



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)
about
Commission for University Education
(CUE)





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Enhancing Quality University Education

Vision

Accessible and sustainable quality university education

Mission

To regulate and assure quality university education through setting and enforcing rules, standards and guidelines for global competitiveness

Mandate

To promote the objectives of university education, by regulating and accrediting universities and programmes, among other functions.

Core Values and Principles

The Commission's operations are underpinned by the following core values and principles:

- ◆ Professionalism
- ◆ Integrity
- ◆ Accountability
- ◆ Teamwork;
- ◆ Equity



1. What is the Commission for University Education (CUE)?

The Commission for University Education was established by an Act of Parliament, Universities Act, No. 42 of 2012 as the successor to the Commission for Higher Education which was established under Universities Act Cap 210B of 1985.

The Commission is a specialized government agency whose parent Ministry is the Ministry of Education. It has perpetual succession and the capacity to sue and be sued and to acquire and dispose of property.

2. How is the Commission managed on a day-to-day basis?

The CUE has a full-time Secretariat headed by the Commission Secretary who is also the Chief Executive of the Commission. He is assisted by two (2) Deputy Commission Secretaries. Each of the Deputies heads a division having departments/sections. The two divisions are:

- ◆ Accreditation and Quality Assurance (AQA); and
- ◆ Planning, Administration and Finance (PAF).

The Secretariat consists of high caliber, professionally trained staff with experience in higher education and universities. The staff are recruited on a competitive basis.

3. What are the functions of the Commission?

The functions of the Commission are stipulated in Section 5 (1) of the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012 as the following:

- a) Promote the objectives of university education;
- b) Advise the Cabinet Secretary on policy relating to university education;
- c) Promote, set standards and assure relevance in the quality of university education;
- d) Monitor and evaluate the state of university education systems in relation to the national development goals;
- e) License any student recruitment agencies operating in Kenya and any activities by foreign institutions;
- f) Develop policy for criteria and requirements for admission to universities;



- g) Recognize and equate degrees, diplomas and certificates conferred or awarded by foreign universities and institutions in accordance with the standards and guidelines set by the Commission from time to time;
- h) Undertake or cause to be undertaken, regular inspections, monitoring and evaluation of universities to ensure compliance with set standards and guidelines;
- i) Collect, disseminate and maintain data on university education;
- j) Accredit universities in Kenya;
- k) Regulate university education in Kenya;
- l) Accredit and inspect university programme in Kenya;
- m) Promote quality research and innovation; and
- n) Perform such other functions and exercise such other powers as the Commission may deem necessary for the proper discharge of its mandate under this Act.

4. How does the Commission carry out its work?

The Commission executes its operations through specialist committees and the Secretariat. The Committees examine and determine specific issues and advise the Commission on the course of action to be taken. The Committees and the Secretariat engage the services of resource persons to perform specialized tasks where necessary. There are 13 committees, based on the broad activities of the Commission.

5. What is Accreditation?

Accreditation may be generally defined as a process of quality control and assurance whereby, as a result of inspection or assessment, an institution or its programmes are recognized as meeting minimum acceptable standards.
Forms of accreditation

Programme Accreditation focuses on study programmes; and

Institutional Accreditation which focuses on the overall quality of an institution. The concept of practices in Accreditation and Quality Assurance are based on two (2) main approaches namely:



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- a) the “Standard-based” approach where quality is measured against pre-defined standards. It focuses on standards and the extent to which they are being met.
 - b) the “Fitness for Purpose” approach which assumes that quality is equal to objectives and goals as established by the institution.

Commission’s Principles of Accreditation

The Commission applies and uses the above concepts and forms of accreditation and quality assurance based on the following principles:

- a) the Commission recognizes that quality and quality control are primarily the responsibility of higher education institutions themselves but they partner with the Commission for better results;
- b) the Commission respects the autonomy, identity and integrity of the institutions;
- c) the Commission applies standards which are in line with international developments and best practices and international benchmarking;
- d) the Commission aims at contributing towards quality enhancement and accountability;
- e) the Commission uses peer review and attempts to involve international experts in the external assessment processes.

Key features of accreditation

- a) It is a continuous process;
- b) Periodic review is the life-line of accredited institutions and programmes;
- c) Institutions seeking accreditation must undergo a number of stages as outlined in the Universities Rules, 1989;
- d) It is compulsory in Kenya;
- e) Use of peer review/ consultative process in subject/discipline/ profession;
- f) Self-assessment/evaluation by institutions based on an institution’s vision, mission, philosophy and objectives;
- g) Site visits/ inspections to verify academic resources;
- h) Action/judgment by the Commission which adapts a developmental and advisory approach to ascertain that the institution achieves the desired standard after which a new institution is granted a Letter of



Interim Authority, an existing institution is awarded a Charter and an accredited institution receives a Re-inspection Certificate.

6. Which institutions are authorized to operate in Kenya?

The Commission maintains an up to-date list of all institutions that are authorized to offer university level education in Kenya. See website www.cue.or.ke for universities and post-secondary school institutions authorized to collaborate with universities.

7. Does the Commission offer loans or scholarships to students pursuing higher education?

The Commission is not mandated to provide loans to persons in higher education institutions, the body charged with this responsibility is Higher Education Loans Board (HELB). They can be reached at the following address: P.O. Box 69480-00200 Nairobi or at helb@helb.co.ke.

8. Why can't the Commission close down illegal institutions of higher education to protect Kenyans from exploitation?

The Commission for University Education is committed to eradicating sub-standard education providers from the system. To enable it to take action, it relies on public goodwill to relay information on an institution that appears suspect in its operations. Several institutions have been taken to court and their programmes stopped. Help us to help others- relay information about such institutions to us.



9. How can the Commission be reached?

The following are the means through which the Commission can be contacted or information sought:

- Physical location** : Gigiri on Redhill Rd. off Limuru Rd.,
12kms from the Nairobi city centre.
- Postal Box Number** : 54999-00200 Nairobi
- Telephone** : +254 (020) 7205000
- E-mail** : info@che.or.ke
- Website** : www.cue.or.ke
- Facebook page** : Commission for University Education
Kenya
- Twitter handle** : [@CUE_Kenya](https://twitter.com/CUE_Kenya)





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