

HEC MONTHLY REVIEW

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August 2026 Issue



Higher Education Council
Quality Education - Our Aim



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FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



Welcome to the August edition of the Higher Education Council (HEC) Monthly Review.

August was a month of active engagement across Rwanda's higher education sector as HEC continued its outreach programme to strengthen ties with institutions and better understand their needs and priorities. We visited Mount Kigali University, followed by INES-Ruhengeri and the University of Rwanda's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (UR-CAFF). The visits provided an opportunity to engage with institutional leaders and students, exchange views on advancing higher education, learn from institutional achievements, and assess progress in infrastructure development.

We also continued our engagement with scholarship beneficiaries through the Pre-Departure Orientation programme, preparing students for their studies abroad and reminding them of the responsibilities that come with representing Rwanda in international academic spaces. These programmes are an important part of our efforts to ensure that scholarship opportunities translate into meaningful academic and professional outcomes for both beneficiaries and the country.

Another important area of progress has been the continued digital transformation of HEC services. The phasing out of the analogue process for academic equivalence marks an important step towards a more efficient, transparent and accessible service. As we transition to a fully digital process, our focus remains on making services easier to access while enhancing efficiency, transparency and ethical service delivery.

August also saw important institutional developments, including the implementation of HEC's new organisational structure and continued efforts to strengthen our capacity to deliver on our mandate. We also welcomed opportunities to deepen international and regional partnerships, including engagements with partners from China and a delegation from Zanzibar and Mali

I thank our staff, higher learning institutions, students, scholarship beneficiaries, partners and other stakeholders for their continued commitment and collaboration.

Dr. Edward Kadozi
Director General, Higher Education Council

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HEC Continues Nationwide Outreach

Turning Investment into Innovation

On 6 August, HEC and the Ministry of Education continued the nationwide outreach programme with a visit to Mount Kigali University. The engagement brought together university leadership, academic staff and students to discuss academic quality, infrastructure, research and innovation, governance and graduate outcomes.

HEC Director General Dr Edward Kadozi called on higher learning institutions to translate investments in infrastructure and academic facilities into tangible outcomes and solutions that respond to Rwanda's development needs. He also encouraged institutions to progressively allocate at least 10% of their institutional income to research and innovation over the next five years

The delegation toured the university's training facilities, laboratories and ongoing infrastructure projects, assessing how these investments are supporting teaching, practical training and continuous quality enhancement.

The visit also provided an opportunity for HEC to hear directly from the university community about their experiences, achievements and areas requiring further support.

The engagement forms part of HEC's broader efforts to maintain close collaboration with higher learning institutions and ensure that their development remains aligned with national priorities for quality, relevant and future-ready higher education.





Taking the Higher Education Conversation to Musanze

INES-Ruhengeri: Strengthening Quality, Skills and Internationalisation

As part of HEC's nationwide outreach programme, the Council visited INES-Ruhengeri in Musanze, engaging leadership, staff and students on quality education, practical skills, innovation, internationalisation and labour market needs. The delegation also toured student hostels, laboratories and other facilities supporting teaching and learning.

Students shared challenges around access to practical knowledge, updated tools and software, while discussions also highlighted the institution's growing international student population. The engagement reinforced HEC's commitment to working closely with institutions to make higher education relevant, practical and responsive to Rwanda's development needs.



UR-CAFF: Turning Research into Practical Solutions

HEC's outreach in Musanze also took the Council to the University of Rwanda's College of Agriculture, Forestry and Food Science (UR-CAFF), where the delegation engaged institutional leadership and academic staff on research, postgraduate education, infrastructure and practical learning. The team also toured laboratories, smart classrooms, greenhouses and farms supporting teaching and research.

HEC Director General Dr Edward Kadozi encouraged researchers to translate their work into practical solutions for agriculture, forestry and food systems. Discussions also covered postgraduate financing, lecturer promotion, research support, digital technologies and attracting international students, reinforcing UR-CAFF's role in advancing research, innovation and practical solutions for Rwanda's development.





