

CREDIBLE TRAINING INSTITUTIONS IN KENYA

This document guides on how to find and identify credible training Institutions in Kenya. It describes what a credible training institution looks like, and provides Links/ websites where the relevant information about the credible institutions can be found in Kenya.

The Kenya National Qualifications Authority (KNQA) maintains records of all credible institutions, Qualifications and Learners in Kenya. See KNQA website: www.KNQA.go.ke. It is not difficult to find out if an institution is credible in Kenya or not. You need to look for four things:

- a) The Institution must be accredited;
- b) The Institution must be accredited to offer the qualification or part-qualification in question;
- c) Even if the training provider is registered and accredited, the qualification or partqualification that they are offering must be registered on the Kenya National Qualifications Framework (KNQF)
- d) For TVET and lower level qualifications, most train but are not allowed to award qualifications in their own name (they need a separate a legal mandate to do so, otherwise most students at this level are awarded qualifications by national examination bodies such as the KNEC and/or KASNEB). All Universities have a legal mandate to train and award Qualifications in Kenya.

Additionally,

- a) Students entering training institutions must meet prescribed entry requirements for that level (see <http://www.knqa.go.ke/admission-requirements/>)
- b) The volume/length of training must meet requirements as set out in the KNQF (see <http://www.knqa.go.ke/the-knqf-structure/>) described in form of years of learning, credits or notional hours.

In general a Bachelor's Degree takes 4 years (480 credits or 4800 notional hours) or more, Diplomas 2 Years (240 credits or 2400 notional hours) or more and Certificates take one year (120 credits or 1200 notional hours) or more. Foreign Qualification offered in the country must obtain Certificate of Qualifications Equivalence issued by the KNQA (on how they measure on the KNQF, see <http://www.knqa.go.ke/certificate-of-qualifications-equivalence/>

Accreditation of Training Institutions and Universities

In Kenya, all Universities and Training Institutions must be accredited to train. Universities can award qualifications for the programs that they have been accredited only. Universities and their programs are accredited by the CUE (www.cue.or.ke), while TVET Institutions are accredited by TVETA (www.tvetauthority.go.ke). Most TVET institutions are accredited to train, but not to award qualifications (with few exceptions such as Kenya Utalii college, Kenya Medical Training College, Kenya Water Institute, Bukura College, Kenya Wildlife Training College etc). All Universities are Governed under the Universities act no. 42 of 2012 (<https://www.knqa.go.ke/downloads>), while TVET Institutions are governed under the TVET act no 29 of 2013 (<https://www.knqa.go.ke/downloads>). In addition, All Qualifications in the Basic, TVET and University sectors are governed under the KNQF act no. 22 of 2014.

Universities

S/N	Category	No.	Remarks
a)	Public Chartered Universities	31	Allowed to train and award qualifications in areas for which they have been accredited by CUE and/or professional bodies (KNQF levels 5 to 10).
b)	Public Constitution Colleges	6	Allowed to train only Degrees and Diplomas awarded by mentoring universities (KNQF levels 5 to 10).
c)	Private Chartered Universities	18	Allowed to train and award qualifications in areas for which they have been accredited by CUE and/or professional bodies (KNQF levels 5 to 10).
d)	Private Constituent Colleges	5	Allowed to train only Degrees and Diplomas awarded by mentoring universities.

S/N	Category	No.	Remarks
e)	Institutions with letters of Interim Authority	14	Allowed to train and award qualifications for an interim period of 4 years only (KNQF level 5 to 10)

TVET Institutions

TVET institutions are established under various acts of parliament. Most TVET institutions in the country are only accredited to train (see tvetauthority.go.ke). Examination and award of qualifications is done mostly through national exam bodies such as KNEC, TVET, CDACC and KASNEB. A number of TVET institutions have their own acts of parliament that allows them to train, examine and award TVET qualifications (see section B-1, B-2 and B-3). The KNEC which carries out the majority of examinations and awarding of qualifications in the TVET sector also collaborates with foreign exam bodies to conduct foreign exams and award foreign qualifications. The National Industrial Training Authority (NITA), trains, examines several level 3 and 4 qualifications.

