

CAREER BUZZ

A publication of the Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service (KUCCPS) | Issue 1, 2022



Candidates set to select courses at school ahead of KCSE exam >> Page 3

Editor's Note



Welcome to the premier issue of Career Buzz, the newest publication of KUCCPS. The newsletter will offer career guidance and advise to learners and high school graduates to ensure they have reliable information to help them to make informed decisions about courses they wish to pursue in colleges and universities.

Career Buzz will be a platform for sharing inspiring experiences and unique stories about various careers and getting responses to some of the frequently asked career-related questions.

In this Premier issue, we bring you interesting articles about how KUCCPS is supporting career growth in the marine sector, proposed new criteria for selection of courses for both universities and colleges, placement of students to TVET courses, among others.

*Enjoy the read and
Happy New Year!*

Published by:

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Varsity Entry Criteria Eased in New KUCCPS Reforms

The Government has revised enrolment requirements to degree programmes to reduce hurdles students face during course selection.

The review affected 37 university programmes. The changes were initiated following calls by stakeholders to align courses with evolving societal needs and responsiveness to the Competency Based Curriculum requirements.

The criteria will recognise subjects that are essential and those that do not add value to the overall programme being pursued," she said during a stakeholder validation forum at Kenyatta University on November 15, 2021.

The review involved introduction of new subject clusters to accommodate programmes with different subject requirements.

However, the changes have not been applied to regulated programmes, such as geoscience, law and architecture, where minimum subject requirements have been retained. New courses have also been introduced, including Bachelor of Science in Gaming and Animation Technology.

University Education and Research Principal Secretary Simon Nabukwesi praised the move terming it progressive as it will make it convenient for students to access quality education.

Mr Nabukwesi said major changes have disrupted the sector since the last review of the criteria in 2017, hence the need to align higher education

to reflect ongoing reforms like the competency-based curriculum and the Big 4 Agenda.

He underscored the importance of equity, fairness and equal opportunity for all students, urging KUCCPS to ensure adequate career guidance is conducted in schools. "We want students to make informed choices," he said. He added: "Students must be assisted to identify their dream areas of study in good time."

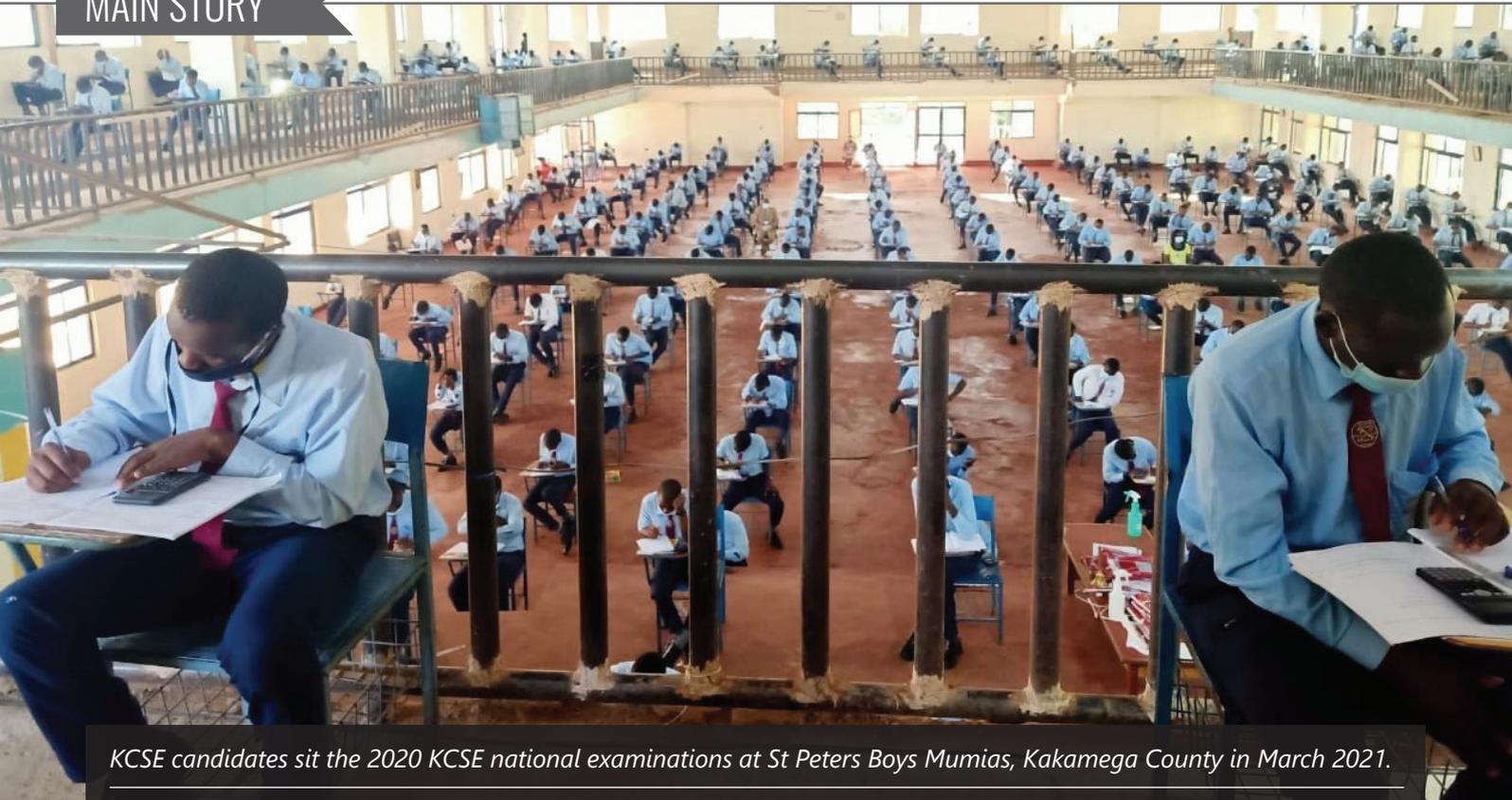
Placement Board Chairperson Geoffrey Muluvi said the Degree Placement Criteria Document and Report will be shared with all universities ahead of the next placement cycle in March 2022.



