

Careers Academy Kenya Education Pathways Manual

Empowering Ethical and Informed Decisions for Global Education Success Introduction

FOUNDERS STORY

As a dedicated UK Careers Guidance Specialist with a first degree in Sociology, a Postgraduate Diploma in Careers Guidance, and an MBA in Urban and Social Regeneration, I have spent decades working in schools, colleges, higher education institutions, and universities across the UK, Dubai, and Saudi Arabia. I am also a CDI (Career Development Institute) registered practitioner, adhering to a strict code of ethics, ensuring the highest standards of professionalism and integrity in all my work.

The inspiration for founding Careers Academy Kenya came from my visits to Kenya, where I was deeply moved by the entrepreneurial and dynamic spirit of the people. I saw a strong belief in education as a pathway to success and felt compelled to create a service that would bridge the gap for Kenyan nationals seeking educational and career opportunities in the UK/Europe.

In my conversations with Kenyans, I learned about the unfortunate experiences many have had with unscrupulous agents who took their money and shattered their educational dreams. This is something I am strongly against. My mission is to provide a trustworthy, ethical, and client-cantered service. I will never accept any payment unless clients are fully satisfied with the service, and that's why we offer a free e-book and free consultations to individuals and families. This ensures that they are well-informed and can make decisions with confidence.

This e-manual embodies my commitment to providing honest, transparent, and practical guidance. It reflects a belief in the transformative power of education and the importance of equipping each individual with the tools and knowledge to carve out their own success stories. Welcome to Careers Academy Kenya, where we turn aspirations into achievements.

Purpose and Mission:

At its core, Careers Academy Kenya exists to empower Kenyan students and professionals to access quality global education and career opportunities. We believe that with the right information, support, and encouragement, anyone can achieve their educational dreams abroad. Our mission is to demystify the pathways to international education whether that means gaining a masters degree in the UK, embarking on a PhD journey, obtaining a skilled work visa, or securing a place at a top international boarding school for your child. We strive to provide honest, comprehensive, and practical guidance at every step, so you can make informed decisions that are best for your future.

Our Ethical Approach:

Integrity is the cornerstone of everything we do. As proud members of the global career development community (including alignment with the Career Development Institutes values), we adhere to strict ethical standards in our guidance. This means:

Honesty:

We give you a realistic picture of the opportunities and challenges. We will never promise visas or admissions that we cannot guarantee.

Transparency:

From application requirements to fees and funding, we ensure you understand the full process. There are no hidden agendas or surprise costs in our advice.

Empowerment over profiteering: Unlike unscrupulous agents who might complete your application for you without explaining anything (or even engage in fraud), we focus on empowering you. We coach you on how to write your own personal statement, how to prepare for interviews, and how to present your best self preserving your voice in every step.

Confidentiality and Care:

Your personal information and aspirations are treated with the utmost confidentiality and respect. We celebrate your ambitions and handle them with care.

Our approach is warm and encouraging. We understand that pursuing education abroad is not just a bureaucratic process its a life-changing journey often filled with hopes, anxieties, and big decisions for yourself and your family. Throughout this manual, you'll find not only facts and figures but also inspiring success stories, practical tips, and checklists to keep you on track. Think of this guide as a supportive mentor: well be honest about the work required, but well also cheer you on and remind you why you started.

How to Use This Manual: We have divided the guide into two main parts to cater to different needs:

UK University & Higher Education Pathway: Covering masters and PhD study opportunities in the UK, as well as guidance on transitioning to work in the UK through the skilled worker route.

International Boarding Schools Pathway: Covering opportunities for children to attend international boarding schools (with a focus on UK and other European schools).

Each part contains step-by-step chapters that will walk you through the entire process from the initial research and application all the way to visas, travel, and settling in. You will also find dedicated sections on scholarships and funding options (full and partial), timelines to help you plan, visual process maps to clarify each stage, to-do lists so you don't miss anything, and comparison tables to help you decide whether to do-it-yourself (DIY) or seek a specialists help for each task.

By the end of this manual, you should feel informed, inspired, and confident to take the next steps toward your educational goals. Whether you are a student aiming for a UK university, a parent exploring schooling abroad for your child, or a graduate considering working overseas, this guide is here to support you with knowledge and heart.

Before we dive in, remember: your dream is valid. The process may be complicated, but you are not alone, and every challenge is an opportunity to grow. Lets embark on this journey together, ethically and confidently.

(Next, we begin with Part I, focusing on higher education in the UK, where countless Kenyans have found academic success and new career horizons.)

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Part I: UK University & Higher Education Pathway Overview: Why the UK for Higher Education?

The United Kingdom is one of the most popular destinations for higher education globally, and for good reason. UK universities offer world-class education, internationally recognized degrees, and a multicultural campus experience. For Kenyan students, studying in the UK can open doors to advanced knowledge, research opportunities, and global networks. The UK's post-study work options (such as the Graduate Route allowing graduates to stay and work for up to 2 years) and potential pathway to settlement make it even more attractive. In this part, we will cover the two most common academic routes pursuing a Masters degree or a PhD and the subsequent Skilled Worker route for those who wish to build a career in the UK.

We'll start with choosing the right course and university, then guide you through applications and funding, and finally discuss visas, working during/after studies, and settling in. Each section includes practical steps and tips to keep you on track.

(For a full list of UK universities, see Appendix 1 at the end of this manual, which includes every university website.)

Choosing Your Course and University

Embarking on a UK study journey begins with identifying the right course and institution for your goals. This requires careful research and self-reflection:

Identify Your Field of Interest:

Clarify the subject you want to study. Are you looking to deepen expertise in your undergraduate field or switch to a new area? For a masters, this could be a taught program (e.g. MSc, MA, MBA) or a research-focused one (MRes). For a PhD, you'll need a specific research topic or question you're passionate about.

Find the Right University: The UK has a diverse range of universities from large research-intensive Russell Group universities (like Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial, etc.) to smaller specialized institutions. Consider factors like:

Reputation and Ranking: While not everything, rankings (global and subject-specific) can indicate quality. For example, the University of Oxford and University of Cambridge consistently rank among the top 10 universities globally, but many other UK universities also excel in specific fields.

Course Content: Review the curriculum or research areas offered. One university's Computer Science MSc might focus on artificial intelligence, while another emphasizes cybersecurity. Choose what aligns with your interests.

Location: Would you prefer being in a major city like London or Manchester, or a quieter town like Durham or St Andrews? Consider cost of living differences. London can be higher.

Campus Culture and Support: Look at facilities (libraries, labs), student support services, and community (does the university have an active African or Kenyan Students Association? Many UK universities do, and it can be a great support network).

Entry Requirements: Each program will list required qualifications (usually at least a Second-Class undergraduate degree for masters; for PhD, a relevant masters is often expected or strong undergraduate performance). Also check English language requirements (most require an IELTS score of 6.5 or 7.0 overall, with no subscore below 6.0, for postgraduate level, if you don't have a prior degree taught in English).

