

HEC MONTHLY REVIEW

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Higher Education Council
Quality Education - Our Aim



Inside The Issue

Conference on Reimagining Graduate, Research and Innovation Ecosystem Takes Centre Stage

HLIs Follow-up Assessment Continues

Reintegrating Green Skills into Higher Education



FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL



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

July was a month of purposeful engagement and continued progress in strengthening the quality, relevance and impact of higher education in Rwanda. Across our work this month, we remained focused on one central objective: ensuring that our higher education system is responsive to the needs of our country and prepared for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

A key highlight was the National Conference on Reimagining Graduate, Research and Innovation Ecosystem, which brought together key stakeholders to shape the future of doctoral education, research and innovation in Rwanda.

I sincerely thank all participants and partners for their valuable contributions and commitment to strengthening the country's research and innovation ecosystem.

The presentation of the Postgraduate Research Degree Framework and the Research and Innovation Framework marks an important step towards strengthening doctoral education, research quality, supervision, innovation and collaboration between higher learning institutions, government and industry. Our ambition is to build an ecosystem where knowledge is not only generated, but translated into solutions that contribute to national development.

Quality assurance remains at the heart of our work. During the month, HEC continued institutional assessments, follow-up assessments and preliminary planning approvals for proposed new academic programmes. These processes are essential to ensuring that institutions meet established standards and that new academic programmes are relevant, sustainable and aligned with Rwanda's development and labour market needs.

“Our ambition is to build an ecosystem where knowledge is not only generated, but translated into solutions that contribute to national development.” Dr. Edward Kadozi

We also advanced important conversations on the integration of Inclusive Green Economy principles into higher education programmes. At the regional level, our participation in the IUCEA Annual Meeting provided an opportunity to engage with partners on quality assurance, digital transformation, artificial intelligence, academic mobility, research and regional integration.

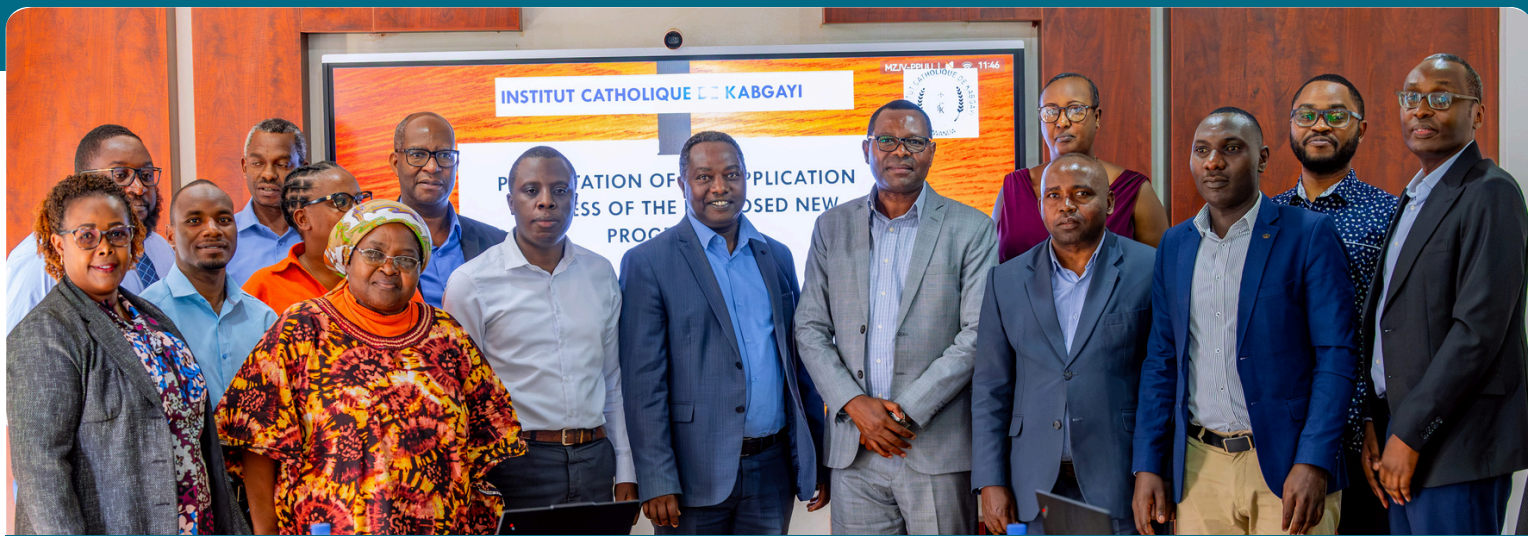
I thank all our partners and stakeholders for their continued collaboration and support.