Stakeholders from universities, regulators and professional bodies follow the placement criteria review discussions at the KICD in Nairobi on November 15, 2021.

The process was initiated in 2019 after KUCCPS sought recommendations from stakeholders – universities and professional bodies – as an effort to ensure strategies meet emerging demands and challenges.

Kenyatta University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Paul Wainaina said periodic appraisal of programmes by universities was a key step in adopting new learning methods and building vibrant systems that will support research, training and innovation.



KCSE candidates sit the 2020 KCSE national examinations at St Peters Boys Mumias, Kakamega County in March 2021.

Candidates Set to Pick Courses Ahead of the March KCSE Exam

The first round of university and college course selections for the 2021 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) candidates will be conducted before the March 2022 National examination, the placement agency has announced.

The candidates will be required to complete the exercise before sitting their KCSE scheduled to start on February 28, 2022.

Under the KUCCPS guidelines, candidates are expected to pick four courses of study in colleges and universities.

However, the candidates are allowed to select up the first option in up to three universities to increase the chances of studying the courses they preferred most.

Usually, selection exercise for courses begins at the school level where teachers, especially those in charge of career departments, are expected to guide their candidates.

This is meant to ensure candidates prudently select degree, diploma, certificate and artisan programmes depending on their choices and academic abilities.

While releasing the 2020/2021 placement results on August 17, 2021, Education Cabinet Secretary Prof George Magoha said many students missed out on their dream careers for failing submit their degree, diploma or certificate choices.

“We have continued to observe low participation by schools in this process,” Prof Magoha said. Out of the 10,437 secondary schools that were registered examination centres in 2020, Prof Magoha said, “Only 2,506 (24%) submitted their KCSE candidates’ choices.

This is a bad indictment on our career teachers who must have failed to carry out their duty.” Prof Magoha also noted that there were some regions that were notorious with failing to submit course selections of the majority of their KCSE candidates.

For its part, KUCCPS has promised to step up the exercise of sensitising candidates, teachers and parents on the correct process of course selection to ensure students make the right choices.



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Prof George Magoha

Agency Sends Students to Study Marine Course at Coast College

The Kenya Universities and Colleges Central Placement Service has placed 167 students to Bandari Maritime Academy in Mombasa to undertake various diploma and certificate marine courses.

During a visit to the academy by KUCCPS on October 29, 2021, the chief executive officer Dr Mercy Wahome signed a partnership for further placement of students at the institution.

Dr Wahome signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Bandari Maritime Academy Acting Director, Mr. Francis Muraya. The agreement provides a framework for collaboration on career guidance and mentorship for students, and sensitisation on the career opportunities available in the maritime sector.

The collaboration is a milestone towards enhancing awareness about maritime courses and the career prospects in the maritime sector, which are critical for the Blue Economy.