Use Official Resources: Utilize free tools like the UCAS course search for postgraduate (UCAS Postgraduate or university websites directly) and rankings on websites like Complete University Guide or Times Higher Education. The British Councils Study UK site also allows you to search courses and provides university profiles. These can help you shortlist options that fit your academic profile and aspirations.

Practical Action Course Research Checklist:

Make a List: Write down 35 courses and universities that interest you in your field.

Compare Key Facts: For each, note the course duration (most UK masters are 1 year; PhDs are ~3-4 years), tuition fees for international students, and any special features (industry placements, research projects, accreditation).

Attend Virtual Fairs/Webinars: Many UK universities hold virtual open days or fairs for international students. Attend these to ask questions directly to staff or alumni.

Reach Out: If possible, connect with current Kenyan students or alumni from those programs (via LinkedIn or the universities international office). First-hand insight can be invaluable and often encouraging.

By the end of this process, you should have a clear first choice and a couple of backup options. It's wise to apply to multiple universities (perhaps 3 to 6) to maximize your chances for admission and scholarship opportunities.

Masters Degree Pathway

A Masters degree in the UK can enhance your expertise and career prospects in just one year (for most programs). Below, we break down the process into stages with actionable steps.

1. Application Preparation and Requirements

Before you begin the application forms, ensure you have:

Academic Transcripts and Certificates: Prepare your undergraduate transcripts and degree certificate. If they are not in English, get official translations.

English Proficiency Test: Unless you studied at a university where the medium of instruction was English and can get a letter to prove it, you'll likely need an IELTS, TOEFL, or equivalent. Plan to take this test at least 12-18 months before your course start date if possible. A common requirement is IELTS 6.5 overall. Book your test early as slots fill up.

Resume/CV: Update your CV to highlight your educational background, any relevant work experience, internships, or projects. Keep it concise (1-2 pages).

Personal Statement: This is a critical piece. It's a short essay (typically 500-1,000 words) explaining why you want to pursue this course and why at that university. Be genuine and specific – mention particular modules or professors that attracted you, and relate the course to your career plans in Kenya or globally.

References: Most masters applications require 2 academic references (or 1 academic and 1 professional if you have work experience). Choose referees who know you well. Request their permission and provide them with your personal statement and CV so they can write a strong, personalized recommendation. (Universities will either ask for their contact to email them a reference link or request a letter – follow each uni's instructions.)

Tip: Start drafting your personal statement early. It often takes several revisions. Careers Academy Kenya stands by an ethical approach – we advise on structure and content, but you must write it in your voice. Admissions tutors can detect authenticity; your passion and sincerity matter more than using fancy vocabulary.

2. The Application Process (Masters)

In the UK, applications for master's programs are usually made directly to each university (unlike undergraduate which go through UCAS). Many universities use an online portal where you fill personal details and upload documents. Here's a step-by-step:

Fill in Personal Details: Ensure your name matches your passport. Use an email address you check often.

Course Selection: Select the exact program title and intake (e.g. MSc Data Science – September 2025 intake).

Upload Documents: Attach your transcripts, CV, personal statement, and English test score. Some portals allow you to submit even if you're pending an English test or final degree result, but you'll need to update these later.

Pay Application Fee (if any): Some universities charge £50-£100 application fees, but many are free for online apps. Budget for this in case.

Submit and Track: Once submitted, you'll get a confirmation email. Note any application number. Most universities respond within 48 weeks, though it can be faster or slower. During this time, be ready to possibly attend an interview (for certain courses like MBAs or if you're borderline, some departments might do Skype/Zoom interviews) or provide additional information if requested.

Timeline: Masters applications in the UK typically open about a year in advance (around October of the previous year). Many popular courses have rolling admissions, meaning they fill spots as applications come in. As a Kenyan applicant needing a visa, aim to apply no later than April for an October start, if not earlier. Applying early (Dec/Feb) can improve your chances for admission and scholarships, and gives you more time for visa prep. However, note that some scholarship deadlines (like Chevening) are even earlier (applications open in August and close in early November for the next year), so plan accordingly.

3. Funding Your Masters Scholarships and Financial Planning

UK education is a significant investment. Tuition fees for international students can range from around £15,000 to £30,000+ for one year, depending on the course and university. Then there's living expenses (at least £1,023

per month outside London, or £1,334 per month in London, as required by UKVI for visa financial proof).

Fortunately, there are funding options:

Full Scholarships: Highly competitive but worth trying. The most prominent for Kenyan masters students is Chevening Scholarship, the UK governments flagship award covering full tuition, stipend, and airfare for a one-year Masters degree. Chevening applications typically open in August and close in early November for the following years intake . The Commonwealth Shared Scholarships are another full award for certain UK courses (often development-focused subjects) deadline usually in December. Also check if specific universities offer full scholarships (for instance, University of Oxfords Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships, Gates Cambridge (for Cambridge University), etc., which have varying deadlines).

Partial Scholarships and Bursaries: Many universities offer partial awards (e.g. 1050% tuition fee waivers) for international students or specific regions. For example, University of Bristol and University of Sussex have schemes for international students from sub-Saharan Africa (with awards like £5,000 off tuition). Always check the Fees and funding section of the course/university website. These often require you to have an offer of admission first, then fill a short scholarship form or be automatically considered.

Payment Plans: If you are self-funding, nearly all universities allow you to pay tuition in installments. Typically, you might pay, say, 50% before or at enrollment, and the remaining 50% in 23 installments over the year. Confirm the exact plan with your universitys finance office. This can ease cash flow.

Loans: While UK government loans arent available to non-residents, some Kenyans take education loans from local banks/SACCOs or international lenders. Prodigy Finance is one such lender that provides loans to international postgrad students for certain universities (mostly in business and STEM fields). If considering a

loan, ensure you understand the interest rate and repayment terms borrowing is a commitment that follows you after graduation.

Working Part-Time: As a student in the UK on a Student visa, you are allowed to work up to 20 hours per week during term time (and full-time in vacations) if studying at degree level . While the income from part-time work (like a campus job or barista role) wont cover your tuition, it can help with living expenses. However, you should not rely on getting a job to meet your visas financial proof you must show you have sufficient funds before you go. Think of part-time work as supplementary. Well discuss more on working while studying later in this part.

Personal Savings and Support: Many students use personal or family savings. If family is supporting you, remember youll need official bank statements to prove funds for the visa (the UKVI requires showing at least one years tuition plus 9 months of living expenses in bank accounts for 28 days) we cover this in the visa section.

Practical Action Scholarship Search:

Make a calendar of scholarship opportunities you are eligible for, with their deadlines. E.g., Chevening apply by early Nov, Commonwealth Shared Dec, University X International Excellence Scholarship Jan 15.

