 2014, which are currently in force, operationalize the Universities Act, No. 42 of 2012 and outline the interactions between the applicants seeking to offer, or presently offering, university education in Kenya, as the country strives towards offering quality university education.

The scope of the Universities Regulations, 2014 includes institutional and academic programme related aspects and covers all universities in Kenya including public and public universities; foreign universities intending to offer or offering university education in Kenya; specialized degree awarding institutions and student recruitment agencies operating in Kenya.

Restructuring of the Commission

Due to its expanded role and mandate, the Commission increased the number of functional areas and divisions from the previous two to four namely:

- Accreditation;
- Quality Audits and Standards;
- Finance and Administration; and
- Planning, Research and Development

The new mandate of the Commission requires improved focus, better coordination and a systematic approach to the planning and execution of the roles and responsibilities.

Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan 2014 -2018 places an emphasis on the need for a paradigm shift in both the Commission's operations and structures to be in tandem with the expanded mandate of the Commission.

To actualize the strategies and activities outlined in the Strategic Plan, the Commission shall continue to engage key stakeholders and partners both locally and internationally. The operational processes will be reviewed continuously to provide any necessary strategic adjustments. The Plan can be accessed on the commission website.

Nuffic project for staff capacity development

Resource mobilization is in line with the provision of Universities Act, 2012 30 (d) which extends the funding of the Commission to monies granted, donated or lent to the Commission from other sources with approval from the Cabinet Secretary responsible for Finance.

Towards this end, the Commission has benefited for funding from the Netherlands through its Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development (NICHE).

The project which is sponsoring seven (7) PhD candidates is being managed by the Netherlands organization for international cooperation in higher education (Nuffic). The thematic area of their study are in line with key mandate of the Commission for University Education (CUE). These areas are: Educational (e-) governance, leadership and management, Quality Assurance, Research in Higher Education (including monitoring and evaluation) and Management Information Systems.

University data collection

The Commission is informed by research in formulating policies to inform the university education sector. The Commission incorporates relevant data on various facets of universities to back the policies.



Deputy Commission Secretary, Planning, Research and Development, Dr. Eusebius Mukhwana (left) addressing guests during the launch of Universities Regulations 2014, and CUE 2014-18 Strategic Plan at the Commission grounds

The outcome of data is disseminated to stakeholders to enhance the university-industry linkages and the contribution of university research to Kenya's national development agenda

Peer Review System

The Commission mainstreams quality assurance practices in university education and encourages continuous improvement in the management of the quality of university education. This is mainly accomplished through a peer review process.

Internal Quality Assurance (IQA)

The Commission has taken cognizance of the new partnerships and opportunities that have resulted from establishment of the East African Community. In this regard, the Commission has initiated and organized various quality assurance initiatives and engaged the stakeholders in formulating systems for sustainable QA in the region.

The Inter- University Council of East Africa (IUCEA) and the national higher education regulatory agencies in East Africa, are working toward putting in place a harmonized quality assurance system that will be used by universities in the region.

The successful implementation of the IQA project has enabled participating universities to embrace and operate IQA mechanisms. A harmonized QA system will ensure that East African students will enjoy quality higher education in all universities of the member states.