The partnership, she said, would also provide fair and competitive access to aspiring learners from across the country to join the Academy.



Some of the students of Bandari Maritime Academy, Mombasa who were placed to the institution to pursue various diploma courses during 2021/2022 placement cycle.

Mr. Muraya lauded the collaboration between the two institutions, saying it had increased the student capacity in the Academy. He announced the Academy would soon roll out training in commercial diving, fishing technology and oil and gas.

We are Stepping up Engagement with Partners

As we enter a new year 2022, we at KUCCPS are proud of the milestones we have achieved despite the challenges occasioned by COVID-19.

Indeed, year 2021 was characterised by remarkable changes in the education sector. But we have demonstrated high levels of resilience in handling our stakeholders.

Overall, we managed to overcome the challenges to continue delivering on our core mandate of placing Government-sponsored students to Kenyan universities and colleges, developing career guidance initiatives for students, and disseminating timely information on available programmes.

To ensure we stayed on track, we stepped up our levels of stakeholder engagement and career guidance and mentorship for students.

I am glad to say our efforts were effective in raising awareness about KUCCPS' mandate. We improved our relationship with key partners and learnt of areas we needed to improve on.

As KUCCPS, we are determined to continue engaging stakeholders in our work, and Career Buzz is one such tool that will promote this relationship.

We believe this newsletter will add value to learners' career choices.



Dr Mercy Wahome
CEO, KUCCPS

Mr Muraya said the academy was in the process of finalising agreements with various local and international training institutions such as Glasgow College, Scotland. All the 167 students were placed at the college in the 2021/2022 placement cycle.

Thousands of Students Selected to Join TVET Colleges



Education Cabinet Secretary Prof George Magoha addresses candidates during the KCSE 2020 examinations period.

Thousands of students are expected to undertake Diploma, Craft certificate and Artisan courses in various TVET institutions starting January 2022.

The students applied for placement in November 2021 after the Placement Service opened its online portal for the second TVET continuous placement. For this cycle, TVET institutions had announced availability of 317,978 places in 9,564 programmes.

The application exercise provided an opportunity for candidates who had scored between C- and E to apply for government sponsorships to pursue

various Diplomas, Craft certificate and Artisan programmes.

Last month, the Placement Agency concluded processing the student choices for placement to slots they qualify for. The students who applied and were successful have already been notified and advised to contact the institutions they have been placed for admission and other joining instructions.

Successful applicants can access both government sponsorship and HELB loans to cater for fees.

KUCCPS Sensitises Journalists on Student Placement Process

Journalists now have a better understanding of the KUCCPS students placement processes.

This is after KUCCPS held its first engagement with education writers and regional editors on November 12, 2021 in Naivasha.

The aim was to sensitise journalists on the agency's mandate as part of its stakeholder engagement activities.

The event widened the journalist's knowledge on subject and course selection and career development for students.

Some 25 regional editors and education reporters from Nairobi, Central, Nyanza and North Rift regions attended the event.



Group photo taken during the KUCCPS media sensitisation workshop with journalists in Naivasha on November 12, 2021.

Stakeholders Adopt Updated College Admission Requirement Proposals

The Government is set to launch new college admission guidelines as it seeks to make it easier for students to select courses.

At a stakeholder validation forum to deliberate on a draft report detailing suggestions on review of minimum entry requirements, cluster subjects and regulation of programmes, Acting KUCCPS Board Chairman Geoffrey Muluvi said it was important to review the rules regularly to accommodate new changes and align it to students' and training needs. "It is important to look at the placement criteria and new programmes coming up regularly," he said at the workshop.

KUCCPS chief executive officer Mercy Wahome said the agency reached out to stakeholders to provide reviews on the entry requirements to make sure they are consistent with the changing landscape. "We will compile the document with recommendations and use it to place students going forward," she said.

State Department of Vocational and Technical Training Principal Secretary Margaret Mwakima said TVET institutions had recorded tremendous student population growth over the last decade.

Dr Mwakima said KUCCPS has been integral to the growth by continuously undertaking placement of students to artisanal, certificate and diploma courses thrice a year. She urged the youth to seize the opportunity and apply for courses each time they are advertised. "Anybody with any KCSE grade can apply and later benefit after placement," she said.

She added: "I'm happy to know that the application is open to past KCSE candidates up to the year 2000."

"The journey we are concluding today started in 2019 when KUCCPS asked TVETs, government institutions and regulators to submit views on the minimum entry requirement for TVET courses," she said in a speech read on her behalf by Secretary Administration, Vocational and Technical Training, David Kipkemei.