HEC Holds Pre-Departure Orientation for 34 Students



Preparing students for studies abroad.

In August, HEC conducted a Pre-Departure Orientation for 34 government scholarship recipients and their parents and guardians ahead of their studies abroad. The cohort comprises 10 Bachelor's, 16 Master's and 8 PhD students who will pursue studies in priority fields across Africa, Asia, Europe and North America.

Addressing the students, HEC Director General Dr Edward Kadozi urged them to make the most of the opportunity, study hard and return to Rwanda with knowledge and skills that can contribute to the country's development. He emphasised that government investment in their education is aimed at strengthening Rwanda's human capital and that its impact will ultimately be reflected in their contribution to the country.



The orientation also provided students and their parents with practical information on studying abroad, including their responsibilities as scholarship beneficiaries and expectations throughout their period of study. A representative from the Development Bank of Rwanda (BRD) briefed the students on the government's financial support, including the study loan scheme, and explained their obligations regarding repayment after completing their studies.



The session also gave the scholarship recipients an opportunity to interact with HEC and seek clarification on matters related to their studies, travel and responsibilities. The orientation forms part of HEC's efforts to ensure that students are well prepared to navigate their academic journey and make the most of opportunities available to them.



HEC Hosts Zanzibar Delegation on TVET Quality Assurance



A study visit focused on Rwanda's experience in quality assurance and TVET higher education.

The Higher Education Council (HEC) hosted a delegation from the Zanzibar Ministry of Education and Vocational Training (MoEVT) for a study visit focused on Rwanda's policies and strategies for enhancing the quality of TVET higher education.

HEC shared insights into Rwanda's higher education landscape, governance and regulatory framework, accreditation of new polytechnic institutions and academic programmes, as well as quality assurance mechanisms.



The engagement also provided an opportunity for both sides to exchange experiences on institutional development, quality assurance and strengthening TVET higher education to better respond to evolving labour market needs.

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HEC ENGAGEMENTS



National Workshop Advances Responsible AI in Higher Education



Building a responsible and ethical approach to AI in higher education.

From 25–27 August, HEC, the Commonwealth of Learning (COL) and the University of Rwanda (UR) convened a National Workshop on Artificial Intelligence in Higher Learning Institutions, bringing together representatives from higher learning institutions across Rwanda.

The three-day workshop focused on supporting institutions to develop AI in Education Policies and Codes of Conduct that promote responsible, ethical and effective use of AI while aligning with Rwanda's higher education priorities. Participants also shared experiences and explored practical approaches to integrating AI into teaching, learning and institutional processes.



Strengthening China-Rwanda Education Ties

HEC Director General Dr Edward Kadozi joined Chinese Ambassador to Rwanda H.E. Gao Wenqi at a farewell reception for Rwandan recipients of the 2026 Chinese Government Scholarships. Dr Kadozi thanked China for its continued support to Rwanda's education sector and encouraged the students to study hard, build strong ties with China and return with knowledge and skills that contribute to Rwanda's development. He also highlighted Rwanda's ambition to double the number of students studying abroad, with a focus on critical areas that support the country's economic transformation.

HEC ENGAGEMENTS



HEC Engages Secondary School Graduates in Burera



Guiding graduates towards informed higher education choices.

HEC joined Itorero #ImbutoZitoshye in Nkumba, Burera District, for an interactive session with secondary school graduates on higher education opportunities, academic programmes, scholarships, bursaries and qualification recognition. The engagement also provided guidance on choosing fields of study based on national priorities and labour market needs, helping graduates make informed decisions about their studies and future careers.



ACT Graduates 297 Students in Theology

The Higher Education Council (HEC) Director General, Dr Edward Kadozi, attended the graduation ceremony of the Africa College of Theology (ACT), where 297 students graduated in Theology.