1. National Examination Bodies

S/N	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
1	Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC)	KNEC is established under the KNEC Act No. 29 of 2012 to oversee national examinations in Kenya. It conducts basic, and TVET exams. The Council also conducts exams on behalf of foreign exam bodies (see details at www.knec.ac.ke)	Conducts exams in the basic and TVET sectors of Kenya and awards certificates and Diplomas (KNQF levels 3 to 6). Also conducts the following foreign exams in the TVET sector (see www.knec.ac.ke).
2	Kenya Accountants and Secretaries National Exam	KASNEB is established under the Accountant's Act No. 15 of 2008, Certified Public Secretaries of Kenya Act, Cap. 534 of 1988 and the Investment and Finance	Conducts exams in the TVET (tertiary) sector of Kenya and awards certificates, Diplomas and

S/N	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
	Board (KASNEB)	Analysis Act No. 13 of 2015. Its mandate is to develop curricular, and conduct professional, technician and diploma exams and award qualifications in accountancy, finance, credit, governance, management and ICT.	professional qualifications (KNQF levels 3 to 6).
3	TVET Curriculum Development Assessment and Certification Council (CDACC)	TVET CDEACC is established under the TVET Act No. 29 of 2013. Its mandate is to develop curricular, and conduct exams, assessment and competence certification in the TVET sector.	Conducts exams, assessment and competence certification in the TVET sector Kenya and awards certificates and diplomas (KNQF levels 3 to 6).
4	National Industrial Training Authority (NITA)	NITA is established under the industrial training Act Cap. 237 of the laws of Kenya. Its mandate is to train, asses, develop training curricular, examine and award certificates in industrial training.	Accredits institutions, trains, examines and awards qualifications in industrial training (KNQF level 3 and 4).

2. Professional Bodies Awarding Qualifications In Kenya

S/N	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
1	Council for Legal Education (CLE)	CLE is established under the legal education act Cap 16A of 2009. Its mandate is to promote legal education and training; accrediting legal education trainers, training and conducting examinations and awarding academic certificates.	Conducts exams in the legal profession and awards academic certificates. Accredits and carries out quality assurance of institutions carrying out training in the legal profession.

S/N	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
2	Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK)	NCK is established under the Nurses Act Cap. 257 of the laws of Kenya. Its mandate is (with approval of the Ministry) to make provision for training of persons seeking registration under the act, prescribe and regulate curricular, recommend institutions for accreditation, carry out quality assurance, conduct exams and award qualifications.	Conducts exams in the nursing profession and awards professional certificates. Accredits and carries out quality assurance of institutions carrying out training in the nursing profession (in consultation with the Minister for Health).
3	Kenya Nutritionists and Dieticians Institute (KNDI)	KNDI is established under the nutritionists and dieticians act No. 18 the 2007 to provide for training, registration and licensing of nutritionists and dieticians; accredit institutions that are training nutritionists and dieticians.	Accredits institutions to carry out training in nutrition and dietetics. Has no mandate to award academic qualifications.

3. TVET Institutions With Legal Mandate To Award Qualifications

3.1. National Polytechnics

S/N	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
1	Kenya Technical Trainers College (KTTC)		Conducts training, examines and awards TVET qualifications (KNQF levels 3 to 6).
2	The Kisumu National Polytechnic		

S/N	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
3	The Eldoret National Polytechnic	These institutions are established under the TVET Act of 2013; and under respective orders are mandated to train, and award TVET qualifications.	
4	The Meru National Polytechnic		
5	The Kenya Coast National Polytechnic		
6	The North Eastern National Polytechnic		
7	The Sigalagala National Polytechnic		
8	The Kitale National Polytechnic		
9	The Kisii National Polytechnic		
10	The Nyeri National Polytechnic		

3.2. TVET Institutions In Various Ministries

S/No.	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
1	Bukura Agricultural College (BAC)	Bukura Agricultural College act Revised Edition 2012, (section 4)	To train and award qualification in Agriculture (KNQF levels 3 to 6)
2	Kenya Water Institute (KEWI)	Kenya Water Institute Act of 2012 (section 4d)	To train and award qualifications in water technology (KNQF levels 3 to 6)