Prepare necessary materials for scholarship applications, which often include essays about your leadership, why you chose the course, and how youll contribute to Kenya after. These essays often align with what you wrote in your personal statement but need more detail on broader impact.

Obtain any required documents like reference letters early (Chevening, for instance, asks for references and sometimes an interview if shortlisted).

Many students create a funding mix perhaps a partial university scholarship, personal funds, and a bit of family support combined. Start early and cast your net wide.

4. After Admission Confirming Your Offer and Preparing for Departure

Congratulations you've received an offer for your masters! Offers can be conditional or unconditional:

Conditional Offer: This means you still need to meet some requirements commonly providing final undergraduate results (if you applied before graduating) or achieving a certain grade, or sending an acceptable IELTS score. Work quickly to fulfill conditions. For example, if your offer says IELTS 7.0 with no component below 6.0, and you have 6.5, you might need to retake the test or the university might offer a pre-session English course.

Unconditional Offer: You've met all requirements. You can firmly accept the offer.

To secure your place, you usually need to accept the offer formally via the application portal. Some universities also require a tuition deposit (often around £1,000-£3,000) to confirm you will attend. Paying this deposit (which later counts toward your fees) may also be required before they issue your visa sponsorship document (CAS).

Once you accept:

Accommodation: Start looking at housing options. University dormitories are convenient, especially for new international students. Check the application process and deadlines for campus accommodation. If you prefer private housing, research areas via university housing offices or trusted websites. Ensure you budget for any deposit and note that you might need to pay a few months rent upfront if off-campus.

Visa Process: We will cover this in detail in the Visa and Travel section below, but note that you will usually apply for your UK Student Visa about 3 months before your course starts. You'll need the Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS) from your university, which is a unique code they issue after you meet conditions and possibly pay a deposit. Keep an eye on your email for CAS instructions around May/July for a September start.

Plan Travel: Compare flight prices and plan to arrive in the UK a week or two before your course (you are allowed to arrive up to one month early if your course is longer than 6 months). This gives you time to settle in. Attend any pre-departure briefings (British Council sometimes organizes these in Nairobi for UK-bound students).

Packing and Preparation: Prepare necessary documents (passport, offer letter, transcripts, etc. carry these in hand luggage). Pack appropriately remember UK weather can be cold and damp; invest in a good coat but you can also buy things there. Perhaps bring some Kenyan cultural items too there will be international student events where you can share your culture (plus it might help with homesickness to have a bit of home with you).

(We will address soft landing tips in Appendix 5, including opening a bank account, getting a SIM card, registering with a doctor, etc., to help you adapt smoothly.) Case Example:

Aminas Journey to a UK Masters

Amina always dreamed of specializing in public health. She selected three UK universities known for health sciences. With guidance, she applied by January. By March, she had two offers one conditional on finishing her Kenyan degree with at least a Second Class Upper. She worked hard and achieved it. Meanwhile, she applied for (and won) a partial Commonwealth Shared Scholarship that covered 60% of her tuition. She saved the rest. After meeting all conditions by July, she received her CAS and secured her visa by August. When Amina landed at Heathrow, a university airport pick-up team was there. Fast forward a year: Amina not only earned her MSc with distinction, but also made valuable connections through an internship her university arranged. Shes now on the Graduate Route visa, gaining work experience with an NHS public health project.

(This example shows that while the process is intensive, the outcome can be truly rewarding.) PhD

Pathway

Pursuing a PhD (doctorate) in the UK is a substantial commitment typically 3 to 4 years of research that results in an original contribution to knowledge. For those passionate about research or aiming for academic/advanced industry careers, a UK PhD can be ideal. The UKs system often expects you to have a fairly concrete research proposal when applying. Lets break down how to secure a PhD position as a Kenyan applicant:

1. Defining Your Research Topic and Finding a Supervisor

Unlike taught degrees, PhD placements depend heavily on research fit between you and the university faculty.

Develop a Research Proposal: Start with a topic you are curious about. Read recent papers or your undergraduate/Masters thesis work in that area. Identify a gap or question that hasn't been fully answered. Your proposal doesn't need to be final (it can evolve once you start), but it must show you understand the field and have a direction. Typically, a proposal is 1,000-2,000 words detailing: research objectives, literature background, methodology you might use, and expected contribution.

Find Potential Supervisors: Look for professors/lecturers in UK universities who specialize in your area. University department web pages often list faculty and their research interests, plus recent publications. Tools like ResearchGate or Google Scholar can also help find active researchers in your field. For example, if you want to research renewable energy engineering, you might find a professor at Imperial College whose papers you've read.

Contacting Supervisors: Draft a polite email to potential supervisors. Introduce yourself (brief academic background, any relevant research or publication experience), attach your CV, and most importantly, explain your research idea and why you are approaching that academic – mention specific alignment with their work. Ask if they are accepting new PhD students and if they'd be interested in your proposal. It's good to email several (individually, not in a mass email) to gauge interest. Many may not have funding or might be full – don't be discouraged.

Refine Based on Feedback: If you get a positive response, great! They might guide you through next steps (some will even help refine your proposal or inform you of funding opportunities). If responses are lukewarm or suggest changes, use that constructive feedback to improve your approach.

Tip: Not all PhDs in the UK are advertised, but some are especially if they come with funding. Websites like FindAPhD list projects (sometimes with funding attached) which you can apply for directly, usually with a pre-defined research topic. Check those as well; you might find a project that excites you and apply like a job.

2. Application Process (PhD)

Once you have a willing supervisor or have identified a program:

Formal Application: This is often through the universitys postgraduate admissions, similar to a masters application but requiring your research proposal and the name of the supervisor who has agreed (or the project title if its an advertised studentship). Youll need academic references (preferably from professors who can attest to your research potential). You may also need to submit a writing sample (like your undergraduate or MSc thesis or a published paper if you have one).

Interview: Many PhD applications include an interview (often via video call for international students). This is both for the supervisor to gauge your understanding and for you to clarify details. Prepare to discuss your proposal and motivations. Treat it professionally have questions ready (e.g., about research group facilities, expectations, etc.). Its as much you interviewing them to ensure its the right fit.

Acceptance: You may get an offer letter similar to other degrees. Some offers might be conditional on funding or on language test results, etc. Accepting a PhD offer often entails a commitment to a particular supervisor/project.

3. Funding Your PhD

One of the biggest concerns for a PhD is funding, since it spans multiple years.

University Studentships and Scholarships: Many UK universities offer PhD scholarships or studentships (which may cover tuition and provide a living stipend). These could be general (open to any field) or specific (tied to a project or department). The Commonwealth PhD Scholarships (for citizens of Commonwealth countries, including Kenya) can fund a full PhD in the UK these are highly competitive and require you to apply via the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission by around January. Also, some university departments have their own funded PhD positions (often advertised on their websites or FindAPhD).

