

History of Moi University

Brief History

Moi University was established in 1984 by an Act of Parliament (Moi University Act, 1984) as the second public university in Kenya. This was on the recommendation of a Presidential Working Party, chaired by Prof. Collins B. Courtney of his deep and altruistic concern for and interest in the advancement of education at all levels in Kenya, not only as a professional teacher but as Kenya's Head of State, President Daniel Toroitich arap Moi pioneered the idea of a university in a rural setting.

He, like most Kenyans, had good reasons for this. Among them was the need to decentralize higher education from Nairobi to other parts of the country. The former president felt time had come to create another university away from an urban environment. Not surprisingly Kenya's second university bears his name. That is a modest tribute to a great and deserving Kenyan.

The University was, therefore established with an intention of making it a science, technology and development oriented institution which would focus on problems of rural development in its training and research programmes. The first group of students, 83 in total, was admitted on October 1, 1984 through a transfer, from the Department of Forestry of the [University of Nairobi](#), which formed the initial one faculty in 1984. This group was housed and taught at Kaptagat Hotel since the new campus location had no buildings. The University Act of 1984 was repealed and replaced by the Universities Act No. 42 of 2012, which is the one in current use. Under this Act, the Cabinet Secretary for Education, Science and Technology has considerable powers over the operations of both the public as well as private universities.

The University is located in Kesses, 35 kilometers from Eldoret Town, and 310 kilometers Northwest of Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. Moi University has expanded tremendously over the past decade and this can be attributed to the commitment of the entire Moi University fraternity, government investment, strategic partnerships, and the visionary leadership of the University Council and Management. These achievements are a testament to the resilience and fortitude of every faculty and staff member who enabled change at a pace and on a scale never experienced before in the country.

Since 1984, the University has experienced phenomenal growth leading to the establishment of several constituent colleges across the country, many of which have since grown to fully fledged Universities namely [Maseno University](#), [Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology](#), [Maasai Mara University](#), [University of Kabianga](#), [University of Eldoret](#), [Karatina University](#) and [Rongo University](#).

As facilities were developed and needs were recognized, new Schools were added, namely Science, Education, Arts and Social Sciences, Business and Economics, Agriculture and Natural Resources, Information Sciences, Human Resource Development, Engineering, Medicine, Public Health, Nursing, Dentistry, Law, Tourism, Hospitality and Events Management, Aerospace, Biological and Physical Sciences and Agricultural Sciences. Recently, with intent to harmonise programmes and optimize available scarce human resources, the University re-established the School of Post Graduate Studies and moved programmes previously under the School of Human Resource Development to the School of Information Sciences and School of Business and Economics. The former School of Human Resource Development has since been converted into the Institute of Entrepreneurship and Development Studies.

From 83 students in 1984, the University currently has a student population of about 50, 000 with a staff component of 3,000 being both academic and administrative. Currently, the University has three constituent colleges namely Garissa University College, Bomet University College and Alupe University College in Busia County. It also has two campus colleges – College of Health Sciences within Eldoret Town and Odera Akang'o Campus College in Yala Town. In addition, the University has satellite campuses strategically located across the country to bring university education closer to the communities in line with the Vision 2030 as follows: Kitale Campus, Nairobi Campus, Coast Campus, Eldoret West Campus and Annex Campus located about five kilometers from Eldoret Town.

With the new Constitution of Kenya 2010 and the repealing of the University Act of 1984, the Chancellorship of the universities changed, for the first time, from the Head of State to citizens that had distinguished themselves in their professional careers and contribution to national development. The University Act of 2012 gave the mandate and powers to the Commission for University Education (CUE) over the governance of public and private universities on matters of general policy on higher education. Since its inception, Moi University has undergone a number of transformations regarding its governance and operations since the first Moi University Act (No. 10) of 1984. Among the provisions of the Act, the Chancellorship of the university was vested in the Head of State. The Chancellor, under the Act, was given the authority to appoint the Vice-Chancellor, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and College Principals.

Vision

To be the University of choice in nurturing innovation and talent in science, technology and development.

Mission

To preserve, create, and disseminate knowledge, conserve and develop scientific, technological, and cultural heritage through quality teaching and research; to create conducive work and learning environment, and to work with stakeholders for the betterment of society.

Core Values

1. Intellectual freedom, excellence and the truth.
2. Teamwork, networking and culture of peace.
3. Transparency and accountability.
4. Professionalism and social justice.
5. Self-respect, institutional loyalty and patriotism.
6. Continual improvement of services, competitiveness and relevance.

Philosophy

Putting knowledge to work is the University's guiding philosophy. At Moi University, the discovery, dissemination, and application of knowledge are synergistically balanced. The University is driven by the process of involvement - involvement in world affairs; in the needs of individuals and their communities, businesses, industries, and governments; in the nurturing of inquisitive minds; in the transfer of ideas from the campus to the market- place; and involvement in societal problems in our country and beyond. The creation of new knowledge that will benefit society is at the heart of the University's mission. The distinction between basic and applied research has become more blurred as the processes of discovery, scientific inquiry and scholarship inform all aspects of the educational enterprise at Moi University.

Students and Academic Programmes

Moi University serves about 40, 000 students via onsite and offsite courses in 147 degree programmes offered by the Institution's 15 Schools. Students come to Moi University from 17 countries and all the 47 counties in Kenya. To fully derive the educational benefits of a diverse campus, every area of the University is committed to actively pursuing an inclusive environment particularly in relation to students with disabilities.

The University has some of the largest accredited schools of education and business in the country and one of the best schools of Medicine and Engineering in the country. Many of the University's graduates are absorbed nationally and internationally and contribute further to the educated workforce that helps to fuel the economy and quality of life in our country and beyond.

Faculty

The University boasts of 1000 faculty – 58 and 82 being Full Professors and Associate Professors respectively. Included among our faculty are winners of national and international fellowships and awards.

Research

The University's current funded research funding totals KShs 1.8bn. The School of Medicine ranks second among the 8 public medical schools for research expenditures in Kenya. The research performed by the faculty is unlocking the fundamental mechanisms of HIV/AIDS (Ampath), cancer (Chandaria Centre), heart diseases, among others. The impact of the University's health care delivery to Kenyan citizens and communities in the North Rift, Western and Nyanza regions of Kenya is exemplified by the more than 160,000 outpatient visits and consultations that are performed each year by our faculty, staff, and students at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital.

Each year our graduates include approximately 50 MDs, 40 MD residents and fellows, 30 physical therapists, 20 dentists, and 60 nurses. The majority of these graduates continue to practice health care in Kenya.