Kenya

**Geography**

- **Area:** 582,646 sq km
- **Coastline:** 536 km
- **Capital:** Nairobi

Kenya lies astride the equator, extending from the Indian Ocean in the east to Uganda in the west and from the United Republic of Tanzania in the south to Ethiopia and Sudan in the north. On the east and north-east it borders Somalia.

The country is divided into eight provinces (Central, Coast, Eastern, Nairobi, North-Eastern, Nyanza, Rift Valley, Western).

**Society**

- **Population per sq km:** 71
- **Life expectancy:** 57 years
- **Official languages:** Kiswahili, English

**Population:** 41,610,000 (2011), 24 per cent live in urban areas and nine per cent in urban agglomerations of more than a million people; growth 2.7 per cent p.a. 1990–2011; birth rate 37 per 1,000 people (51 in 1970); life expectancy 57 years (52 in 1970 and 60 in 1990).

The ethnic composition of the population is estimated as: Kikuyu 22 per cent, Luhya 14 per cent, Luo 13 per cent, Kalenjin 12 per cent, Kamba 11 per cent, Kisii six per cent and Meru six per cent. There are Masai, Arab, Asian and European minorities.

**Language:** Kiswahili and English are official languages. Each of the ethnic groups has its own language.

**Religion:** Christians 78 per cent (mainly Protestants and Roman Catholics), Muslims ten per cent, and most of the rest hold traditional beliefs.

**KEY FACTS**

- **Joined Commonwealth:** 1963
- **Population:** 41,610,000 (2011)
- **GDP p.c. growth:** 0.4% p.a. 1990–2011
- **UN HDI 2012:** World ranking 145
- **Net primary enrolment:** 84.0% (2009)
- **Net secondary enrolment:** 50.0% (2009)
- **Gross tertiary enrolment:** 4.0% (2009)
- **Adult literacy:** 72.2% (2011)

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**Net primary enrolment (%)**

- **Kenya**
- **Commonwealth**
- **World**

![Net primary enrolment chart](chart.png)
The University of Nairobi, the premier institution of tertiary education in Kenya, offers over 300 academic programmes spread over three faculties, 17 schools and six institutes.

Similar to most dynamic institutions, the University faces challenges which it continues to systematically address within the context of its vision and mission. It is committed to quality service hinged on the observance of the rule of law, skilled human resources, hard work, transparency, accountability, fairness and timely service delivery. Excellence in teaching, research and learning, good governance and management remains our focus.

Vision
A world-class University committed to scholarly excellence.

Mission
To provide quality university education and training, and to embody the aspirations of the Kenyan people and global community through the creation, preservation, integration, transmission and utilisation of knowledge.

Student and Staff Population
Currently the University of Nairobi has 63,846 students, of which 11,051 are postgraduates pursuing different degrees and diplomas on a full time and part time basis through the following methods: face-to-face, distance learning, e-learning and open learning.

Today the University of Nairobi has the largest concentration of highly qualified scholars which constitute about fifty per cent of professors in the country. It has been and continues to be a centre of intellectual life, a locus of research activities extending the boundaries of knowledge, a resource for professional development, and a key player in the growing global network of scholarship.

Contribution
The University of Nairobi continues to contribute to the development of high-level human resources in the country and indeed the entire world. At the moment the University graduates over 12,000 graduands annually in a wide range of courses.

Expansion of Infrastructure
The University of Nairobi has remained the University of Choice to many aspiring applicants and admits the highly qualified applicants in disciplines such as medicine, pharmacy, dental sciences, veterinary and agriculture, law and business among other disciplines.

Admission Requirements
The admission requirements are set out and approved by the Senate. Admission is open to students from Commonwealth countries and beyond.

Colleges
- College of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences
- College of Architecture and Engineering
- College of Biological and Physical Sciences
- College of Health Sciences
- College of Education and External Studies
- College of Humanities and Social Sciences

Corporate Social Responsibility
The University of Nairobi runs an active social responsibility programme taking its services to the wider public. The university staff and students participate in community programmes such as medical camps, free dental check-ups, cleaning and assistance to children’s homes, and helping the needy in society especially in times of disasters.
Health: Public spending on health was one per cent of GDP in 2009. Fifty-nine per cent of the population use an improved drinking water source and 32 per cent have adequate sanitation facilities (2010). Infant mortality was 48 per 1,000 live births in 2011 (122 in 1960). Malaria is the main endemic health problem, and AIDS is a severe problem. In 2011, 6.2 per cent of people aged 15–49 were HIV positive.

Media: English-language daily newspapers include Daily Nation and The Standard (established 1902). Taifa Leo is published daily in Kiswahili. Weeklies include The EastAfrican (for an international audience). Newspapers from Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania are widely circulated in the country.

