



EAC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

DETAILED CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FROM UNIVERSITIES/INSTITUTIONS TO HOST STUDENTS UNDER PHASE II OF THE EAC SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

(Leadership to Foster Regional Integration)

Opening date: 23 March 2026

Closing date: 23 April 2026, 17:00, East Africa Time

Thematic areas: 1) Mathematics, 2) Engineering, 3) Informatics, 4) Science, 5) Technology, and 6) Business Science

Eligible applicants: Active IUCEA member Universities that offer two-year master's degrees in the above thematic areas.

A virtual clarification meeting will be held on 30th March 2026 at 11:00 AM East Africa Time (Nairobi time) to provide interested universities with an opportunity to seek clarification on the Call for Applications and the application requirements. Please confirm your attendance by registering at https://renu.zoom.us/meeting/register/EfL5J6EXSVi5_Ddaa-0yiw.

1 Background

The EAC Scholarship Programme (EACSP) is a joint initiative of the EAC Secretariat, the Inter-University Council for East Africa (IUCEA), and the Federal Republic of Germany, through KfW. The Programme aims to train future leaders who will advance regional integration by fostering academic collaboration and mobility across universities within the EAC region, particularly by encouraging students to pursue postgraduate studies in Partner States other than their own.

The Programme was launched in 2019 and received funding of EUR 5 million for Phase I and EUR 9 million for Phase II.

Phase I supported 180 Master's students from the then six (6) EAC Partner States (Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Uganda, and Tanzania), enrolled across 11 universities in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, and Tanzania. Phase II commenced in October 2025 and is expected to support approximately 360 Master's students from the now expanded EAC, including the Democratic Republic of Congo and Somalia.

The Programme continues to prioritise academically talented but financially disadvantaged students, with a minimum target of 50% female participation. It provides scholarships together with mentoring, leadership development, and networking opportunities coordinated by IUCEA and host universities/institutions alongside support from the implementation Consultant (Adroit Consult International (ACI)).

Host Universities/ Institutions shall be involved in the following scholarship components:

Scholarships: Financial support for Master's students in the thematic areas, studying in an EAC Partner State other than their country of origin.

Extracurricular Activities: Participation of scholars in at least one extracurricular or networking event per academic year, including leadership training and regional integration-focused activities.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Auditing: Continuous monitoring, a Mid-Term Evaluation, and annual external audits to ensure effectiveness, accountability, and learning.

2 Benefits of Becoming a Host University/ Institution

Universities selected as Host Institutions under the EAC Scholarship Programme shall benefit from:

- a) The opportunity to train Master's students supported by KfW-IUCEA EAC scholarships, drawn from across the EAC region;
- b) Enhanced regional and international academic collaboration, including opportunities for partnerships with universities and institutions within the EAC region, joint research and development (R&D) initiatives, academic exchanges, and knowledge-sharing platforms;
- c) Increased regional and international visibility and recognition, arising from participation in a highly competitive, donor-supported scholarship programme aligned with regional integration priorities;
- d) Strengthened graduate education quality and relevance, through engagement with IUCEA, EAC, KfW, and other programme partners.

3 Roles of the Host Universities/Institutions

Host Universities selected under Phase II of the EAC Scholarship Programme are expected to:

1. Deliver nationally accredited, two-year Master's programmes in line with approved curricula, quality assurance standards, and applicable national regulations.
2. Admit scholarship beneficiaries transparently and in accordance with agreed criteria and timelines, and provide orientation on academic requirements and institutional rules.
3. Ensure the availability of qualified academic staff, effective supervision arrangements, mentoring, and research support to enable scholars to complete their studies in 2 years.
4. Provide access to student welfare services, including counselling, language support, health support, and reasonable accommodation, with particular attention to gender considerations, students with disabilities, and other vulnerable groups.
5. Maintain functional safety, security, emergency preparedness, and risk-management arrangements, and implement measures to ensure continuity of academic activities in the event of disruptions.
6. Appoint a contact person to support the EACSP students and coordinate with IUCEA and the Implementation Consultant to facilitate timely communication and resolution of issues.
7. Monitor the academic progress and well-being of scholarship beneficiaries and submit timely and accurate semester reports in line with agreed templates.
8. Cooperate with Programme monitoring, verification, evaluations, and audits, and provide access to relevant information and documentation when required.
9. Facilitate scholars' participation in extracurricular, networking, and integration-focused activities that support regional cooperation and leadership development.
10. Comply with all obligations set out in the Memorandum of Understanding with IUCEA, including tuition compliance, use of funds, safeguarding standards, and reporting requirements, in line with KfW funding conditions.

4 Application Process

- a. Complete the Online Application Form using <https://ee-eu.kobotoolbox.org/THR4sb2p>
- b. Then, proceed to complete the offline application form - Word version, adding more rows where necessary, but do not make changes to the questions. Also fill in the table of supporting documents
- c. Send supporting documents in a zipped folder to: scholarships@adroitconsultinternational.com with a copy to eacsp@iucea.org, with the subject line: <<University Name>> – <<Master's Programme>> **EACSP PHASE II HOST APPLICATION. Note:** Use only these addresses. Incorrect addresses in any templates or forms may result in non-receipt of your application.

- d. Please complete a **SEPARATE application form** for **EACH Master's Programme** applied for, complete with supporting documents. *Only IUCEA member universities in the EAC are eligible to apply. Only Master's Programmes with an academic duration of 2 years are eligible.*
- e. Application Deadline: 20th **April 2026**, 17:00 East Africa Time.
- f. Information provided shall be verified against the evidence submitted. *Save file name for evidence provided, including section number and letter or details of what it contains, for example, Section 9a Library and information resources, or include hyperlinks in the relevant sections*
- g. By submitting this application, your institution is certifying that the information provided is accurate to the full extent of the institution's knowledge.
- h. Do not submit duplicate applications for the same programme. *Only the first application submitted for each Programme shall be considered, unless the university formally communicates a request to disregard the earlier submission but before the application deadline.*

A university may submit any number of separate applications for programmes in any one of the priority thematic areas. However, each programme should be applied for using a separate application form and with separate supporting documents. Each application will be evaluated independently.

5 Evaluation Process

Host Institutions shall be selected through an open, competitive, and merit-based process, based on clearly defined eligibility requirements, technical evaluation criteria, and verification procedures. All IUCEA member universities across the 8 EAC partner states shall be eligible to apply. The evaluation process shall have three stages;

Stage I Eligibility Screening– The minimum mandatory conditions all applying universities/ institutions must meet to proceed to stage II.

Stage II Detailed Technical Evaluation: A scoring matrix out of 100% that shall be used to rank universities/institutions.

Stage III Verification and Due Diligence: Due diligence shall be carried out for universities/ institutions that meet the pass mark at Stage II. The process shall verify the information/evidence shared at Stage II.

5.1 Stage I Eligibility Screening

All applying universities must belong to EAC Partner States and be members of IUCEA. Universities must first meet the mandatory eligibility conditions below. Only universities that are in good standing with IUCEA (in terms of payment of membership fees) at the time of application shall be eligible to apply. These requirements shall be used as the first level of screening to ensure that only eligible, compliant, and complete applications proceed to stage II. Universities/ institutions shall be required to submit supporting documents.