Together, we must ensure that higher education continues to produce the knowledge, skills and innovation that Rwanda's development demands.

Dr. Edward Kadozi
Director General, Higher Education Council

Get in Touch





Preliminary Assessments of HLIs Underway

HEC Conducts Preliminary Planning Approval Assessments

Throughout July, the Higher Education Council (HEC) conducted a series of Preliminary Planning Approval assessments for Higher Learning Institutions (HLIs) seeking to introduce new academic programmes.

HEC reviewed the proposed new academic programmes submitted by the University of Rwanda College of Science and Technology (UR-CST), University of Rwanda College of Medicine and Health Sciences (UR-CMHS), Catholic University of Rwanda (CUR), Institut of Lay Adventists of Kigali (INILAK), Institut Catholique de Kabgayi, (ICK), International Covenant College (ICC) and University of Kigali (UoK). The assessments focused on the institutions' applications, the relevance of the proposed programmes, and their readiness to proceed with the accreditation process.



What is Preliminary Planning Approval Assessments?

Preliminary Planning Approval is an early stage in the accreditation process for new academic programmes or new Higher Learning Institutions/new campus/new faculty. It provides an opportunity for HLIs to present their plans to HEC and allows the Council to assess the need for the proposed programmes/new campus/new faculty and the institution's readiness to initiate the accreditation process. The assessments are conducted according to a calendar communicated by HEC to all HLIs.





HLIs Follow-up Assessment Continues



University of Kigali Follow-Up Assessment

HEC conducted a four-day follow-up assessment at the University of Kigali (UoK) to review progress in implementing recommendations from the institution's 2025 institutional audit.

The assessment is part of HEC's quality assurance mandate to monitor compliance with higher education standards and support continuous improvement in academic programme delivery.



Mount Kigali University Follow-Up Assessment

HEC conducted a follow-up assessment at Mount Kigali University (MKU) to review the implementation of recommendations arising from the institution's 2025 institutional audit. The exercise provided an opportunity to assess progress made by the University in addressing identified areas and strengthening its institutional systems.



Global University–Rwanda Network Assessment

From 20–24 July 2026, HEC conducted a physical assessment of Global University–Rwanda Network to assess its compliance with established laws and guidelines and determine its readiness to establish and effectively operate an examination centre.

The assessment focused on laws and regulations, guidelines, the institution's facilities, systems and operational arrangements against the required standards.



East Africa's Higher Education Leaders Convene in Nairobi for 17th IUCEA Meeting



43 Rwandan Scholars Head to Brazil

The Higher Education Council (HEC), represented by Désiré Gacinya, Director of the Bursary, Loan and Fund Management Unit, had a session with students for a Pre-Departure Orientation for 43 Rwandan scholarship recipients preparing to pursue Master's and PhD studies in Brazil.

The orientation provided practical guidance on academic life, cultural adaptation, financial support and settling into a new environment, preparing the scholars for their studies abroad.



Advancing Made-in-Rwanda EdTech Innovation

Dr. Olivier Habimana, Head of Digitalization and Research at HEC, participated in an EdTech Mondays discussion on the growth of Made-in-Rwanda education technology on KT Radio. He highlighted the role of universities in turning research and innovation into practical solutions, strengthening collaboration between researchers and the private sector, and advancing locally developed technologies for education.



Strengthening Regional Collaboration in Higher Education.

HEC participated in the 17th IUCEA Annual Meeting and Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, represented by the Head of the Polytechnics Quality Standards Department, Eng. Theodore Dusabimana.

The meeting brought together higher education stakeholders to discuss quality assurance, digital transformation, AI, academic mobility, research and regional integration, with a focus on strengthening a globally competitive East African Higher Education Area.

HEC ENGAGEMENTS



Participants at the PAQAA Interim Council Meeting at the African Union Headquarters.



HEC Joins 4x4 Steering Committee Meeting

HEC joined the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health for the 4x4 Steering Committee meeting, which brought together key stakeholders to review progress and targets under Rwanda's health education reform agenda. HEC reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening quality assurance, regulatory oversight and competence-based training in health professional education to support the development of a skilled health workforce.



