

**Junior Professional Officers (JPO) Programme**

**Terms of Reference**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

**Title:** Junior Professional Officer –Higher Education

**Organizational Unit:** Education Unit**,** UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya**.**

**Duty Station:** Nairobi, Kenya

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

As approved in the 41 C/4, Campus Africa's overall objective is to build integrated, inclusive, and quality tertiary education systems and institutions to develop inclusive and equitable societies on the continent. Practically all actions on higher education in Africa by UNESCO, HQs, Field Offices in Africa, and category 1 Institutes in the 2024-2025 biennium (42 C/5 ED Output 4), are expected to deliver on and contribute closely to the objectives of the Programme Campus Africa “Reinforcing higher education in Africa, within the implementation of the Operational Strategy Africa 2022-2029”.

Therefore, within the key global and regional framework documents (such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and specifically the Sustainable Development Goal 4, UNESCO Strategy on Technological Innovation in Education (2022–2025), African Union Continental Education Strategy for Africa (2016-2025), Transforming Education Calls to Action, and the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa Regional Support Strategy’s), UNESCO Education Sector is seeking a programme support staff to build on the work done in the eastern Africa region on improving access to quality higher education, and in particular the flagship 1 on Campus Africa.

The vision of Campus Africa:

The flagship seeks to enhance access to and quality of higher education in support of the SDGs in Africa, with a focus on three main pillars – (i) enhancing the research capacity of African tertiary institutions and increasing research outcomes through effective networking, knowledge sharing and partnerships; (ii) developing doctoral studies and facilitating mobility and access to scholarships and study grants; and (iii) improving relevance through partnerships with employers and youth skill development to enhance employability and entrepreneurship. It is underpinned by two cross-cutting pillars focusing on recognition and quality assurance as well as data and statistics.

Campus Africa will become the leading higher education, research, and capacity-building platform for Africa, which uses higher technical education, research, and innovation. It promotes regional collaboration, networking and knowledge sharing to promote African solutions to African problems with a global outlook.

As part of the ongoing work, UNESCO is collaborating with selected universities (at least 2 from each of the 13 countries in Eastern Africa) which have been nominated by the Ministers of Education to carry out the initial task of leading the process in consultation with other stakeholders of higher technical education in the region.

**SUPERVISION**

**Direct supervision by:** Lamine Sow, Head of Education Unit, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya.

Under the overall authority of the Head of the Education Unit, UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa, Nairobi, Kenya, with the direct supervision of the Education Programme Specialist responsible for Higher Education, the Junior Professional Officer will contribute to UNESCO’s Campus Africa flagship which seeks to enhance access to and the quality of higher education in support of the SDGs on the African continent.

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Within this context, the JPO will be responsible for:

* Studying the UNESCO global Operational Strategy for Priority Africa 2022-2029 Programme 1: Campus Africa – Reinforcing Higher Education in Africa and related publications for clear understanding.
* Following up with participating universities on their respective assignments in the implementation of ongoing and planned studies and research of the Education Unit by providing feedback and comments received from stakeholders from eastern Africa.
* Collating comments and reviews received and consolidated for action by the programme Specialist.
* Supporting the process of stakeholder engagement from universities, UNESCO Chairs, UNITWIN, Nobel prize winners, and researchers in Higher Education among others to improve understanding of the aim and expected outcome on Campus Africa.
* Providing and reviewing inputs for communication and visibility materials such as fliers, kakemonos, policy briefs etc. as required by different stakeholders on Campus Africa.
* Supporting the organization of online and in-person workshops on Campus Africa targeting stakeholders of higher education in Eastern Africa in particular, and Africa in general, inviting key governments, educational institutions, development partners, quality assurance council/agencies, NGOs, funding agencies, and institutions, including UNITWIN/UNESCO Chairs working in Higher Education.
* Supporting the creation and management of platforms and consortiums for engaging stakeholders in discussions and key actions required.
* Supporting project coordination efforts within the 13 countries under the auspices of the UNESCO Regional Office for Eastern Africa to advocate for ratification of the regional and global convention on higher education to achieve the pillars related to enhancing research capacities and doctoral programmes/academic mobility and employability of higher education graduates in Africa.
* Contributing to research and analysis on key challenges and priorities facing African tertiary education institutions.
* Drafting inputs for papers, briefings, speeches, publications and other materials.
* Backstopping the organization of side events, information meetings and missions.
* Contributing to the Education Unit resource mobilization strategy for Campus Africa implementation by proposing funding models, sustainability plans, and partnerships and networks among universities and entities to establish synergistic collaborations.
* Facilitating cooperation with Italian institutions and partners active in international cooperation.
* Supporting the monitoring and reporting on the Campus Africa flagship, following statutory obligations under the C/5 and donors’ requirements.

**REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS**

**Education:** Advanced university degree (Master’s degree or equivalent) in education, Higher Education, or a related field. A first-level university degree in combination with additional two years of relevant experience may be accepted in lieu of an advanced university degree.

**Work experience:**

* + Preferably a minimum of 2 years of relevant professional experience in project management, research, and advisory capacity in the field of Higher Education, university processes, and international relations or related areas.
  + Experience working in the field of education in an international organization or government is desirable.
  + Experience in the field of higher education is an asset.
* Previous work experience in a UN organization and knowledge of Eastern African countries is highly desirable.

**Competencies and skills:**

* Good report writing and project management skills.
* Excellent organizational and planning skills.
* Excellent (oral and written) communication skills, including the ability to draft and produce a variety of written material clearly and concisely.
* Strong research and analysis skills.
* Ability to work effectively in a team and to maintain good working relations within a multi-cultural environment.
* Ability to work under pressure and meet deadlines.

**Languages:** Excellent knowledge of English. Working knowledge of French is desirable.

**LEARNING ELEMENTS**

The JPO will:

* Acquire practical experience in the field of higher education.
* Contribute to the implementation of the Campus Africa flagship and gain a broader understanding of UNESCO’s work related to internationalization in higher education.
* Develop an understanding of the unique challenges facing African higher education systems and hands-on experience working with field offices.
* Deepen understanding of intergovernmental processes, multilateral negotiations and technical cooperation in the United Nations.
* Strengthen project coordination skills, including planning, monitoring, and reporting.
* Enhance professional competencies, notably problem-solving, time management, teamwork, intercultural exchange and communication.