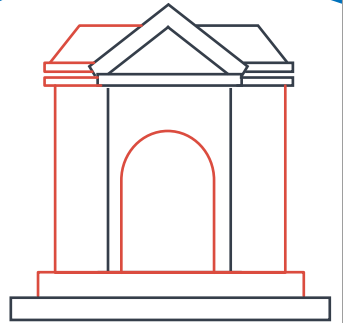


Complementary Pathways

HABESHA PROTECTION
SCHOLARSHIP
2026

KENYA






Are you looking for
an opportunity to
transform your future
through
**HIGHER
EDUCATION?**



USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean invites refugees or asylum seekers living in Kakuma Refugee Camp, Kenya to join the **Habesha Project: Complementary Pathways**. This program opens the doors to higher education institutions in Aguascalientes, Mexico for those interested in pursuing studies at the technical degree level. If you hold official recognition as a refugee or asylum seeker, this is your chance to restart your educational and professional journey.

<p>LOCATION: AGUASCALIENTES</p> 	<p>Available Universities: Universidad Tecnológica del Norte de Aguascalientes Universidad Tecnológica del Retoño</p> <p>Level of Education TSU (Associate or Higher Technical University Degree)</p>	
<p>Academic Scholarship Value: 100% academic scholarship (includes monthly tuition, does not cover registration fees, books, or degree costs. These costs will have to be absorbed by the selected candidates)</p>		
<p>Fields of Study/ Academic Offerings: -Information Technology - Business - Engineering</p>		
<p>Financial Support Value: 9000 MXN per month until August 2027.</p>		
<p>Eligibility Criteria: Academic Performance (15%), Vocational Orientation (5%), Competencies (50%): Self-motivation, Academic Commitment, Adaptability, Language and Cognitive Competencies and Independence. International Protection Needs (30%)</p>		
<p>Number of Scholarships Available: 2</p>	<p>Age Limit: 23 years old</p>	<p>Language of Instruction: Spanish</p>
<p>Duración de la beca: 1 year from the start of studies (This information refers to financial support). A second year will be considered upon the availability of funds.</p>		
<p>A student visa is provided to ensure legal stay during studies. Meanwhile, an asylum application in Mexico is processed to obtain permanent residency. *</p>		

**This full-time scholarship includes an initial year of intensive Spanish language studies, followed by coursework leading to a Higher Technical University Degree in key fields. Additionally, the scholarship places significant emphasis on the international protection needs of applicants, as they will be required to apply for asylum in Mexico to obtain permanent residency. However, it is critical to acknowledge that refugee recognition is not ensured.*

About USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean

The U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants (USCRI), established in 1911, is an international non-governmental, non-profit organization dedicated to addressing the needs and rights of refugees and immigrants. USCRI advocates for the rights of these communities both nationally and globally, driving humanitarian policies, practices, and legislation.

As the regional office of the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean oversees and manages offices in Mexico, Honduras, and El Salvador. It also provides sustainable solutions to forced displacement through higher education opportunities in Mexico for young refugees from around the world. By mobilizing resources and a network of leading universities, it enables refugees to pursue university studies in Mexico through the Habesha Project.

This program implements Habesha Americas and Habesha Complementary Pathways. The latter is an initiative aligned with the Global Compact on Refugees, particularly with Complementary Pathways which aims to create legal and safe pathways to complement resettlement in which refugees and asylum seekers in a first country of asylum can see their international protection needs met. Through a holistic model, the initiative offers complementary educational pathways that will offer durable solutions and a regular and safe stay in Aguascalientes, Mexico.

To date, the Habesha Project has supported students and graduates from Somalia, South Sudan, Syria, Palestine, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Colombia, Yemen, and Haiti.

USCRI LAC is committed to fostering an inclusive and equitable environment, ensuring that everyone has access to the same opportunities regardless of race, color, ethnicity, nationality, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, or disability. Our commitment is rooted in respect of diversity and non-discrimination, guaranteeing a space where every individual can thrive to their fullest potential.