Radio is the main source of news and information for most Kenyans. The Kenya Broadcasting Corporation provides public radio services in English, Kiswahili and 15 other Kenyan languages, and public TV services in English and Kiswahili. Many private radio stations and TV channels compete with the public services, particularly in the urban areas, and private radio stations increasingly provide national services, and broadcast in other national languages as well as Kiswahili.

Some 32 per cent of households have TV sets (2007). There are 14 personal computers per 1,000 people (2005).

Communications: Country code 254, followed by 20 for Nairobi and 41 for Mombasa; internet domain ‘.ke’. Public phones work with coins or phonecards (card booths are blue, coin-operated booths are red). There are internet cafes and post offices in most towns.

There are seven main telephone lines, 675 mobile phone subscriptions and 280 internet users per 1,000 people (2011).

Education

Governance

Ministry of Education
Nairobi
Tel: +254 20 318 581
Email: info@education.go.ke
Principal secretary: Dr Richard Belio Kipsang

Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology
Nairobi
Tel: +254 2 031 8581
Email: info@scienceandtechnology.go.ke
Minister: Professor Margaret Kamar

The Kenya National Examinations Council was established in 1980 to conduct all national school and post-school examinations except for those of universities.

Policy and plans

Public spending on education was 6.7 per cent of GDP in 2010. Kenya Vision 2030 – of a newly industrialising, middle-income country providing a high quality of life to all its citizens by 2030 in a clean and secure environment – is being implemented in successive five-year medium-term plans, the first covering the period 2008–12. The Ministry of Planning and National Development and Vision 2030 Delivery Secretariat have reviewed this first medium-term plan, paying particular attention to the feedback from stakeholders, as required by the 2010 constitution, and this has informed preparation of the 2012–17 plan.

The government is committed to providing high quality education to all of Kenya’s citizens and works in close partnership with NGOs in delivering education and training facilities for special-needs children.

Minister, Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Hon. Prof. Margaret Kamar

The global economy is undergoing rapid development, where technology, driven by skills and innovation, will be among the key determinants of enhancing efficiency, productivity and competitiveness. Through Vision 2030, Kenya intends to become a knowledge-led economy wherein the creation, adaptation and use of knowledge will be among the most critical factors for rapid economic growth. Realisation of the ‘vision’ goals is predicated on harnessing the right creative talents capable of raising Kenya’s international competitiveness by enhancing productivity at all levels. It envisages that throughout the education, training and research system, learning will inculcate the use of knowledge to create wealth, improve social welfare and promote democratic governance.

In appreciation of the critical role of skills development for science, technology and innovation in today’s shifting paradigm to knowledge-based economic development and the role that innovation has to play in knowledge-worker economies, the government established the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology in May 2008 to harmonise, implement, guide and co-ordinate higher education, science and technology towards the realisation of this agenda.

The Government of Kenya values the contribution of development partners and welcomes investment in education not only from the Commonwealth but also from the 53 member countries.
The Technical University of Kenya (TUK) formerly the Kenya Polytechnic of Kenya was granted university status on January 15th 2013 in a colourful ceremony officiated by his Excellency the President Mwai Kibaki. Currently, the University has more than 12,000 students with half of them being Government-sponsored students while the rest are self-sponsored.

The University is renowned for the provision of training and education programmes in science and technology. The institution also participates in research and innovation of all areas of development ranging from Engineering, Science and Technology, as well as the Arts and Humanities.

TUK is among the top five largest institutions of higher learning in Kenya comprising ten Schools, organized under three Faculties. The Schools are well staffed and equipped with modern laboratories, workshops and library to offer the best hands-on training in technology. The Schools offer a wide range of specialized, professional and technical courses. The courses on offer are at Certificate, Diploma and Degree levels. In addition, there are Centres that provide support services to the University namely the Centre for Entrepreneurship and Product Development which also offers training, and the Centre of Computing and Information Services (CCIS).

The strength of the graduates of TUK lies in their ability to practically apply the skills acquired through training to address local and global challenges by providing solutions through innovation. The versatility of the graduates is further attested to, by the continued demand and ready acceptance by the industry while many of them also end up in self-employment and eventually creating opportunities for other job seekers. The strategic objectives of TUK as a university are teaching and learning, research and innovation, and community service and extension. The University seeks to provide a high quality multi-entry and multi-exit system of post-secondary school education and training using curricula developed in partnership with stakeholders.

To embrace Kenya’s Vision 2030, the institution has undertaken to produce an aircraft prototype. Innovation is a major guiding factor in the research at TUK and is a key pillar in the courses offered. The University also emphasizes the need for collaboration on innovation, value addition, mentoring and skills-based training to better the position of students to not only compete locally but also internationally. In this bid, the University has a strong link with the industry where students are attached to gain experience to ensure the graduates meet the changing requirements of the workplace.