Addressing the Class of 2026, Dr Kadozi encouraged the graduates to embrace servant leadership and use their knowledge to empower others, strengthen communities and contribute to Rwanda's transformation. He reminded them that leadership is ultimately measured by the lives improved through service.

Get in Touch



HEC ENGAGEMENTS



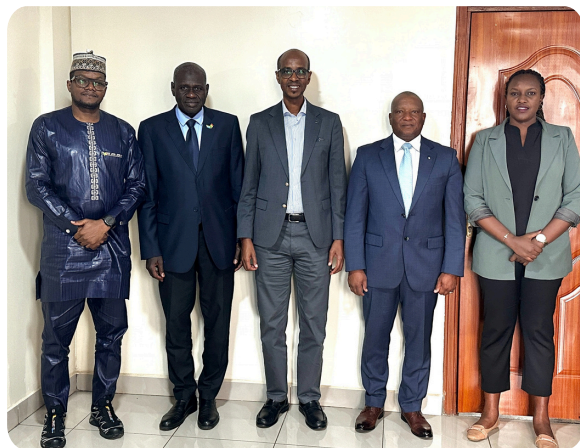
HAIP Graduates 109 Students in Engineering Fields



HAIP Celebrates Class of 2026

Hanika Anglican Integrated Polytechnic (HAIP) held its 5th Graduation Ceremony, celebrating 109 A1 graduates in Civil, Mechanical and Computer Engineering. Eng. Theodore Dusabimana of HEC represented the Council and encouraged graduates to use their knowledge, skills and values to solve problems and contribute to Rwanda's development.

The ceremony also marked the launch of HAIP's A0 Bachelor's programme in Information Technology (IT), expanding opportunities for higher-level training in technology.



Mali–Rwanda Higher Education Cooperation

The Ambassador of Mali to Rwanda, H.E. Boubacar Diallo, paid a courtesy visit to the Higher Education Council, where he met with Director General Dr Edward Kadozi.

Discussions focused on strengthening cooperation between HEC and Mali's National Directorate of Higher Education, particularly in qualification recognition, student mobility, academic exchanges, quality assurance, accreditation and the exchange of best practices.

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Government Strengthens HEC's Capacity for Higher Education Reforms



Strengthening expertise across key areas of higher education

The Higher Education Council (HEC) is strengthening its technical capacity through a new organisational structure designed to provide specialised expertise across key areas of Rwanda's higher education sector. The structure, established through a Prime Minister's Order published in August, replaces the previous structure adopted in 2020 and is currently being implemented, with staff recruitment underway.

The new structure establishes four main departments: Accreditation and Quality Enhancement in General Education, Accreditation and Quality Enhancement in Polytechnics, Academic Recognition and Internationalisation, and Digitalisation and Research. It provides dedicated expertise in areas including accreditation, quality enhancement, qualification recognition, internationalisation, research, innovation and digital transformation.

The restructuring is intended to equip HEC with the technical capacity required to support ongoing reforms as Rwanda's higher education sector expands. The structure also strengthens functions related to international scholarships, student welfare, bursaries and loans, credential verification and equivalence.

Research and innovation and digitalisation have also been given dedicated functions, including expertise in software development, business intelligence, information security, research quality and innovation. These areas reflect the growing importance of technology, data, research and innovation in strengthening the higher education system.

The new structure complements the Presidential Order governing HEC, which sets out the Council's mandate, responsibilities, powers and functioning. Together, the two frameworks provide a stronger organisational and legal foundation for HEC to advance quality, relevance, internationalisation, research and innovation, and digital transformation in Rwanda's higher education sector.