Graduate Teaching/Research Assistantships: In some cases, departments fund PhDs in exchange for some teaching or lab assistance. This might not cover all costs, but partial fee waivers plus a stipend for work can help. Explore if your chosen department offers this.

Split-Site PhD or Home University Funding: A creative route some use do part of the research at a home university in Kenya and part in the UK. Commonwealth Split-site Scholarship supports this for 1 year in UK and the rest at home. Alternatively, if you are employed by a Kenyan university or research institute, sometimes they sponsor staff for PhDs abroad on condition of return.

Self-funding: Some candidates self-fund by combining personal/family funds, perhaps part-time work and savings. Be aware that self-funding for 3+ years is a big financial commitment. If you choose this, consider studying part-time (PhDs can be done part-time over a longer period, which might allow working alongside, but visa-wise, part-time student status isn't eligible for a Student visa in the UK). Always ensure you have a contingency plan if funding sources change.

Expense Planning: PhD stipends (if you get one) range around £15,000-£18,000 per year for living costs. If you're budgeting yourself, use similar figures. Remember you can work 20 hours/week during term (which for a PhD usually counts year-round since research doesn't have term breaks like taught courses, but confirm with your visa conditions and supervisor – usually the 20-hour rule still applies throughout the year). Many PhD students do some paid teaching or tutoring for extra income (and experience), but you must balance this with research.

4. The PhD Journey What to Expect

While the manual can't cover the entire PhD experience, a few notes:

A PhD in the UK typically involves less coursework (some programs have first-year research training modules; many have none and it's pure research). You'll mainly work on your research under guidance of your supervisor (and perhaps co-supervisors). You might join a research group or lab.

You will likely undergo an initial review or upgrade after the first year: you submit a report and have a panel interview to confirm your progress to full PhD registration.

Writing the thesis is a marathon; start early by writing as you go (for example, draft literature review chapters in year 1, methods in year 2, etc., and revise).

It can be an isolating process at times – seek support from fellow PhD students, join doctoral workshops, and communicate regularly with your supervisor. If issues arise, universities have support structures for research students (like postgraduate tutors or ombudspersons).

From the visa perspective, you'll be on a Student visa for the duration (with possible extensions if it goes beyond the initially given time). After completing, you can switch to the Graduate Route visa for 3 years (since PhD grads get a 3-year post-study work visa), which is a great opportunity if you want to work in the UK or do a postdoctoral fellowship.

Timeline: PhD applications don't have a universal deadline like undergrad. Many start in September/October, but some programs allow January or May starts. Funding application deadlines often dictate when you apply. Aim to start contacting supervisors at least 12-18 months before you hope to begin. For example, if you want to start in Oct 2026, start reaching out in early 2025. That way you can apply for scholarships (Commonwealth PhD, etc.) in time.

The UK Student Visa and Travel (Masters & PhD)

Once you have an unconditional offer and have arranged funding, the next major step before you can start your studies is obtaining the UK Student Visa (formerly called Tier 4). This section applies to both Masters and PhD (and any other course over 6 months). We also cover bringing dependants, if applicable.

Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies (CAS)

To apply for the visa, you need a CAS number from your university. This is a unique electronic document issued by the school that confirms you've been accepted and details your course and payments. It will also list how much of your tuition is paid or any scholarship, and the financial amount you still need to show. You cannot apply for the visa more than 6 months before your course start (and typically you'll apply around 3 months prior).

Most universities issue CAS in late spring or early summer for autumn start dates. To get your CAS, ensure:

You have met all offer conditions and accepted the offer.

You have paid any required deposit.

You have submitted passport copies or other info the university asks for CAS issuance.

Complete any pre-CAS checks some universities do a short interview or form to double-check your details for the CAS.

Once you receive your CAS (usually via email), verify all details (name, passport number, course title, etc.).

Visa Application Steps

The Student visa application is done online on the UK Government website and then you'll attend a biometric appointment. Key steps:

Online Form: Complete the Student visa form on the website. It will ask for your personal info, passport details, CAS number, and questions about your background (like criminal convictions, medical TB test, etc.). Indicate if you plan to bring dependants (spouse/children) they'll file separate applications but you can link them as your dependants.

Tuberculosis (TB) Test: As a Kenyan applicant, you must provide a TB test certificate from an approved clinic (the UK government has designated clinics in Kenya such as IOM in Nairobi). Schedule this as it can take a week or more to get results. The certificate is valid for 6 months.

Financial Evidence: You need to show you have enough money to cover (a) any remaining tuition for the first year and (b) living costs for up to 9 months. The UKVI specifies the living cost amount currently £9,207 for 9 months outside London, or £12,006 for 9 months in London (this equates to £1,023 or £1,334 per month respectively) . If your course is longer than a year, you still just show 9 months worth of living costs. Acceptable evidence:

Bank statements (your personal account or parents account) showing the required funds have been in the account for at least 28 consecutive days and not dipped below the required total. The statement must be dated within 31 days of your visa application. If using parents funds, you need a letter from them and your birth certificate to prove the relationship.

Scholarship letter if you have a scholarship covering some or all expenses (the CAS might note university scholarships; for external ones like Chevening, you provide the official award letter).

Loan letter (must be official, showing the funds are provided by a recognised lender).

If you've paid part of tuition or accommodation to the university, that will be stated on the CAS and counts toward the required amount.

Note: Failure to show finances properly is a common reason for visa refusal, so double-check calculations and that statements meet requirements.

Immigration Health Surcharge (IHS): During the application, you'll pay the IHS, which gives you access to the

UK's National Health Service. It costs £470 per year of your visa (for a student) . If your course is 1 year, you pay ~£705 (covering slightly over 12 months). For a 3-year PhD, its roughly £1,410.

Visa Fee: The application fee is £363 (paid online, roughly KES 55,000) .

Biometric Appointment: After submitting the form and paying fees, you'll schedule an appointment at a Visa Application Centre (in Nairobi or Mombasa). Here you'll submit fingerprints and a photograph, and hand in your passport. You'll also provide your supporting documents (financial documents, TB certificate, academic documents, CAS printout, etc.). Often, supporting docs are now uploaded online in advance follow the instructions given. If any document isn't in English, include a certified translation.

Credibility Interview: Some applicants (randomly or based on profile) may be asked to do a short interview (often via phone or video at the VAC) where an officer asks about your study plans. Typical questions: Why this university/course? How will you fund your studies? What do you plan after graduation? Be honest and consistent with what you wrote in your application. These interviews check that you are a genuine student with plausible plans essentially to catch anyone who might be using a student visa as a pretext to work illegally. As long as you can confidently discuss your course and intentions, you'll be fine.

After the appointment, the standard processing time is about 3 weeks for a decision, though it can vary.