The academic units at TUK consist of three Faculties with a total of ten Schools:-

01. FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY
   - School of Health Sciences and Technology
   - School of Mathematics and Statistics
   - School of Pure and Applied Sciences

02. FACULTY OF LIBERAL AND PROFESSIONAL STUDIES
   - School of Business and Management Studies
   - School of Creative Arts and Technologies
   - School of Hospitality and Tourism Management
   - School of Social and Technology Studies

03. FACULTY OF ENGINEERING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT
   - School of Architecture and the Built Environment
   - School of Engineering Science and Technology
   - School of Information and Communication Technologies
Kenya qualified for the World Bank’s Fast Track Initiative – known since September 2011 as the Global Partnership for Education – which is aimed at meeting the education Millennium Development Goals and the Education for All goal that all children complete a full cycle of primary education by 2015. Since 2002, under the initiative developing countries have committed to design and implement sound education plans and development partners commit to align and harmonise additional support around these plans.

The National ICT Strategy for Education and Training comprises e-government, management information systems and e-learning. It aims to arm education managers and planners with timely data and to ensure that teachers and students have ICTs appropriate to the learning process.

The ministry, with the support of the Kenya ICT Trust Fund, has set up national and regional ICT support centres, mostly in the polytechnics and universities, to provide telephone or online technical support to schools.

**Schools**

- Gross enrolment overall: 67.0% (2009)
- Primary female–male ratio: 0.98:1 (2009)
- Secondary female–male ratio: 0.90:1 (2009)
- Primary pupil–teacher ratio: 47:1 (2009)

There are eight years of compulsory education starting at the age of six. Primary school comprises six years and secondary six, with cycles of two and four years. The school year starts in January.

**Tertiary**

Among Kenya’s many higher education institutions are University of Nairobi; Kenyatta University (main campus Nairobi; other campuses at Kitui, Mombasa and Ruiru); Moi University (in Eldoret since 1984); Egerton University, the principal agricultural university with its main campus at Njoro, Nakuru (established as a university in 1987); Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (in Juja since 1994); and a growing number of private universities. The female–male ratio for gross enrolment in tertiary education is

![Adult literacy (%)](image)

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Chuka University was the first institution of higher learning to be established in Eastern Province, Kenya. The government’s objective of establishing the institution was to enhance education access and equity to the people in the region and Kenya at large.

Chuka University is located on the serene eastern slopes of the snow-capped Mt. Kenya, approximately 186 km from Nairobi.

**Philosophy**
Education and training for social cohesion, human and economic development.

**Vision**
To be a Premier University for the provision of quality education, training and research for sustainable national and global development.

**Mission**
To generate, preserve and share knowledge for effective leadership in higher education, training, research and outreach through nurturing an intellectual culture that integrates theory with practice and innovation.

The University offers a wide range of demand-driven academic programmes established to cater for both academic and developmental needs of prospective customers. Our academic programmes are specially tailored to meet the emerging socio-economic needs of our societies such as food security, human capital building, social integration and peace building for national cohesion.

Chuka University’s Strategic Plan focuses on seven key areas:
- academic excellence; research, science, technology and innovation; community outreach; resources mobilisation and utilisation; environmental conservation and renewable energy; gender equity and vulnerable groups; and student welfare services.

‘Through upholding integrity, transparency and accountability, social fairness, prudent utilisation of resources and team work, Chuka University will become a Premier University.’

Chuka University Vice-Chancellor
Prof Erastus N. Njoka

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**Faculties**
- Agriculture and Environmental Studies
- Education and Resources Development
- Business Studies
- Arts and Humanities
- Science and Engineering Technology

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On 8 January 2013, upon recommendation of the Commission for University Education, the Government elevated Chuka University College to university status. It became the ninth public university in Kenya.
Literacy among people aged 15–24 is 93 per cent (2010).

**Pan-Commonwealth**

In 1987 Kenya hosted the Tenth Conference of Commonwealth Education Ministers in Nairobi. Commonwealth education ministers meet every three years to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

**Further information**

State House, Kenya: [www.statehousekenya.go.ke](http://www.statehousekenya.go.ke)
Commonwealth Secretariat: [www.thecommonwealth.org](http://www.thecommonwealth.org)
Commonwealth Education Online: [www.cedol.org](http://www.cedol.org)

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**Education institutions**

- Ministry of Education: [www.education.go.ke](http://www.education.go.ke)
- Kenya ICT Trust Fund: [www.kenyaictfund.or.ke](http://www.kenyaictfund.or.ke)
- Kenya National Examinations Council: [www.knec.ac.ke](http://www.knec.ac.ke)
- Egerton University: [www.egerton.ac.ke](http://www.egerton.ac.ke)
- Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology: [www.jkuat.ac.ke](http://www.jkuat.ac.ke)
- Moi University: [www.mu.ac.ke](http://www.mu.ac.ke)
- University of Nairobi: [www.uonbi.ac.ke](http://www.uonbi.ac.ke)
- University of the South Pacific: [www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=campuses](http://www.usp.ac.fj/index.php?id=campuses)