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Equivalence Services Go Fully Digital

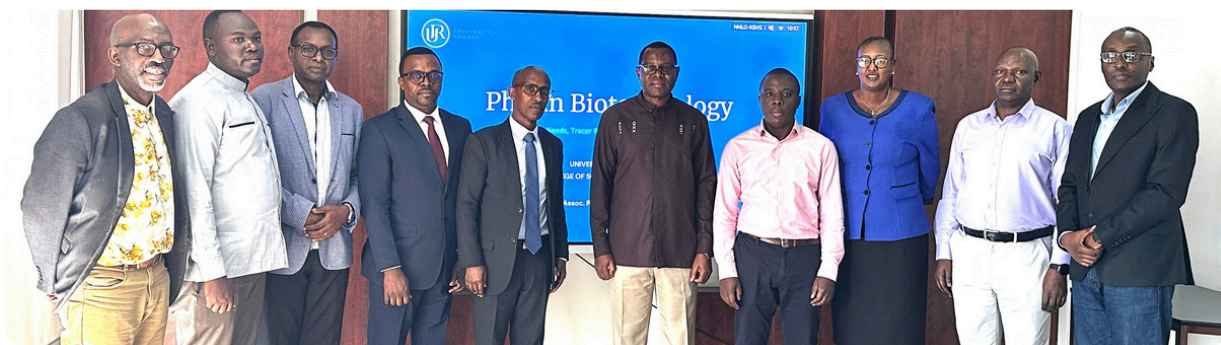


As part of its ongoing digital transformation, HEC has transitioned the Equivalence Certificate application process to a fully online system through Irembo. Effective 18 August, the previous application system was phased out, with all new applications now required to be submitted through the new digital platform.

The transition is part of HEC's broader effort to modernise its services, improve efficiency and accessibility, and reduce reliance on manual processes. Applicants whose previous applications had not yet resulted in an Equivalence Certificate were advised to reapply through the new system in line with the updated requirements. This marks another step towards a more accessible, efficient and digitally enabled higher education system.



HEC Conducts Preliminary Reviews of New Higher Education Programmes



In August, the Higher Education Council (HEC) conducted preliminary planning and approval sessions with a number of higher learning institutions (HLIs) to review proposed academic programmes and institutional initiatives.

The sessions involved the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE), University of Rwanda (UR), Kurumbuka Leadership Solutions Foundation (KLS), Institut Polytechnique de Byumba (IPB), African Leadership University (ALU), Catholic University of Rwanda (CUR), and Mid-Atlantic Christian University (MACU).

The sessions reviewed 24 proposed programmes covering fields including medicine, biotechnology, environmental and social risk management, educational psychology, energy engineering, sustainable agriculture, financial technology, business, conservation and sustainability, international business, logistics, theology and other areas. The sessions also considered proposed cross-border academic programmes and institutional arrangements for new learning centres.

The preliminary reviews form part of HEC's processes for supporting the development and quality assurance of higher education programmes and institutions in Rwanda.



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HEC Takes Steps Towards Strengthening Quality Management



The Higher Education Council (HEC) has taken steps towards strengthening its institutional quality management through awareness training on the RS 600:2025/RS ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System for Senior Management. The training was facilitated by staff from the Rwanda Standards Board (RSB).

The session provided an opportunity to build awareness of quality management principles and their importance in supporting effective and consistent institutional processes. It also highlighted the role of quality management in strengthening the way HEC delivers its services and carries out its mandate.

The training forms part of HEC's broader efforts to strengthen its institutional systems and promote a culture of continuous improvement. It also marks an important step in HEC's ongoing journey towards the implementation of a Quality Management System aligned with RS 600:2025/RS ISO 9001:2015.

Through these efforts, HEC continues to invest in stronger institutional systems that support efficient, consistent and quality-driven service delivery.



HEC in Media

Links

KT PRESS

Government More Than Doubles Staff of Higher Education Council

The New Times

34 students awarded govt scholarships to study abroad

Taarifa

Rwanda Sends 34 Government Scholarship Students Abroad to Build Critical Skills

Taarifa

HEC Challenges Universities to Turn Investment into Innovation as Outreach Reaches Mount Kigali University

IGIHE

Serivisi za 'equivalence' zimuriwe ku rubuga Irembo

Africa24

Rwanda: Embassy Hosts Farewell Reception for Scholarship Winners



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