

THE TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITIES

A PROFILE

JANUARY, 2024

Background and Core Functions

The Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) is a body corporate established on the 1st July 2005, under the Universities Act, Cap. 346 of the Laws of Tanzania with the mandate to recognise, approve, register and accredit Universities operating in Tanzania, and local or foreign University level programmes being offered by registered higher education institutions. It also coordinates the proper functioning of all universities in Tanzania to foster a harmonised higher education system in the country.

TCU succeeded the then Higher Education Accreditation Council (HEAC) that was established in 1995 under the Education Act, 1995 with a legal mandate to regulate the establishment and subsequent accreditation of private university institutions in the country. Being limited only to private universities, such mandate was considered unfavourable for the promotion of a viable public-private partnership in higher education as stipulated in the National Higher Education Policy of 1999.

Therefore, such circumstances prompted the government to establish a harmonised higher education system in the country which led to the establishment of the TCU. However, in order to ensure such a harmonious higher education system does not compromise institutional peculiarities and autonomy, each university is vested with the legal right to operate under its charter. The mandates and core functions of the Commission are provided for under section 5 (1) of the Universities Act, Cap. 346 of the Laws of Tanzania. These functions can be clustered into three major areas:

Regulatory Function:

To conduct regular and impromptu periodic evaluation of universities, their systems, and programmes so as to regulate the quality assurance systems at new and established universities and in the process, institutions are registered and accredited to operate in Tanzania. Also, TCU validates programmes to ensure their credibility and evaluates university awards attained from local and foreign institutions for use in Tanzania.

Advisory Function:

To advise the government and the public on matters related to university education in Tanzania as well as international issues pertaining to higher education, including advice on programme and policy formulation and other best practices.

Supportive Function:

To ensure the orderly conduct of university operations and management adherence to set standards and benchmarks by providing support to universities in terms of coordinating the admission of students, offering training and other sensitisation interventions in key areas such as quality assurance, university leadership and management, entrepreneurial skills and gender mainstreaming and fundraising and resources mobilisation.

TCU-Vision

Our vision is to become a leading regional higher education regulatory agency supporting systematic growth and excellence of university education in Tanzania.

TCU-Mission

Our mission is to promote accessible, equitable, harmonised and quality university education systems that produce nationally and globally competitive outputs.

TCU-Motto

Our motto is “Universities for Prosperity”

TCU-Core Values

In fulfilling our mission and pursuing our vision, TCU is guided by the following core values

1. Professionalism

We treat every individual with kindness, dignity and care; consider the thoughts and ideas of others inside and outside the Commission with a strong commitment to exemplary personal and institutional altruism, accountability, integrity and honour.

2. Transparency

We build up a work culture where employees rigorously communicate with their peers and exchange ideas and thoughts, to gradually building up trust and pride.

3. Efficiency

We manage resources smartly, focus on activities that create value and deliver at an appropriate speed and quality at all times.

4. Integrity

We ensure that all the academic outputs are produced in line with the international quality by introducing quality assurance measures.

5. Equity

We provide equal opportunities for all with equality of men and women.

6. Tolerance

We foster a spirit of equality that embraces mutual respect, fair play and compassion for those in need and the pursuit of the public good.

7. Accountability

We take charge of our choices and actions by showing maturity and not shift the blame on others or take improper credit. We pursue excellence with diligence, perseverance, and continued improvement.

8. Commitment

We demonstrate honesty in our communication and conduct while managing ourselves with integrity and reliability.

9. Creativity

We anticipate and respond to each challenge with innovative solutions and passion.

Success Story

Over the last 18 years of its existence, TCU has recorded remarkable achievements that have immensely contributed to the development of the higher education sub-sector in the country. The most pronounced achievements that are worthwhile mentioning include:

- i. Improvement of quality assurance practices in university institutions in Tanzania;
- ii. Successful coordination of admissions of students into higher education institutions;
- iii. Strengthened accreditation and quality assurance systems through development of standards and guidelines; and
- iv. Conducting regular capacity building workshops for university leaders and staff aimed at improving the quality of higher education in Tanzania.

These achievements are the results of a conducive environment provided by the Government of the United Republic of Tanzania, and also the private and public sector, and the Commission's initiatives to establish and sustain national and international collaborations due to the existing legal and regulatory framework of the education sector; stable political conditions; favorable economic conditions; integrated social-cultural environment, and demographic conditions.

Future Outlook

TCU agenda is to continue advocating the improvement of higher education, and specifically mitigating the challenges that are adversely affecting university education in Tanzania so as to enhance accessible, equitable, harmonised and quality university education systems that produce adequate and competitive human resources base for national development.

Besides, the Commission will continue to strengthen its systems and develop more tools and mechanisms for monitoring the quality of education in all university institutions in the country. More specifically, the Commission will continue to:

- i. Promote increased access and equity to higher education by:
 - a. Increasing higher education participation rate;
 - b. Creating mechanism for increasing female student enrolment rate;
 - c. Improving student enrolment rate in science-related programmes; and
 - d. Strengthening coordination for admission process in universities in Tanzania.

- ii. Improving quality assurance management systems in universities in Tanzania.
- iii. Strengthening linkages with internal and external partners and universities support systems.

Hence, the Commission will continue striving for quality higher education and put forward the interest of our nation. However, the desire to promote accessible, equitable,

The current TCU Organization Structure

The current Organisation Structure of the Tanzania Commission for Universities (TCU) has been approved by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania on 6th June 2018.