There are priority services at extra cost for faster decisions if needed.

Receiving the Visa and Traveling

If approved, you will get a visa vignette (sticker) in your passport valid for 90 days (this is your entry visa) and a decision letter. Once in the UK, you will collect a Biometric Residence Permit (BRP) card which is your full visa (this card is often to be collected at a designated post office near your university or on campus the letter will specify details).

Before travel:

Arrange temporary accommodation if needed (if you're arriving before dorms open or if you haven't secured long-term housing yet).

Book your flight and try to arrive on a weekday if possible (easier to contact university or landlord on arrival if any issues).

Pack original documents in carry-on (the immigration officer on arrival may ask to see your university acceptance or financial proof, though usually showing the visa vignette is enough).

Take note of UK customs rules e.g., don't carry fresh food or large sums of cash without declaration, etc., to avoid issues.

Upon arrival, the immigration officer may ask a couple of questions and check your documents. Be ready to show your passport with visa and your CAS or offer letter. Answer confidently about what and where you will study.

Important: You cannot arrive too early not more than 1 month before course start for courses over 6 months . And you should not arrive after your course has started; if you have to be late due to visa delays, inform the university to get permission.

Now you've made it to the UK as an international student! In Part 1s last section below, we outline what to do during and after your studies to maximize your experience and plan for your career or return.

Making the Most of Your UK Study & Post-Study Options

Your time studying in the UK will be full of new experiences. Here is how to make it count academically and professionally, and an overview of the path to work and settlement if that's your goal.

During Studies: Academics and Work Balance

Academics First: A masters can be intensive one year isn't long. Stay organized from the start. Use your universities academic skills centre if you need help adjusting to UK academic writing or referencing styles. Dont be afraid to ask questions in class or during office hours; UK education values critical thinking and interaction.

Part-Time Work: As mentioned, you can work up to 20 hours/week in term time on a Student visa . Common jobs for students include campus roles (library assistant, IT helpdesk, student ambassador), retail or hospitality work, or tutoring. Check your universities career service for on-campus opportunities campuses often prefer hiring students for flexible roles. Ensure work doesn't negatively impact your studies remember why you're there.

Internships: If your course has a lighter summer term or if you can handle some extra work, look for internships or volunteering in your field. This experience can be crucial if you plan to job hunt later. As a student, you are allowed to do internships (still within the 20-hour limit if during term). During vacations, you can work full-time including internships. For example, an MBA student might intern with a London firm in summer; an environmental science student might volunteer on a conservation project. These experiences build your CV and might even lead to a job offer.

Networking: Use the international setting to build friendships and professional connections. Attend events, join student societies (there are often African or Kenyan societies, as well as academic clubs). Networking can lead to mentorship and job leads. Also connect with the Kenyan High Commission in London for any diaspora events it can expand your network among professionals.

After Graduation: Graduate Route Visa (Post-Study Work)

One of the big advantages currently is the UK's Graduate Route (Post-Study Work) visa. This allows those who complete a degree in the UK to stay on and work:

Masters and undergraduates get 2 years, PhD graduates get 3 years of work authorization .

This is a fantastic opportunity to gain international work experience without needing immediate sponsorship. You must apply for this visa from inside the UK after you get your final results. It's relatively straightforward (no job offer needed to apply).

During these 23 years, you can work in any role (professional or not) full-time. Use this time wisely:

Secure Skilled Work: Aim to land a job that could qualify for a Skilled Worker visa if you want to stay longer. That means a job with a licensed employer and meeting the salary threshold (usually at least ~£26,000 per year, or higher depending on role). Many international students use the Graduate Route period to transition into a permanent role.

Network and Prove Yourself: If you get a graduate scheme or entry role, work hard and demonstrate your value so the employer will sponsor you when your Graduate Route is nearing its end.

Alternative Paths: If you're PhD-level and heading into academia or research, consider the Global Talent Visa (for researchers with exceptional promise requires endorsement by UK research bodies) as an alternative route. Or if you have a startup idea, the Innovator Founder visa might be an option. These are niche, however; the common route is Skilled Worker.

Skilled Worker Visa and Settling in the UK

The Skilled Worker visa is the main route to live and work in the UK long-term for non-students:

Requirements: You need a job offer from a UK employer that holds a sponsorship licence . The job must be at a certain skill level (generally graduate level or above, though since 2021 it includes many roles requiring A-level skill) and pay a minimum salary. For most jobs the minimum salary is around £26,200 per year, but it can be higher for certain roles (each occupation has a going rate). If the job is on the Shortage Occupation List (like certain engineers, IT professionals, nurses), a slightly lower salary threshold may apply.

Application: The employer will issue a Certificate of Sponsorship (CoS). You then apply for the visa (you'll have to pay the visa fee and another health surcharge for these work years). English requirement is covered by your UK degree. Processing is typically a few weeks.

Duration: Skilled Worker visas can be granted for up to 5 years at a time and can be extended. Importantly, after 5 years on a Skilled Worker visa, you can apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR), i.e. permanent residency, provided you meet requirements (continuous residence, no long absences, pass a Life in the UK test, etc.). ILR is the step before citizenship (which you can apply for after one year of ILR, if desired).

This means if your long-term goal is to settle in the UK, the pathway could be: Study (e.g. 1 year MSc) Graduate Route (2 years) Skilled Worker (5 years) ILR Citizenship. It's a journey of many years and personal circumstances (job opportunities, desire to return home, etc.) will influence your path. Many Kenyan students do return home with their new skills; others stay and make a life in the UK both are achievements in their own right.

If you intend to return to Kenya: Your UK qualification and experience will be highly valued by employers back home. Network with companies in Kenya while you're finishing up (perhaps via LinkedIn or at career fairs if you visit home during breaks) so they know you're returning. Also consider joining Kenyan alumni networks of your UK university or professional associations in Kenya relevant to your field.

Bringing Family (Dependants)

If you're a postgraduate student (Masters or PhD) on a course lasting 9+ months, you can bring your spouse and children as dependants on your student visa. You'll have to show additional financial funds for them. Your

spouse can work full-time in the UK (any job) as a dependant which can be a significant support if they find work. If you have young children, consider the schooling or childcare arrangements in the UK; dependants are not eligible for public funds (benefits), so healthcare is covered by their health surcharge but childcare or school fees must be privately arranged. Its a family decision whether to come together or for the student to go first then have family join later (on their own dependant visas).

A Note on Compliance:

While in the UK on a Student visa, always follow the rules:

Do not work more hours than allowed (if you accidentally work 25 hours one week, its technically a breach a serious one could jeopardize your visa).

Attend your classes; universities are obligated to report if a student stops attending (which could lead to visa curtailment).

Keep your address updated with the university and on your BRP if required.