KUCCPS has promised to rollout career guidance activities early to ensure students pick the subjects appropriate with their career pathways.



Education Cabinet Secretary Prof. George Magoha poses for a photo with senior government officials during the launch of the 2020/2021 placement results on August 16, 2021 in Nairobi.

The 2021/2022 Placement Results

128,073 candidates placed to degree programmes

594,987 candidates eligible for Placement to Diploma, Craft and Artisan

137,072 applied for the available courses and were all placed

6,600 students were placed to TVET institutions

54.5% increase in placement to TVET from 88,724 in 2019

Over **7,000** students did not apply and therefore were not placed

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KUCCPS Offers Virtual Career Guidance Sessions

Amid the Covid-19 pandemic and the measures to contain the spread of the virus, KUCCPS has embraced virtual forums to ensure that its clientele does not miss out on career guidance.

KUCCPS has delivered career guidance and sensitisation sessions through online platforms such as Zoom and Google Hangouts.



The first virtual forum was held on June 25, 2020 and since then, KUCCPS has continued to hold career sensitisation sessions for different audiences.

The groups that have benefited so far include:

- Career Teachers
- Secondary School Students
- 2020 Form Four Leavers
- School girls interested in STEM programmes
- Students living with disability
- Students from marginalised areas

How Students Have Benefited

- With the easing of the Covid-19 restrictions, KUCCPS conducted physical career talks in 69 Secondary Schools & Tertiary institutions between July and November 2021.
- Further, KUCCPS has also conducted virtual student forums in the quarter ending December 2021, where 44 Secondary schools were reached.
- KUCCPS facilitated career guidance and counselling in all Secondary Schools across the country through invitations and organised career outreach forums for both secondary school students and career teachers.
- In the 2020/2021 Financial Year, KUCCPS reached: 451 secondary schools and 239 secondary school teachers through virtual forums, and 70 Secondary Schools through in-person school visits.

Teachers' not Left Out

KUCCPS conducted a virtual career teacher's forum on November 20, 2021 where 88 Secondary school teachers from various counties were reached.



An officer offers sign language interpretation during one of the KUCCPS online career guidance sessions.

About KUCCPS Career Forums

KUCCPS understands that audiences have unique needs and has, therefore, developed career guidance programmes suitable to the needs.

The career guidance programmes cover the following :

- Career Teachers in Secondary Schools
- Secondary School Students
- Form Four Leavers
- STEM programmes to encourage uptake by Girls
- Sensitisation on programmes under the Big Four Agenda



KUCCPS CEO, Dr. Agnes Mercy Wahome, interacts with students during a Career Guidance session at Sobukwo Mixed Day and Boarding Secondary School in West Pokot in December 2021.

Placement Body, KEMI Writing Career Teacher Training Manual

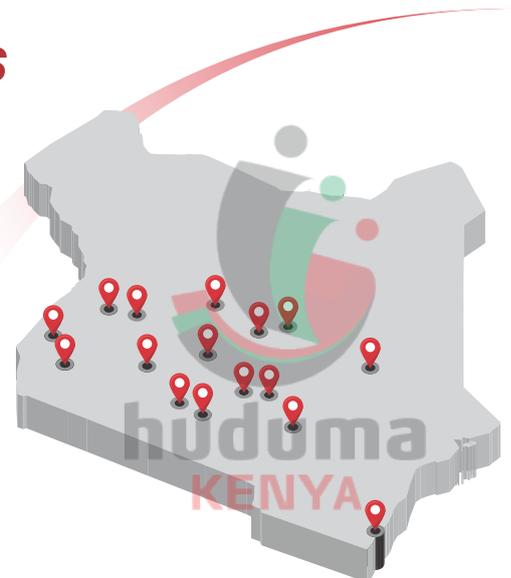
KUCCPS is developing a training manual for Secondary School Teachers. The manual will guide trainers in preparing and enhancing the capacity of teachers in charge of career guidance to effectively undertake their duties for the benefit of students.

The placement service is working with the Kenya Education Management Institute (KEMI) in developing the document.

Access KUCCPS Services at more Huduma Centres

Our services are now available in the following
Huduma Centres across the country.

Eldoret, Garissa, Isiolo, Kakamega, Kisumu, Kitale, Kitui,
Laikipia, Meru, Mombasa, Nairobi (Makadara & GPO),
Nakuru, Narok, Nyeri and Thika



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or send an email to info@kuccps.ac.ke.**