The TCU organisational structure is made up of the Commission as the supreme decision-making body (governing board) and the committees which serve as advisory role to the Commission. The day-to-day activities and implementation of the directives and resolutions of the Commission are handled by the secretariat of the Commission led by the Executive Secretary who is the Chief Executive Officer.

Within the secretariat, there are three core directorates whose functions feed the major committees of the Commission. The directorates are: Directorate of Accreditation; Directorate of Admissions Coordination and Database Management; and Directorate of Corporate Services. As a matter of procedures, the Directorates report to the respective Committees of the Commission on any matter that requires attention or approval of the Commission.

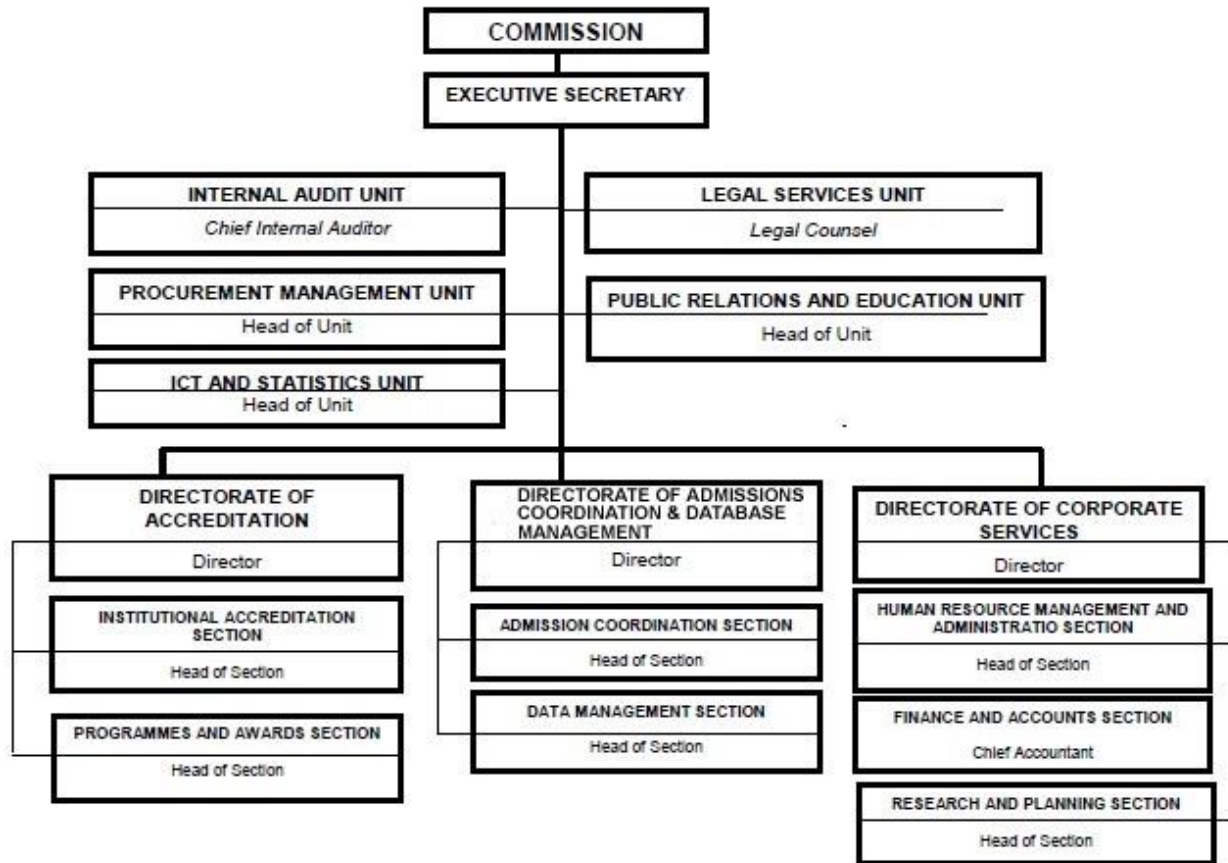
Directorate of Accreditation: The main objective of the Directorate is to provide advice on efficiency and effective coordination of all matters on registration, accreditation and quality assurance of in-country university institutions, systems, programmes and awards.

Directorate of Admissions Coordination and Database Management: The main objective of the Directorate is to coordinate and oversee admissions of students in university institutions in Tanzania. It is also responsible for developing systems and plans for managing collection of data related to admitted and graduate students, and lecturers in university institutions in Tanzania.

Directorate of Corporate Services: The main objective of the Directorate is to provide technical advice to the Executive Secretary on planning, finance, human resources and administration matters. It is also responsible for developing and implementing effective and efficient plans for human resource development, finance and administration matters and ensuring effective use of all resources of the Commission.

Hence, TCU's secretariat comprises a team of professionals and well-experienced staff who serve the Commission and stakeholders diligently to promote national interests.

ORGANISATION STRUCTURE OF THE TANZANIA COMMISSION FOR UNIVERSITIES



Contact us

All correspondence should be addressed to the Executive Secretary, Tanzania Commission for Universities via the address below:

SUMA JKT House,
1 JKT Street, 41104 Tambukareli,
P. O. Box 2600
DODOMA

Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Building,
7 Magogoni Street 11479,
P. O. Box 6562
DAR ES SALAAM

E-mail: es@tcu.go.tz

Tel: (255) 22 2113694; (255) 22 2113691