Before switching any visa or if something changes (you decide to drop out, etc.), seek advice from the universitys international student advisor or UKCISA.

The good news is UK institutions have dedicated international student support offices they will help remind you of these things and guide you through visa extensions or any issues. And of course, Careers Academy Kenya is here if you need personalized advice at any stage.

Summary of Part I: Youve learned about selecting courses, applying for masters or PhDs, securing funding, obtaining your visa, and navigating work opportunities during and after study. The journey requires effort and attention to detail, but thousands of Kenyan students have successfully done it and thrived. In the next part, we switch focus to younger scholars children who might attend international boarding schools, setting them on a global education path from an early age.

(Before that, feel free to consult Appendix 1 for the list of UK universities and Appendix 4 for free resources like British Council and UCAS, which can further assist in your UK education journey.)

Part II: International Boarding Schools Pathway (for Children)

Sending a child to an international boarding school is a significant decision for any family. It can provide unparalleled educational opportunities, cultural exposure, and personal growth for the student. Kenya boasts excellent schools, but some parents consider overseas boarding schools (particularly in the UK and Europe) for various reasons specialized curricula (like the IB or A-Levels), a stepping stone to global universities, or the experience of independence in a diverse environment. In this part, we will guide you through the process of selecting and enrolling your child in an international boarding school, from research to application, and visas to adjustment.

Introduction to International Boarding Schools

What is an International Boarding School? Its generally a school where students live on campus during the academic term. International boarding schools often have a mix of students from different countries (including host country nationals and international students). Many follow well-known curricula:

The British system (GCSEs at 16, A-Levels at 18) common in UK boarding schools.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma offered by many international schools worldwide (including some in UK/Europe).

American high school diploma/AP curriculum (less common in Europe except at American international schools).

Other national systems (e.g. French Baccalaureat, German Abitur) if you look at broader Europe, but most Kenyan families opt for English-speaking schools.

Why Consider It? Boarding abroad can provide:

High Academic Standards: Many top UK boarding schools (e.g. Eton, Harrow, Cheltenham Ladies College) have centuries of experience and a track record of graduates proceeding to top universities.

Personal Development: Living away from home in a structured, supportive environment can build independence, resilience, and confidence. Students engage in sports, arts, leadership in a community setting.

Global Peer Network: Classmates from all over the world can form lifelong friendships and networks.

Special Opportunities: Some boarding schools have exceptional facilities (science labs, sports fields, theatres) and unique programs (like outdoor education in Swiss Alps schools or linkages with industry).

Pathway to University: A child who does A-Levels or IB in the UK, for example, might find a smoother transition to a UK or other international university, having already adapted to the education style and culture.

Of course, there are challenges: being far from family, higher cost, and adapting to a new culture at a young age. Thus, an ethical, thoughtful approach is needed to ensure its in the child's best interest.

(Throughout this section, remember that what works for one child may not for another. Every child's needs and maturity level differ. Parental support and communication are key to a successful boarding experience.)

Choosing the Right School

The right school depends on your child's academic needs, personality, and your family values and resources.

Here is how to narrow it down:

Curriculum and Academic Offering: Decide if you want a British-curriculum school (leading to GCSEs and A-Levels) or IB curriculum or an American-style school. British boarding schools are a popular choice for Kenyans due to familiarity (many Kenyan secondary curriculums are similar to the British O-Level/A-Level system). If aiming for flexibility or non-UK universities later, IB schools are excellent because IB is globally recognized. For example, Sevenoaks School in the UK offers the IB Diploma and is highly ranked globally. On the other hand, Eton College offers A-Levels and has a traditional British approach. Both paths can lead to top universities worldwide.

Co-ed or Single-sex: Some boarding schools are boys-only or girls-only (e.g., Eton is boys, Cheltenham Ladies is girls). Many are co-educational, especially in Europe and increasingly in the UK. Consider what environment your child would thrive in.

Age Range and Entry Points: Check the ages the school serves. Some are 1118, some start at 13, some have a sixth form (1618) entry for A-Levels/IB. Common entry points for UK schools are at Year 7 (age 11), Year 9 (age 13, often via Common Entrance exam or UKiset), or Year 12 (age 16, for sixth form). If your child is, say, 13, you'd likely look at entry into Year 9.

Boarding Type: Full boarding (student stays through weekends) vs weekly (student goes to a guardian or home on weekends) international students obviously do full boarding during term but might need somewhere to go during shorter holidays (some have host families or guardianship arrangements; more on that later).

Support for International Students: Does the school have English as Additional Language (EAL) support if your child needs to strengthen academic English? What about pastoral care do they have counsellors or house parents experienced in helping overseas students adjust?

Size and Facilities: Larger schools may offer more subject choices and activities; smaller ones may give more personal attention. Look at class sizes. Also consider extracurricular offerings if your child is a sports enthusiast, does the school have those sports (e.g., rugby, swimming, athletics)? If musically inclined, does the school have an orchestra or music tutors?

Location: For UK do you want a school near London (easier travel, more city opportunities) or in the countryside (often sprawling campuses, maybe quieter environment)? For Switzerland alpine vs city? Also consider travel logistics from Kenya (schools near major airports can be easier for unaccompanied travel).

School Reputation and Results: Look at leaver destinations (which universities students go to) and any notable strengths (some schools are known STEM strongholds, others for arts or humanities). League tables exist for UK schools (though interpret with caution and context).

Cultural Fit and Ethos: Some schools have religious affiliations (Catholic, Anglican, etc.), some are secular. Some are very traditional (think uniforms, prefect systems), others more progressive (first-name basis with teachers, flexible curriculum). For example, Gordonstoun in Scotland emphasizes outdoor education and character-building (its the alma mater of Prince Philip and King Charles III). UWC Atlantic College in Wales has a mission of peace and community service (part of the United World Colleges network). Align the schools values with your own.

Practical Steps in Research:

Create an Initial List: Perhaps 5-10 schools that fit your criteria (curriculum, age, etc.).

Attend Online Open Days: Many boarding schools now offer virtual tours or Q&A sessions for international parents.

Engage with Admissions: Email the admissions office introduce your child (age, current school/curriculum, talents) and ask about availability of places for the target entry year and any specific questions. Gauge their responsiveness and friendliness how they treat enquiries can reflect their culture.

Talk to Current Parents or Alumni: If you can find families in Kenya whose children attend or have attended certain schools, that insight is gold. They can tell you about the community and how well the school integrates foreign students.

Visit (If Possible): Its not always feasible, but if you can visit the school(s) in person before making a decision, it can be very helpful. Some families plan a trip to the UK/Europe to tour a few campuses. Schools will usually accommodate private tours for international families.

The Application Process (Boarding Schools)

Applying to a boarding school is somewhat similar to applying to a university, though timelines may vary and younger students will have tests and interviews appropriate to their level.