S/No.	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
3	Kenya Forestry College (KFS)	Forest conservation and management Act of 2016 (section 17)	To train and award qualifications in forestry science and technology (KNQF levels 3 to 6)
4	Wildlife Research and Training Institute	Wildlife conservation and management act no. 47 of 2013; Act No. 19 of 2015; legal notice 105/2017.	To train and award qualifications in wildlife conservation and management (KNQF levels 3 to 6).
5	Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC)	Kenya Institute of Mass Communication order, 2011 section 4(d) and (e) legal order no. 197 of 2011.	To train and award qualification in mass communication, media and journalism (KNQF levels 3 to 6).
6	Kenya Utalii College (KUC)	Established under the Tourism Act, 2011.	To train and award qualifications in food production, hotel and restaurant management/hospitality (KNQF levels 3 to 6).
7	Kenya Medical Training College (KMTC)	Established under the KMTC Act of 1990.	To train and award qualifications in the medical field (KNQF levels 3 to 6).

Professional Bodies

In addition to the regulatory environment described above institutions training in professional fields such as Medicine, Engineering, Veterinary Medicine, Law, Architecture etc are required to comply with specific laws governing training of professional qualifications; and these are regulated by professional bodies in those fields.

Curriculum Development

Universities can develop their own programs which must be accredited by the CUE before training and awarding of the qualifications can commence. Within the TVET and basic education sector, curricular is developed by the KICD and CDAAC under the guidance of level descriptors and occupational standards developed by the KNQA.

Examination and Assessment

An institution can only award a National Qualification in Kenya if they have a legal mandate to do so. Only foreign qualifications which are registered in their countries of origin, and their

qualifications registered on the home national qualification frameworks can award qualifications in Kenya (after they obtain a Certificate of Qualifications Equivalence); and their qualifications are recognized and equated with local qualifications. All training providers used to train foreign qualifications in Kenya require to be accredited by TVETA (for TVET level qualifications), CUE (for University level qualifications) and ESQAC (for basic level Qualifications). All local and foreign institutions awarding qualifications in Kenya must be accredited and/or recognized by the KNQA.

In the TVET sector although there are over, 3000 training institutions, 95% of the qualifications at this level are awarded by KNEC, KASNEB and CDAAC; all of which are accredited by the KNQA.

Civil Aviation

The Kenya Civil Aviation Authority, established under the Civil Aviation Act No. 21 of 2013 approves and regulates aviation training institutions in Kenya; and carries out certification of aircraft operators (section 7(1), (3) and (6))

Registration of qualifications and part-qualifications

All qualifications and part-qualifications awarded in Kenya must be registered on the Kenya National Qualifications Framework. KNQA is the custodian of the KNQF and maintains a register of:

- a) All KNQF qualifications and part-qualifications;
- b) All Institutions awarding qualifications in the KNQF;
- c) The learners who have achieved KNQF qualifications;
- d) Recognized professional bodies and their professional designations; and
- e) External Quality assurance agencies (ETQAs).

Basic Education

Training for levels 1 & 2 qualifications is carried out through private and public primary and secondary schools accredited by the Education Standards and Quality Assurance Council (ESQAC) (see moe.go.ke). Most of the students sit for and are examined by the KNEC at KNQF level 1 (KCPE) and level 2 (KCSE). The KNEC also collaborates with various foreign exam bodies to administer exams at level 2 (see www.knec.ac.ke). Several schools also conduct KNQF level 2 exams directly with foreign exam bodies from various countries. KNQA equates most university entrance exams to KCSE. For a student who has taken foreign level 2 exams to qualify for direct university entry; they must be qualified for (must pass with same grades) university in the home country of qualification that they have taken.

S/No	Name	Legal mandate	Remarks
1	Kenya National Examination Council (KNEC)	a) KNEC is established under the KNEC Act No. 29 of 2012 to oversee and conduct National Exams in Primary (KNQF level 1) and secondary schools (KNQF level 2).	- Conducts exams in the basic education sector (KNQF levels 1) Kenya Certificate of Primary Education (KCPE); and Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE, KNQF level 2)
		b) KNEC is also mandated by law to collaborate with foreign exam bodies to conduct foreign exams. At KNQF level 2 these include;	- Also conducts foreign exams.
		i) Edul International (EI) – offering GCE/IGCE exams;	
		ii) International examinations (CIE) – GCE/IGCE Exams; and	
		iii) International Baccalaurate organization (IB Diploma).	