1. PROGRAM BENEFITS

100% academic scholarship for a Higher Technical University Degree (TSU) at the following universities¹

- Universidad Tecnológica del Norte de Aguascalientes (UTNA)
- Universidad Tecnológica El Retoño (UTR)

Cost of the plane ticket to Mexico will be fully covered, and local travel expenses will either be fully covered or reimbursed.

Support with the application process and logistical assistance with embassies for the student visa application process for arrival in Mexico.

Note: Final decision depends on the granting authority (Mexican Ministry of Foreign Affairs).

Monthly allowance up to 9000 MXN for 1 year. The second year is subject to funding availability.

Note: The stipend is specifically intended to cover rent, food, and transportation.

Annual incorporation into the Mexican Institute of Social Security (IMSS)² during studies.

Loan of a laptop for your studies.

Spanish language classes through the Spanish Language Acquisition and Culture Intensive Course (CIAEC) in the first year in Mexico to reach a B2 level.

Legal and migratory support for processes with the National Institute of Migration (INM) and the Mexican Commission for Refugee Aid (COMAR).

Note: These processes are designed to ensure that students maintain legal residency in Mexico. To achieve this, they must apply for refugee status and international protection in the country. The final decision regarding their immigration status will be made by the relevant authorities.

2. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Age: Between 18 and 23 years old (for TSU).

Marital Status: Single and without children.

International Protection Status: Be recognized as a refugee in Kenya

Complete Documentation: Includes a UNHCR Manifest, Kenya Government ID, KCSE (or secondary certificate), an Essay and Cover letter.

Language: Minimum B1 level in English.

Residency: Currently residing in Kakuma Refugee Camp.

Academic Performance: Minimum of C+ in previous academic performance (or 7 in Mexican Scale)

Academic Focus: Clear interest in pursuing a specific academic path offered (IT, Business or Engineer)

Barriers to university education: they are currently facing significant barriers to university education.

International Protection Needed: are currently lacking effective protection in the country of asylum.



¹Under requirement to maintain the minimum GPA of the university and the university's regulations to maintain the academic scholarship.

²IMSS: Mexican Social Security Institute that provides health insurance as a national public service.

Offered Academic Programs

Higher Technical University Degree (TSU): This academic title in Mexico is equivalent to an "Associate Degree" in other countries. It is designed to provide specialized technical training, focusing on preparing students with both practical and theoretical skills to enter the workforce in specific sectors.

Available offer:

Universidad Tecnológica del Norte de Aguascalientes

- Associate degree in Information Technologies: Multiplatform Software Development
- Associate degree in Administration
- Associate degree in Automation
- Associate degree in Mechanics: Automotive Area
- Associate degree in Flexible Manufacturing Systems (Mechatronics)
- Associate degree in Cross-Platform Software Development
- Associate degree in Artificial Intelligence
- Associate degree in Production Processes
- Associate degree in Accounting
- Associate degree in Human Capital Management
- Associate degree in Industrial Maintenance
- Associate degree in Supply Chain Management
- Associate degree in Marketing
- Associate degree in Sustainable and Protected Agriculture

Universidad Tecnológica del Retoño

- Associate degree in Data Science: Artificial Intelligence Area
- Associate degree in Information Technologies: Multiplatform Software Development
- Associate degree in Mechatronics: Automation
- Associate degree in Marketing
- Associate degree in Human Capital Management (HR)

4. HOW TO APPLY

Fill out the application form with all required information and documents at the following [link](#).

All documents must be legible and uploaded in PDF format:

- Original and Scanned copy of Birth Certificate
- Scanned copy of the UNHCR Proof of Registration
- Scanned copy of the valid Kenyan Government Refugee ID · Original and Scanned copy of KCSE or equivalent certificate (secondary education).
- Original and Scanned copy of the KCPE or equivalent certificate (primary education).
- Original and Scanned copy of high school grades/academic transcript
- Recent face-picture with a white background
- Cover letter (see Annex 1 for guidelines)
- Academic and Personal Essay (see Annex 2 for guidelines)
- Letter of Recommendation (optional)
- Other academic certificates (optional)

Note: Selected candidates must be aware that they must have the required original documents for revalidation purposes.