Table 1: Eligibility Screening for Universities/Institutions under Stage I

No.	Category	Mandatory Requirement	Evidence Required
1.	IUCEA Membership	University is an IUCEA member institution in an EAC Partner State The university is a paid-up IUCEA member at the time of application	Membership status confirmation issued by IUCEA
2.	Institutional Accreditation	Valid institutional accreditation	University accreditation letter/certificate
3.	Programme Accreditation	The proposed Master's Programme is nationally accredited	Programme accreditation letter/certificate

No.	Category	Mandatory Requirement	Evidence Required
4.	Institutional Commitment	Vice Chancellor (VC) / President formally commits to hosting students under EACSP Phase II	Signed letter of support from the VC / President to host students under the EAC Scholarship Programme
5.	Tuition Compliance	Compliance with the EAC Council of Ministers' decision regarding tuition (charge all EAC nationals as locals and in local currency, NOT as international students)	Signed letter of confirmation from the VC
6.	Academic Staffing	Minimum of 6 qualified academic staff listed for the programme	CVs and relevant details provided
7.	Complete Documentation	Complete application submitted before the application deadline	

Outcome: ✓ PASS → Proceed to Stage II.

✗ FAIL → Application rejected

5.2 Stage II Detailed Technical Evaluation

This stage consists of the technical evaluation of all eligible universities/institutions that passed stage I. This shall be an evidence-based assessment using a scoring matrix totaling to 100 points. The detailed evaluation shall be done across 5 key areas:

Section	Points
A. Education, Research Capacity, and Facilities	30
B. Institutional and Administrative Capacity	25
C. Student Safety, Risk Management and Continuity	15
D. Programme Relevance, Quality and EAC Impact	20
E. Partnerships and Networks	10
TOTAL	100

Each programme shall be evaluated **independently**. Scores shall be based strictly on **documented evidence** submitted by universities. All university/institution applications for the respective programmes shall be scored using the above criteria and ranked.

List of Supporting Documents Required

Document Code	Document Name
A. Institutional Commitment	
A1	Signed Letter of Intent – President / Vice Chancellor
A2	Fees Compliance Confirmation Letter
B. Academic Quality Assurance	
B1	University Letter/Certificate of Accreditation
B2	Programme Letter/Certificate of Accreditation – National
B3	Programme Letter/Certificate of Accreditation – International
B4	Detailed Programme Outline with entry requirements
C. Academic & Administrative Personnel	
C1	CV – Head of Department
C2a, C2b, C2c, C2d, C2e, C2f.....	CVs – Key Academic Staff: Minimum 6 indicate name on document
C3	CV – University Contact Person
C4	CV – Director of Graduate Studies / Head of Research
D. Programme Delivery & Academic Support	

Document Code	Document Name
D1	University Handbook or Prospectus – General and or Graduate or Master's Students' Handbook
D2	University Academic Calendar
D3	Admission Guidelines / Criteria
D4	Research Supervision Framework
D5	ICT / Learning Management System Evidence
D6	Student Progress Monitoring Tools
E. Student Welfare, Inclusion & International Support	
E1	International Students Office Evidence- Shows structure, staffing, and services for international students
E2	Orientation Programme Evidence- Demonstrates structured onboarding for new students
E3	Accommodation Arrangements- Evidence of student housing (on/off campus)
E4	Health & Insurance Arrangements
E5	Disability & Inclusion Policy
E6	Gender Equality Strategy / Policy
E7	Safeguarding / SEA Policy
E8	Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)
E9	Counselling & Mental Health Services
F. Student Logistics & Onboarding	
F1	Student Logistics / Arrival Guide with (travel guidance, arrival procedures, accommodation, immigration requirements, banking, health insurance support)
F2	Pre-Arrival Information Pack
F3	Immigration & Visa Support Guidelines
F4	Airport Pickup / Reception Arrangements
F5	International Student Handbook
F6	Student Support Contact List- Key contacts (academic, welfare, emergency)
G. Infrastructure & Facilities	
G1	Library & Information Resources Evidence
G2	ICT Infrastructure Evidence
G3	Laboratories / Research Facilities
G4	Teaching Facilities (Lecture/Seminar Rooms)
G5	Student Workspaces
G6	Accessibility Infrastructure
G7	Medical Facilities
G8	Accommodation Facilities
H. Partnerships & Regional Engagement	
H1	MoUs – Academic Partners
H2	MoUs – Industry Partners
H3	Regional/ Cross boarder Academic Programme Hosting or Participation
H4	Joint Research / Grant Evidence
H5	Workshops / Conferences / Guest Lectures Evidence
I. Programme Performance & Impact	
I1	Publications by Students
	Quality Assurance Evidence
I2	Thesis Completion Records