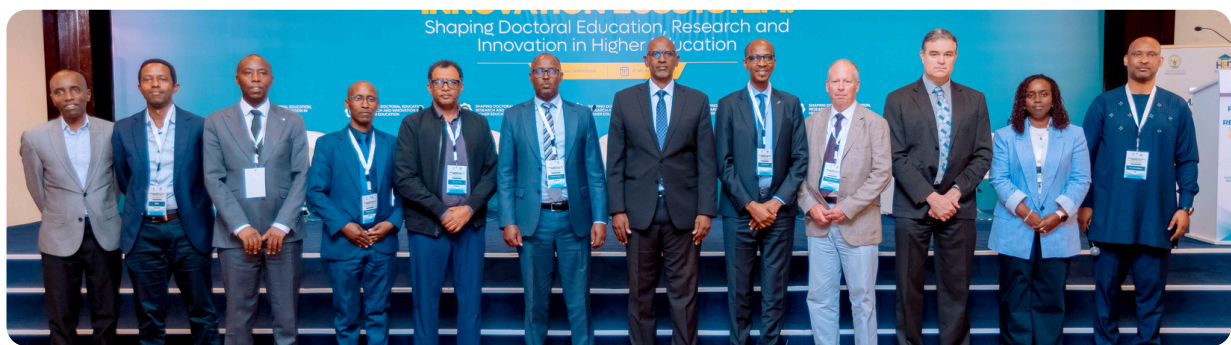
Advancing Quality Assurance Across Africa

HEC, represented by Dr. Edward Kadozi, Director General, participated in the PAQAA Interim Council Meeting held at the African Union Headquarters. The meeting brought together Member States, quality assurance agencies and partners to advance a sustainable continental framework for quality assurance in higher education.

Get in Touch



Conference on Reimagining Graduate, Research and Innovation Ecosystem Takes Centre Stage



A New Direction for Postgraduate Education

The Higher Education Council (HEC) convened the National Conference on Reimagining Graduate, Research and Innovation Ecosystem: Shaping Doctoral Education, Research and Innovation in Higher Education on 21 July 2026 in Kigali. The conference brought together policymakers, university leaders, researchers, development partners and industry representatives to discuss how Rwanda can build a stronger and more impactful research and innovation ecosystem.

The Postgraduate Research Degree Framework, presented by Prof. Hamish Coates, focuses on strengthening postgraduate programme quality, doctoral supervision, graduate outcomes and international competitiveness.

The Research and Innovation Framework, presented by Dr. Olivier Habimana, sets out priorities for strengthening research governance, expanding research funding, improving research infrastructure and promoting interdisciplinary collaboration and research that responds to national development priorities.



Two Frameworks for Transformation

A key highlight of the conference was the presentation of two strategic frameworks that will guide the development of doctoral education, research and innovation in Rwanda.

Continue to the next page

From Knowledge to National Impact



Discussions during the conference also examined research financing, quality assurance, doctoral supervision, university–industry collaboration, international partnerships and the proposed categorisation of higher learning institutions according to their missions and areas of strength.

The conference concluded with a shared commitment among stakeholders to strengthen collaboration and ensure that doctoral education, research and innovation contribute more directly to Rwanda’s development. Feedback from participants will inform the refinement of the two frameworks before they are shared with stakeholders.



Mainstreaming Green Economy in Higher Education



The Higher Education Council (HEC) hosted a Steering Committee meeting to discuss the integration of Inclusive Green Economy (IGE) principles into Rwanda's higher education programmes. The meeting brought together representatives from government, higher learning institutions, development partners and industry to review the proposed roadmap and strengthen collaboration.



The initiative seeks to embed green economy principles across higher education, ensuring that graduates acquire the knowledge, skills and competencies needed to contribute to Rwanda's green, inclusive and sustainable development.

The discussions also emphasised the importance of stronger collaboration between academia, government and industry in aligning higher education with emerging skills needs and Rwanda's environmental and economic priorities.



HEC in Media

July saw strong media attention around HEC's key engagements, particularly the Reimagining Graduate, Research and Innovation Ecosystem conference and the Pre-Departure Orientation for Brazil-bound scholarship students. Leading local media outlets covered these activities and other HEC initiatives throughout the month. Below is a selection of the coverage.

Links

The New Times

Over 40 Rwandans get postgraduate scholarships to Brazil universities

Igihe

Over 40 Rwandans secure scholarships for postgraduate studies in Brazil

Taarifa

Rwanda Moves to Strengthen Doctoral Education and Research Capacity as It Eyes Regional Knowledge Hub Status

The New Times

New doctoral education reforms could drive innovation - officials

IGIHE

Abiga kaminuza n'amashuri makuru bagomba kuva kuri 9% bakagera kuri 27% mu 2030– HEC



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We value your input and suggestions.
Please share your feedback by
emailing info@hec.gov.rw

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