



INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL FOR EAST AFRICA

P.O. Box 7110, KAMPALA, UGANDA

Call for Academic Staff from IUCEA Member Universities and Experts from the Labour Market in East Africa to serve as Peers for External Evaluation of Academic Programmes

1. Background

The Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA) is an institution of the East African Community (EAC) whose mission is to promote strategic and sustainable development of higher education systems and research for supporting East Africa's socio-economic development and regional integration. One of the main strategic engagements of IUCEA focuses on the development of harmonized systems of higher education in East Africa. Therefore, after its revitalization in 2000, IUCEA recognized the need to develop a harmonized quality assurance system in higher education in the region as one way to address the challenges arising from the rapid demand for enrollment in higher education that has prompted the proliferation of new universities in the region. Hence, since 2006 IUCEA in collaboration with national commissions and councils for higher education in the EAC Partner States has been implementing a process to introduce a harmonized quality assurance system in East Africa.

In that regard, IUCEA is carrying out capacity building activities through training of academic staff from IUCEA member universities and staff from commissions/councils for higher education in the EAC Partner States. The capacity building involves a series of training workshops focusing on various quality assurance regimes, including the use of the quality assurance guidelines and procedures that have already been developed. In addition to the basic training on quality assurance, participating universities carry out self-assessment of selected programmes, as part of the process. Subsequently, the programmes are subjected to external programme evaluation (peer review process), based on the self-assessment report. The peer review process involves site visits to participating universities, to ascertain the quality of the academic programmes by engaging with key stakeholders at the respective universities. The tentative schedule for this process is between **April and May 2018**.

2. Invitation of Academic Staff from IUCEA Member Universities and Experts from the Labour Market to serve as Peers for External Programme Evaluation

IUCEA hereby invites applications from academic staff from IUCEA member universities and experts from the labour market to serve as peers for external programme evaluation that will

take place between **April and May 2018** on the following undergraduate programmes that are being piloted in the on-going initiative:

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Engineering
- (iii) Law
- (iv) Education with languages and arts
- (v) Computer science
- (vi) Rural development
- (vii) Medicine

3. Preparation and Responsibilities of Peers

The primary responsibilities of the Peer Reviewers are to participate in a panel comprising about 4 to 5 people, to carry out peer review on one of the above mentioned programmes based on the self-assessment reports that participating universities developed at the end of the programme self-assessment that was completed in November 2017. Prior to the peer review process, the peers will attend a three days' induction workshop in order to internalize the quality assurance instruments that are contained in the Guidelines for Programme External Evaluation, which are part of the Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education. For details on the IUCEA peer review process, read "A Roadmap to Quality: Handbook for Quality Assurance in Higher Education-Guidelines for Internal and External Programme Assessment (***Revised and Combined Volume 1&2***). The handbook is downloadable from the IUCEA website: www.iucea.org.

4. Required Qualification(s) and Criteria

(a) Academic staff:

- (i) A full time employee of a university operating in East Africa or an experienced academician in the relevant discipline.
- (ii) PhD in the relevant discipline.
- (iii) At least someone at a Senior Lecturer position
- (iii) High scholarly reputation through publication and teaching.
- (iv) Experience in higher education academic programme peer review, external examination, monitoring and evaluation is an added advantage.

(b) Labour Market Experts:

- (i) At least a Master's degree in any field

- (ii) Holder of a management or high professional/technical level position with a supervisory role in an organization employing graduates from the relevant discipline.
- (iii) Experience and participation in higher education curriculum development/review and evaluation or professional trainings is an added advantage.

5. Tentative Calendar of activities

The peer review process is scheduled to take place between April and May 2018, depending on the number of rounds of site visits that will be conducted and the following activities will be carried out:

- (i) Training of peers: 3 days, in April 2018.
- (ii) Site visits: between 6 and 9 days, the first round to be conducted immediately after the training.
- (iii) Report writing: Final report expected within 2 weeks after the site visits.

Therefore, the tentative duration for the training and actual site visits will be between 9 and 12 days.

6. Costs related to the Peer Review Process

All costs related to the peer review process such as travel and full board accommodation will be provided for. And in addition, a honorarium will be paid to peers according to IUCEA financial provisions for their participation to the process.

7. Submission of Application

Those interested to participate as peers are invited to send their application letters electronically to IUCEA, enclosing current CV.

The applications should be sent to the undersigned so as to be received by **Wednesday, 14th March 2018**.

Executive Secretary

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