Document Code	Document Name
I3	Graduate Tracking / Tracer Study Reports
I4	Alumni Tracking System Evidence
J. Risk Management, Safety & Continuity	
J1	Campus Security Policy/ Evidence
J2	Emergency Response & Evacuation Plan / Evidence
J3	Risk Management Framework
J4	Incident Reports (if any)
J5	Academic Continuity Plan
K. Facilities Evidence (Visual & Digital)	
K1	Photos of Facilities
K2	Website Links to Programme/Facilities
K3	Virtual Tours / Videos
Any other Evidences – label as necessary	

5.3 Stage III Verification and Due Diligence

This stage involves verifying universities/institutions that pass Stage II, using appropriate verification methods, including document review, virtual engagements, third-party checks, or physical visits where necessary. The stage confirms the accuracy, functionality, and adequacy of information and evidence submitted during the technical evaluation, including verification of infrastructure and facilities, international and regional student support services, academic and administrative systems, student welfare and safeguarding mechanisms, campus safety and emergency preparedness, risk management and academic continuity arrangements, and reporting systems for scholarship-funded students. Findings shall be documented, and institutions may be recommended for approval or approved with conditions, with outcomes informing the final selection and approval of Phase II Host Universities/Institutions.

5.4 Distribution and Balancing Universities

Following the completion of the evaluation process, the Programme Management Unit (PMU) shall undertake a programme distribution and balancing process to ensure that the final selection of host universities and programmes reflects thematic diversity and institutional balance across the EAC while maintaining merit and programme quality.

Under Phase II, the programme targets approximately 20 host universities across the EAC Partner States. Key considerations during this stage shall include:

- Distribution of host universities
- Balanced representation across thematic and academic fields, ensuring diversity in disciplines aligned with regional development priorities.
- Selection of the highest-scoring programmes within each thematic area,
- Avoidance of concentration of programmes within a single university.

The final selected and balanced programmes and institutions shall be recommended for approval in the detailed University Selection and Evaluation Report by the IUCEA Executive Committee. It shall then be submitted to KFW for No Objection.

This shall be followed by communication to the successful host universities/institutions.

6 Conditions for application

By applying, the applicant agrees to the following:

- ✓ Comply with all rules for participating in this call
- ✓ IUCEA-KFW reserves the right to reject applications that fail to meet the eligibility and selection requirements.
- ✓ All decisions made by the independent panel of experts with no objection from KFW are final.
- ✓

7 Contact & Support

Executive Secretary,
 Inter-University Council for East Africa
 Plot M833, Kigobe Road, Kyambogo
 P.O Box 7710, Kampala, Uganda

Email: exsec@iucea.org

Website: www.iucea.org

For any assistance or clarification regarding this call, do not hesitate to contact;

IUCEA | Scholarship Management Team | eacsp@iucea.org

ACI | Project Team | scholarships@adroitconsultinternational.com

8 Important dates

SN	Activity	Dates
1.	Invitation to Universities/ Institutions to apply for Programmes to host Phase II – call for applications, application form, university information pack	23 March 2026
2.	Clarifications	23 rd Mar – 17 th Apr 2026
3.	Pre-application Online Workshop https://renu.zoom.us/meeting/register/EfL5J6EXSVi5_Ddaa-0yiw	30 th Mar 2026
4.	Deadline for receiving applications from Universities/Institutions	23 rd Apr 2026
5.	Verification/ due diligence process on shortlisted universities/Institutions for programmes that pass Stage II technical evaluation	May 2026
6.	Communication to successful Phase II Host Universities/ Institutions – official letters, MoUs	June 2026
7.	Onboarding university coordinators	