

VOTE: 164 National Council for Higher Education

I. VOTE MISSION STATEMENT

The Vote Vision is "Quality, Accessible, Equitable, and transformative higher education.

The Mission: To regulate higher education and ensure the provision of relevant, quality and equitable higher education in Uganda.

II. STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

1. To enhance quality Assurance and Compliance in Higher Education Institutions.
2. To strengthen Digital Transformation within National Council for Higher Education and Higher Education Institutions for regulation and management.
3. To advance relevant research and innovation and strengthen usage of Higher Education statistics for regulation and policy.
4. To strengthen corporate governance, institutional capacity and development at National Council for Higher Education.

III. MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2025/26

1. Accreditation of 130 programmes of study by the National Council for Higher Education.
2. Undertaking training of 24 institutional owners and managers in strategic leadership and management.
3. Monitoring of 22 higher education institutions for compliance by the National Council for Higher Education.
4. Training of 26 institutional and program assessors by the National Council for Higher Education.
5. Training of data collectors for the state for the higher education survey and tracer study by the National Council for Higher Education.
6. Developed 4 minimum standards for courses of study by the National Council for Higher Education.
7. Equation of 105 foreign qualifications and recognition of 42 local qualifications by the National Council for Higher Education.

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IV. MEDIUM TERM BUDGET ALLOCATIONS

Table 4.1: Overview of Vote Expenditure (Ushs Billion)

| | 2025/26 | | 2026/27 | MTEF Budget Projections | | | | |
|--|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------|
| | Approved Budget | Spent by End Dec | Budget Estimates | 2027/28 | 2028/29 | 2029/30 | 2030/31 | |
| Recurrent | Wage | 7.792 | 3.587 | 7.792 | 8.182 | 8.591 | 9.021 | 9.472 |
| | Non-Wage | 9.157 | 3.010 | 9.257 | 10.646 | 12.775 | 15.330 | 18.396 |
| Devt. | GoU | 0.100 | 0.000 | 18.100 | 19.910 | 23.892 | 28.670 | 34.404 |
| | Ext Fin. | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| GoU Total | 17.049 | 6.597 | 35.149 | 38.738 | 45.258 | 53.021 | 62.272 | |
| Total GoU+Ext Fin (MTEF) | 17.049 | 6.597 | 35.149 | 38.738 | 45.258 | 53.021 | 62.272 | |
| Arrears | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | |
| Total Budget | 17.049 | 6.597 | 35.149 | 38.738 | 45.258 | 53.021 | 62.272 | |
| Total Vote Budget Excluding Arrears | 17.049 | 6.597 | 35.149 | 38.738 | 45.258 | 53.021 | 62.272 | |

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Table 4.2: Budget Allocation by Department for Recurrent and Development (Ushs Billion)

| <i>Billion Uganda Shillings</i> | Draft Budget Estimates FY 2026/27 | |
|--|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| | Recurrent | Development |
| Programme:12 Human Capital Development | 17.049 | 18.100 |
| Vote Function:01 Higher Education Quality, Standard and Accreditation | 2.578 | 0.000 |
| 001 Quality Assurance and Accreditation | 1.000 | 0.000 |
| 003 ICT, Research and Innovation | 1.278 | 0.000 |
| 004 Standards, Recognition and Equation of Qualifications | 0.300 | 0.000 |
| Vote Function:02 General Administration and support services | 14.471 | 18.100 |
| 001 Finance, Planning and Administration | 14.471 | 18.100 |
| Total for the Vote | 17.049 | 18.100 |

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V. PERFORMANCE INDICATORS AND PLANNED OUTPUTS

Table 5.1: Performance Indicators

Programme: 12 Human Capital Development

Vote Function: 01 Higher Education Quality, Standard and Accreditation

Department: 001 Quality Assurance and Accreditation

Key Service Area: 320035 Quality, Standard and Accreditation

PIAP Output: Strengthened Skills acquisition and development framework

Programme Intervention: 122112 Accelerate the acquisition of urgently needed skills in key growth areas

| Indicator Name | Indicator Measure | Base Year | Base Level | Performance Targets |
|---|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2026/27 |
| National Qualifications Framework developed | Number | 2023/24 | 0 | 1 |

Department: 003 ICT, Research and Innovation

Key Service Area: 320010 E-Learning, and innovation services

PIAP Output: Increase Student Participation in STEM/STEI activities and projects

Programme Intervention: 122211 Provide early exposure to STEM/STEI to children through innovative science projects in schools and higher education institutions

| Indicator Name | Indicator Measure | Base Year | Base Level | Performance Targets |
|--|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2026/27 |
| Number of schools/institutions undertaking innovative Student-led inovative science based projects | Number | 2023/24 | 50 | 10 |
| Number of Student-led innovative science based projects developed/supported | Number | 2023/24 | 20 | 4 |

Department: 004 Standards, Recognition and Equation of Qualifications

Key Service Area: 320039 Standards, Recognition and Qualifications services

PIAP Output: Physical infrastructure, human resources and quality assurance improved for for Higher Education and TVET Institutions

Programme Intervention: 1222110 Provide the required physical infrastructure and equip, instruction materials, human resources and quality assurance mechanism for Higher Education and TVET Institutions including Special Needs Education (SNE)

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Vote Function: 01 Higher Education Quality, Standard and Accreditation