1. Check Entry Requirements and Deadlines: Boarding schools often have application deadlines about 6-18 months in advance of entry. For instance, for a September 2025 entry, many top UK schools have application deadlines in October or December 2024, especially if they require sitting a test in January 2025. Some schools have rolling admissions if places remain, but dont count on late applications for popular schools.

Some schools require a registration (with a fee) a year or more early to put your childs name down. Then formal exams/interviews follow.

Sixth form entry (age 16) sometimes has later timelines (early in the same year of entry), but again, check each school.

2. Entrance Exams: Most boarding schools will require your child to take some form of exam:

Common Entrance (CE): Traditional exam for Year 9 entry to many UK independent schools. However, its usage is declining; many now have their own tests or use the UKiset.

UKiset: This is an online aptitude test specifically for international applicants. It tests English, math, and reasoning. Many UK boarding schools accept a UKiset result as part of applications. It's a convenient one-time test that can be sent to multiple schools.

School-Specific Tests: Some schools have their own entrance papers in English, Mathematics, and possibly other subjects, which international applicants might take at the British Council in Nairobi or online with an invigilator. For sixth form, schools often have subject-specific tests (e.g., a math test for those wanting to take A-Level Math).

Interview (and maybe group exercises): Nearly all schools will interview applicants who pass the exam stage. Often these are via Zoom/Skype for international students. It's partly to assess English speaking ability and to get to know the student's personality and interests. Some schools (especially those like UWC) may have more involved selection days with group activities, essays, etc., but a typical boarding school will keep it straightforward.

School Reports and References: You will usually need to submit the child's recent school report cards and a reference from their current headteacher or class teacher. Ensure you inform your child's current school early so they can prepare a positive recommendation.

3. Offer and Acceptance: After tests and interviews, successful candidates receive an offer. This could be conditional (e.g., subject to achieving certain KCPE/KCSE grades, or improving English by arrival) or unconditional.

To secure the place, you typically pay an acceptance deposit (which can range widely, e.g., £1,000 to £5,000 or more for international students it often serves as an advance on fees or is held and returned at end of schooling).

You will also need to sign a contract agreeing to the schools terms (notice period for withdrawal, fee payment schedule, code of conduct, etc.).

Some schools might put you in touch with a guardian agency at this stage if you dont have a UK contact (see next point).

4. Guardianship: UK law (and good practice) requires that international boarding students have a UK-based guardian an adult in the UK who can act in loco parentis when the school cannot (e.g., during half-term breaks when dorms close, or if the child is sick and needs to leave school). If you have relatives or close friends in the UK, you can appoint them (with their consent). Otherwise, you will hire a professional guardianship service (schools can recommend agencies accredited by AEGIS). Budget a few hundred pounds per term for this service. The guardian will host (or arrange host families for) your child on short holidays and be an emergency contact.

5. Preparing Your Child: Once enrolled, prepare your child academically and emotionally:

If English isnt their strong suit, consider extra tutoring or enrollment in an English language holiday course before they start.

Talk through what to expect both the fun parts (new friends, activities, more independence) and the challenges (missing home, different food, discipline). Encourage a positive mindset and resilience.

Ensure all required items are procured: uniforms (often can be bought from the school store at the start), any laptops or calculators needed, etc. The school will provide a detailed packing list.

Sort out travel for the start of term: Will you accompany your child to settle them in? (Often recommended for younger ones if possible). Or will they fly as an unaccompanied minor (airlines offer that service, where staff supervise them through connections and handover to the school or guardian on arrival).

Financing and Scholarships for Boarding Schools

International boarding schools can be costly. For example, annual fees for UK boarding schools often range from £30,000 to £45,000. Swiss schools can be even higher. Here's how families manage:

Personal Funds: Many rely on personal or family funds. If pursuing this route, plan for the long term (several years of fees). Some schools allow termly or monthly payments rather than all at once.

School Scholarships: A number of boarding schools offer scholarships for exceptional students these might be academic scholarships, or talent-based (music, sports, art). However, at many traditional schools, scholarships might only reduce fees by 10%30%. A few schools and organizations offer larger awards:

Merit Scholarships: e.g., a top exam performer might get a percentage off tuition.

Foundation or Trust Scholarships: Some schools have endowment funds to support students who could not otherwise afford it, often based on need and merit together (called bursaries in the UK). These can sometimes cover up to 100%, but are very limited in number and highly competitive.

Organizations: The United World Colleges (UWC) movement offers scholarships for their 6th form colleges (including UWC Atlantic in Wales) through national committees in each country (the Kenyan UWC committee selects students for a full or partial scholarship for the IB program at UWCs worldwide).

HMC Projects Scholarships: In the past, HMC (Headmasters and Headmistresses Conference) offered scholarships to students from certain regions (mainly Eastern Europe) to attend UK schools. For sub-Saharan Africa, such centralized schemes are rarer, but keep an eye on any programs via the British Council or others.

Bursaries (Financial Aid): If your child performs exceptionally in the entrance tests, some schools may offer a means-tested bursary in addition to or instead of a scholarship. This would require disclosing your financial circumstances. For instance, a family with modest income might get a 50% reduction to enable their talented child to attend.

Payment Plans: Ask the school about payment plans. Most schools bill per term (3 terms a year). Some might allow monthly payments or accept payments in local currency via partner agencies, etc.

Other Costs: Remember to budget for extras: uniform, textbooks, trips, pocket money, flights home during vacations, guardian fees, visa costs, etc. Boarding fees usually cover tuition, accommodation, and meals, but not necessarily everything.

Work Opportunities: Unlike university students, boarding school students cannot work part-time jobs due to age and visa restrictions (and their schedule is full anyway). So financial planning falls entirely on the family/supporters.

Its advisable to speak to the schools admissions or finance office if you need assistance; they might guide you on scholarship applications or phased payments.

Student Visa and Travel for Boarding Students

If your child is enrolled in a UK boarding school and is not a UK or EU/EEA citizen, they will need a Child Student Visa (for ages 4-17) to study in the UK. The process is similar to the adult student visa with some differences:

The school will issue a CAS (Confirmation of Acceptance for Studies) for a Child Student visa.

You will apply online for a Child Student Visa. For children under 18, a parent or guardian will need to assist with the application. You'll provide the CAS, proof of funds (boarding fees + living costs), the child's passport, TB test for Kenya (yes, children also need the TB certificate if coming for over 6 months), and a consent letter from both parents (or legal guardian) confirming the child can study in the UK.

The financial requirement for a child at a boarding school is slightly different: you must show funds to cover boarding fees for one year (since boarding fees already include accommodation and food, that covers the living cost requirement).

If one parent is accompanying the child (allowed only if the child is under 12 years old, via a Parent of a Child Student visa), note that visa route has its own limitations (the parent cannot work in the UK, etc.). Most older children go alone and are cared for by the school and guardian.