The application form will be open from May 1st, 2026, until May 31st at 23:59 hours, Kenya time. For any questions, please contact convocatorias@refugees.org



5. STAGES OF THE PROGRAM EVALUATION AND ACCEPTANCE PROCESS

The evaluation process will begin with the receipt of applications and documentation. In this preliminary stage, basic selection criteria and exclusion factors will be considered to determine which applicants advance to the next phase.

Shortlisted candidates will undergo a comprehensive evaluation including the following three key phases:

1. Academic Assessment and Document Review:

Candidates' academic preparation will be assessed through the submitted essay and cover letter. Only those who meet the minimum requirements will proceed to the next phase.

2. Interview on Skills, Competencies, and Motivations: This phase aims to identify candidates with the essential competencies for success in the program, including:

- i. Self-motivation
- ii. Academic commitment
- iii. Adaptability
- iv. Linguistic and cognitive skills
- v. Independence

Candidates who meet these criteria will move on to the final phase.

3. International Protection and Vulnerability Assessment Interview: Given the humanitarian focus of the program, each candidate's vulnerability situation will be analyzed to prioritize those with the greatest need for international protection and support.

Upon completing all stages of the process, the final selection will be made based on both academic and humanitarian criteria.

Selected students will be notified no later than **June 22nd, 2026**, and must complete an acceptance process, confirm their academic offer, and agree to the scholarship's terms and conditions.

May 1st	May 1st – May 31st	May 31st	June 1st – June 5th
Launch of Call for Applications	Submission of documents and information via the application form	Call for Application closes	Selected candidates will proceed to an interview. The interview panel will consist of the USCRI LAC team
June 6th – June 14th,	June 15th - June 19th,	June 22nd – June 26th,	June 29th – July 15th,
Interviews Period	USCRI LAC will create candidate profiles for each interviewee for evaluation	The USCRI LAC selection committee will notify selected students no later than June 22 and leave a confirmation period until June 26	Confirmation and pre-trip preparation period for selected candidates

6. CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE APPLICATION PROCESS

- In cases where candidates submit multiple applications, only the most recent application will be considered.
- Ensure you answer all questions completely and honestly and submit legible documents. Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- The Habesha Protection Scholarship is open to young people with refugee or asylum seeker status from all nationalities. There are no quotas or targets based on a country of origin.
- Candidates who misrepresent any information or falsify their documentation to become eligible for the scholarship will be disqualified from this call and future opportunities.
- The scholarship does not cover the relocation of any family members of the selected candidates.
- All stages of the application process are entirely free of charge. If you experience or witness any corruption or unethical behavior during the application process, please report the incident to: azuniga@refugees.org

7. ACCEPTANCE PROCESS:

If selected, you will need to complete an Acceptance Process, which will take approximately one month. During this period, you will receive all the essential information about the scholarship program. This process includes:

- Profile Validation with UNHCR Kakuma: Your profile will be revalidated with UNHCR Kakuma to ensure consistency with the information provided during the selection process.
- Presentation and signature of the Informed Consent and the Scholarship Regulations: You will be introduced to the obligations and responsibilities within the program, which you must sign and submit.
- Explanation of the Code of Conduct and the Protocol for the Prevention and Handling of Cases of Abuse, Exploitation, and Sexual Harassment.

Once the scholarship is signed and accepted, you will receive the official acceptance letter.

8. ANNEX 1: COVER LETTER

Write a letter describing why you think you would be a good candidate for the program and outline your preferences, expectations, and future aspirations.

Requirements

Length: 500 words.

Format: Arial or Times New Roman font, size 12, single-spaced and justified text.