Department: 004 Standards, Recognition and Equation of Qualifications

Key Service Area: 320039 Standards, Recognition and Qualifications services

PIAP Output: Physical infrastructure, human resources and quality assurance improved for for Higher Education and TVET Institutions

| Indicator Name | Indicator Measure | Base Year | Base Level | Performance Targets |
|--|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2026/27 |
| Bunyoro and Busoga Universities established | Number | 2023/24 | 0 | 2 |
| Gulu University Constituent College, Moroto established | Number | 2023/24 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Higher Education Graduates tracer studies conducted by NCHE | Number | 2023/24 | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Public Higher Education institutions with ICT enabled infrastructure | Number | 2023/24 | 10 | 10 |
| UNITE established and fully operationalized | Number | 2023/24 | | 1 |

Vote Function: 02 General Administration and support services

Department: 001 Finance, Planning and Administration

Key Service Area: 000013 HIV/AIDS Mainstreaming

PIAP Output: Physical infrastructure, human resources and quality assurance improved for for Higher Education and TVET Institutions

Programme Intervention: 1222110 Provide the required physical infrastructure and equip, instruction materials, human resources and quality assurance mechanism for Higher Education and TVET Institutions including Special Needs Education (SNE)

| Indicator Name | Indicator Measure | Base Year | Base Level | Performance Targets |
|---|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2026/27 |
| Number of Higher Education Graduates tracer studies conducted by NCHE | Number | 2023/24 | 1 | 1 |

Key Service Area: 000089 Climate Change Mitigation

PIAP Output: Physical infrastructure, human resources and quality assurance improved for for Higher Education and TVET Institutions

Programme Intervention: 1222110 Provide the required physical infrastructure and equip, instruction materials, human resources and quality assurance mechanism for Higher Education and TVET Institutions including Special Needs Education (SNE)

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Vote Function: 02 General Administration and support services

Department: 001 Finance, Planning and Administration

Key Service Area: 000089 Climate Change Mitigation

PIAP Output: Physical infrastructure, human resources and quality assurance improved for for Higher Education and TVET Institutions

| Indicator Name | Indicator Measure | Base Year | Base Level | Performance Targets |
|--|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2026/27 |
| Bunyoro and Busoga Universities established | Number | 2023/24 | 0 | 1 |
| Number of Public Higher Education institutions with ICT enabled infrastructure | Number | 2023/24 | 10 | 10 |

Key Service Area: 320035 Quality, Standard and Accreditation

PIAP Output: Physical infrastructure, human resources and quality assurance improved for for Higher Education and TVET Institutions

Programme Intervention: 1222110 Provide the required physical infrastructure and equip, instruction materials, human resources and quality assurance mechanism for Higher Education and TVET Institutions including Special Needs Education (SNE)

| Indicator Name | Indicator Measure | Base Year | Base Level | Performance Targets |
|--|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2026/27 |
| Number of Public Higher Education institutions with ICT enabled infrastructure | Number | 2023/24 | 10 | 10 |

Project: 1980 Institutional Development of National Council for Higher Education

Key Service Area: 000003 Facilities and Equipment Management

PIAP Output: Physical infrastructure, human resources and quality assurance improved for for Higher Education and TVET Institutions

Programme Intervention: 1222110 Provide the required physical infrastructure and equip, instruction materials, human resources and quality assurance mechanism for Higher Education and TVET Institutions including Special Needs Education (SNE)

| Indicator Name | Indicator Measure | Base Year | Base Level | Performance Targets |
|--|-------------------|-----------|------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2026/27 |
| Number of Higher Education Graduates tracer studies conducted by NCHE | Number | 2023/24 | 1 | 1 |
| Number of Public Higher Education institutions with ICT enabled infrastructure | Number | 2023/24 | 10 | 10 |

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VI. VOTE NARRATIVE

Vote Challenges

1. National Council for Higher Education faces logistical challenges as the Council has only three field vehicles to handle 258 higher education institutions across the country.
2. Inadequate funding to complete and furnish the construction of the main building.
3. Understaffing, as the National Council for Higher Education has 74 staff against the approved structure of 125 staff, which is 49.2% below the government-recommended staffing level of 65%.
4. Limitation of the current Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, Cap. 262, which cannot allow full and quick implementation of NCHE mandate.

Plans to improve Vote Performance

1. Strengthen planning and budget alignment by ensuring annual work plans are fully aligned with the Ministerial Policy Statement (MPS) and the National Development Plan (NDP) priorities.
2. Conduct joint planning meetings with all directorates and units before finalizing the budget to ensure realistic targets.
3. Link performance indicators directly to outputs and activities to avoid reporting gaps.
4. Improve Budget Absorption and Execution by developing a quarterly expenditure and procurement implementation schedule.
5. Fast-track procurement processes by preparing procurement plans early in the financial year.
6. Strengthen coordination between finance, procurement, and user departments.
7. Strengthen Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) by establishing a quarterly performance review mechanism at the management level.
8. Improve timely reporting by developing and enforcing a strict internal reporting calendar for quarterly and annual reports.
9. Strengthen Staff Capacity by training staff in Program-Based Budgeting (PBS), Results-based management and monitoring and evaluation.
10. Strengthen resource mobilization by developing a resource mobilization strategy to attract development partner funding, research grants, and technical cooperation.

VII. Off Budget Support and NTR Projections

Table 7.1: Off Budget Support by Project and Department

N/A

VOTE: 164 National Council for Higher Education**Table 7.2: NTR Projections(Uganda Shillings Billions)**

| Revenue Code | Revenue Name | FY2025/26 | Projection FY2026/27 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------------|
| 114526 | Other licenses | 0.000 | 4.700 |
| 142225 | Other Licence fees | 4.700 | 0.000 |
| Total | | 4.700 | 4.700 |

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VIII. PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Table 8.1: Staff Establishment Analysis

N / A

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Table 8.2: Staff Recruitment Plan

N/A