Once the visa is approved, plan the travel. Many younger students travel as Unaccompanied Minors with the airline, where airline staff supervise them through to arrival. The school or guardian will pick them up at the airport.

Make sure the child carries the necessary documents in their hand luggage: the visa decision letter (which may have instructions on BRP pickup if applicable), the schools acceptance letter, guardian details, and your consent letter.

Upon arrival, UK Border may ask the child simple questions (or the accompanying parent if present). If a school representative or guardian is meeting them, that person may be allowed to accompany the child through immigration checkpoints.

For schools in other countries:

Switzerland: requires a student residence permit; the school will guide on this.

France or Germany: similar student visa process through their embassies.

Always coordinate with the schools international admissions office; they often have experience guiding families through visa paperwork for minors.

Finally, once your child arrives at the boarding school, the houseparents and staff will help them settle in. They'll be in a caring environment, but your support and communication are still crucial (more on supporting your child in the soft landing section in Appendix 5).

Appendix 1: UK Universities Directory

Below is an alphabetical list of all universities in the United Kingdom (recognised bodies) along with their official websites. Use these links to explore courses, entry requirements, and virtual tours for each institution:

University of Aberdeen
Abertay University

Aberystwyth University

Anglia Ruskin University

Arden University

Aston University

Bangor University

University of Bath

Bath Spa University

University of Bedfordshire

BIMM University

University of Birmingham

Birmingham City University

Birmingham Newman University (commonly known as Newman University Birmingham)

University College Birmingham

Bishop Grosseteste University

Arts University Bournemouth

Bournemouth University

BPP University (private university specialized in law and business)

University of Bradford

University of Brighton

University of Bristol

Brunel University London

University of Buckingham

Buckinghamshire New University

University of Cambridge

Canterbury Christ Church University

Cardiff Metropolitan University

Cardiff University

University of Chester

University of Chichester

City, University of London

St Georges, University of London

Coventry University

Cranfield University

University for the Creative Arts

University of Cumbria

De Montfort University

University of Derby

University of Dundee

Durham University

University of East Anglia (UEA)

University of East London

Edge Hill University

University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh Napier University napier.ac.uk

University of Essex

University of Exeter

Falmouth University

University of Glasgow

Glasgow Caledonian University

University of Gloucestershire

University of Greater Manchester (formerly University of Bolton; rebranded as of 2024)

University of Greenwich

Harper Adams University

Hartpury University

Heriot-Watt University

University of Hertfordshire

University of the Highlands and Islands

University of Huddersfield

University of Hull

Imperial College London

Keele University

Kings College London (KCL)

University of Kent

Kingston University

University of Central Lancashire (UCLan)

Lancaster University

University of Leeds

Leeds Arts University

Leeds Beckett University

Leeds Trinity University

University of Leicester

University of Lincoln

University of Liverpool

Liverpool Hope University

Liverpool John Moores University

University of London (federal university with multiple member institutions)

London Metropolitan University

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

London South Bank University

Loughborough University

University of Manchester

Manchester Metropolitan University

Middlesex University

Newcastle University

University of Northampton

Northeastern University London (formerly New College of the Humanities)

Northumbria University

Norwich University of the Arts

University of Nottingham

Nottingham Trent University

Open University

University of Oxford

Oxford Brookes University

Plymouth Marjon University (University of St Mark & St John)

Arts University Plymouth University

of Plymouth

University of Portsmouth

Queen Margaret University (Edinburgh)

Queens University Belfast

Ravensbourne University London

University of Reading

Regents University London

Richmond American University London

Robert Gordon University

University of Roehampton

Royal Agricultural University

Royal Holloway, University of London University of Salford

University of Sheffield

Sheffield Hallam University

University of South Wales

University of Southampton

Solent University (Southampton)

University of St Andrews

St Marys University, Twickenham

Staffordshire University

University of Stirling

University of Strathclyde

University of Suffolk

University of Sunderland University of Surrey

University of Sussex

Swansea University Teesside

University

University College London (UCL)

University of the Arts London (UAL)

Ulster University

University of Law

University of Wales

University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD)

University of Warwick

University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)

University of the West of Scotland

University of West London

University of Westminster

University of Winchester

University of Wolverhampton

University of Worcester

Wrexham University (formerly Wrexham Glyndwr University, rebranded 2023) University

of York

York St John University

Health Sciences University (formerly AECC University College; name changed in 2024)

Use this directory to visit university sites for detailed information on courses, campus life, and contact details for international admissions. Remember to verify any particular requirements or latest news (such as new name changes or mergers) on the official websites.

Appendix 2: Notable European Boarding Schools (with Websites)

This list highlights a selection of reputable boarding schools in the UK and Europe that have a history of welcoming international students, including those from Kenya. Its not exhaustive, but it provides a starting point across various countries. Always research each school in depth to ensure it aligns with your childs needs.

United Kingdom (UK):

Eton College (Windsor, England) All-boys; one of the most famous schools globally, traditional British education for ages 1318.

Harrow School (London, England) All-boys; historic school known for leaders/statesmen alumni (Winston Churchill was a Harrow alum).

Winchester College (Winchester, England) All-boys; among the oldest schools in the world, strong academics.

Cheltenham Ladies College (Cheltenham, England) All-girls; excellent academics and co-curricular opportunities.

Rugby School (Rugby, England) Co-ed; birthplace of rugby football, offers the IB Diploma or A-Levels.

Sevenoaks School (Sevenoaks, England) Co-ed; offers the IB Diploma, very international student body.

Gordonstoun (Moray, Scotland) Co-ed; known for its outdoor education and leadership (attended by British royalty).

UWC Atlantic College (Vale of Glamorgan, Wales) Co-ed (ages 16-19); part of United World Colleges, intense IB Diploma program with a focus on peace, community service, and sustainability (scholarship-based admission via UWC national committees).

Switzerland:

Institut Le Rosey (Rolle & Gstaad, Switzerland) Co-ed; often dubbed school of kings, very exclusive, bilingual English/French, offers IB Diploma and French Baccalaureate.

Aiglon College (Villars-sur-Ollon, Switzerland) Co-ed; international boarding school with British curriculum and IB, emphasis on outdoor pursuits and leadership.

College Alpin Beau Soleil (Villars, Switzerland) Co-ed; one of the oldest Swiss boarding schools, offers a truly international environment and full boarding.

TASIS Switzerland (Lugano, Switzerland) Co-ed; American-curriculum school (with AP courses) that also offers the IB Diploma, strong arts program and picturesque campus.

France:

Ecole des Roches (Normandy, France) Co-ed; a prestigious French boarding school with international track (offers French curriculum and IB Diploma, with strong French language support for non-Francophones).

Lycee International de Saint-Germain-en-Laye (near Paris, France) [Careers Academy Kenya Education Pathways Manual