Addressed to: USCRI Latin America and the Caribbean

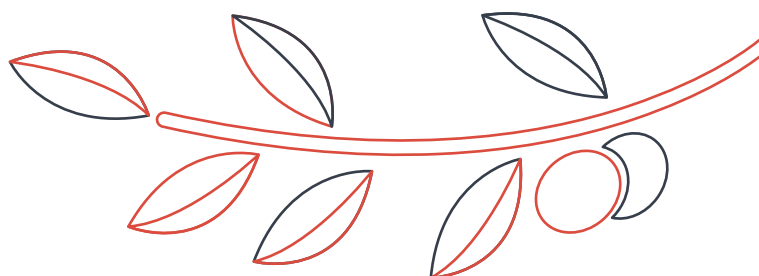
Evaluation

The letter of motivation corresponding to the Habesha Protection Scholarship will be evaluated by the Selection Committee based on the following rubric: Organization and Format, Introduction, Content, Closing Statement, and Writing and Spelling.

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT
Organization and format	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meets the requested format. • The letter is the appropriate length, including an opening paragraph, a body, and a closing paragraph. • The letter is addressed to USCRI LAC. 	10%
Introduction: Personal Presentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides a full picture of the applicant's personality, interests, and values. • Has a thoroughly demonstrated what is important to the applicant by sharing their passion and hopes for the future. • Engages the reader and provides an authentic and memorable insight into the applicant's personality, character, and strengths. 	20%
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter highlights two or more examples as to why the candidate should win the scholarship. • Addresses at least one specific career goal, explains it, and relates it to the personal information mentioned above. • Provides a solid statement of professional objectives. • Demonstrates a deep and sustained commitment to one or more activities outside of the classroom environment. • The letter shows enthusiasm for the Habesha Protection Scholarship. 	40%
Closing statement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The closing of the letter is assertive. • Includes a final statement of the candidate's motivation to get the scholarship. • Thanks the reader, includes plans to follow up, welcomes further contact, and provides adequate contact info (email, phone, etc.). 	20%
Writing and Spelling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The letter has no spelling, punctuation, or grammar mistakes. • The writing is fluid. 	10%

Generative AI declaration – Cover letter

You **MUST NOT** use Generative AI tools to generate your cover letter for the Habesha Protection Scholarship. This is a form of plagiarism which will be treated as an Assessment Offence and have serious repercussions in your application.



9. ANNEX 2: ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL ESSAY

Write an essay that combines your personal perspective with an academic analysis of your future career. Below are three key questions that will guide your writing:

1. What motivates you to pursue this career and how do you plan to contribute to this field?
2. How do your skills and aptitudes influence the career you want to study?
3. How is the field you wish to study related to an existing problem in your community or in the world? (It is important that you research and explain a problem that can be addressed from the field you want to study).

Your essay should be coherent, reflective, and based on your personal motivations, skills, and the potential impact of your field of study.

Evaluation

The essay will be graded based on four key areas, which you should consider while writing your academic and personal essay. These criteria are interrelated, so it is expected that your essay demonstrates clarity, coherence, solid research, and a well-structured critical reflection.

CRITERIA	DESCRIPTION	WEIGHT
Clarity and Structure Quality	<p>Form: Proper use of spelling, logical order of ideas, and connectors.</p> <p>Content: Coherence between main and secondary ideas, use of clear examples.</p>	30%
Research Ability	<p>Correlation between sources and ideas: Relationship between research and the essay's arguments.</p> <p>Use of references: Proper inclusion and citation of sources</p>	30%
Vocational Orientation	<p>Mention of the career or field of study: Justification for your choice.</p> <p>Motivation: Clarity of expectations and professional objectives.</p>	20%
Critical Thinking	<p>Justification of ideas: Presentation of solid, well-structured arguments.</p> <p>Analysis and evaluation: Use of evidence, context analysis, and proposals.</p>	20%

These criteria are interrelated; therefore, your essay should demonstrate clarity, coherence, sound research, and well-structured critical reflection.

Generative AI declaration – Academic and Personal Essay

You **MUST NOT** use Generative AI tools to generate your academic and personal essay for the Habesha Protection Scholarship. This is a form of plagiarism which will be treated as an Assessment Offence and have serious repercussions in your application.

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