

International Students Guide Booklet



Strathmore University

International Students Affairs
Office.



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International Students Affairs Office

The International Students Affairs office, under the office of the Dean of Students, is responsible for planning, coordinating and implementing a variety of programs and services which are designed to assist and support international students in achieving academic and personal success.

We engage students and cultivate opportunities for academic and personal achievement through service, education, leadership and community building. At Strathmore University, we strive to prepare and empower students for life, not just for employment.

In recognition that students come to campus from many different places, with different backgrounds, and different needs, every effort is made to provide the best and most comprehensive resources possible for students' academic and personal advancement.

It takes tremendous creativity, energy, and dedicated personnel to make our campus environment the most invigorating and inspiring place it can be for fostering lifelong learning and personal growth and development for students.

In this booklet, you will find a lot of information, ranging from Immigrations issues, Tenancy laws of the land, Medical covers for international students, and Activities we do for international students.

**International Students Office Location:
Student center 3rd floor.
Email: studentpass@strathmore.edu**

WELCOME TO NAIROBI

(Karibu Nairobi)

Nairobi is the capital and largest metropolis of Kenya. The name comes from the Maasai phrase 'Enkare Nairobi', which means "fresh water", a reference to the Nairobi River that flows through the city. The city proper had a population of 3,138,369 at the 2009 census, while the metropolitan area had a population of 6,547,547. The city is often referred to as the Green City in the Sun.

Important Land Marks

Kenyatta International Convention Centre

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A 28-story structure called the Kenyatta International Convention Centre (KICC), formerly known as the Kenyatta International Conference Centre, is situated in Nairobi, Kenya. Nairobi's City Square is where you'll find the KICC. Several government offices, including those of recently elected Senators, must be at this address. Within walking distance of several five-star hotels, it is a well-known international location for conferences, meetings, exhibits, and special events. In its 41-year history, it has played host to a number of global summits, exhibitions, conferences, and seminars.

The Arboretum

The Supreme Court of Kenya has the most cases on its docket. It is constituted by Article 163 of the Constitution of Kenya. It is the supreme court of the land, and as such, its decisions are binding and are used as a guide by all lower courts.

Nyayo House

Nairobi, Kenya is home to Nyayo House, a skyscraper. It houses a number of government agencies, including the State Department for Immigration, Border Control, and Regulation of People, and acts as the administrative center for Nairobi Province. The structure can be seen near the intersection of Kenyatta Avenue and Uhuru Highway. At 27 stories, it is 84 meters tall. All immigration services are done in this location.

Karura Forest

Nairobi, Kenya's capital, is domestic to the city wooded area referred to as Karura Forest. The Kenya Forest Service and the Friends of Karura Forest Community Forest Association jointly administer the forest, which was gazetted in 1932. Limuru and Kiambu roads divide the 1,041 ha (2,570 acres) that make up Karura Forest into three sections.

The sigria salient to the west is around 250 ha, while the vast middle part is approximately 710 ha (1,750 acres) (620 acres). Special national priorities have been assigned to the area east of Kiambu Road. 36% of the forest, as of the middle of 2016, is made up of native upland forest tree species. Almost 200 different bird species can be found in the forest, along with suni, Harvey's Duiker, bushbucks, bushpigs, genets, civets, honey badgers, bush babies, porcupines, Syke's monkeys, bush squirrels, hares, fruit bats, and other reptiles and butterflies. Visitors can now walk, run, or ride a bike on more than 50 km of paths in Karura.

A medium shot of a young Black man with short hair and a beard, wearing clear-framed glasses and a white shirt with a dark red geometric pattern. He is smiling and looking down at his black smartphone, which he is holding in his right hand. A black beaded bracelet is visible on his right wrist. He is standing outdoors, with a light-colored building featuring large windows in the background.

IMMIGRATION SERVICES

It is required by law that any foreign national seeking to enter Kenya for purposes of working, learning, touring or any other activity that is accepted in the land, should apply and attain a permit that will recognize and facilitate them. Some of the permits required are Entry visas, Student pass, Work permits and the exit visas.

Types of Services

Entry visa

This is an official permission granted to foreign nationals to enter and remain in Kenya temporarily for a specific period of time. An entry visa is granted at the embassy representing Kenya in the country of origin or at the point of entry into Kenya e.g. Airports or the boarders.

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Visa Extension

A foreign national who has already been granted permission to enter and remain in Kenya for a short period of time is eligible to apply for extension of the visitor's visa/pass up to a limit of 6 months upon expiry of the entry visa. The Visa extension applications and grants are done at the department of Immigration services or the Nyayo house. Seek assistance from the office of international student's affairs for assistance.

A point to note: Any international student intending to stay in the country for a longer period should visit the Immigrations department and seek an Entry Visa extension or visit the international student's affairs office, Strathmore University for assistance.

Student pass/Internship passes

This is a document issued to applicants (foreign nationals) (under section 30(1) of the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Regulations 2012, who wish to pursue their education in Kenya's Education or Training Institutions where they have been accepted or admitted. The applicant must have been accepted as a student by an approved Educational or Training Establishment.

Requirements for a student pass application to be submitted by or on behalf of a student:

First time applications

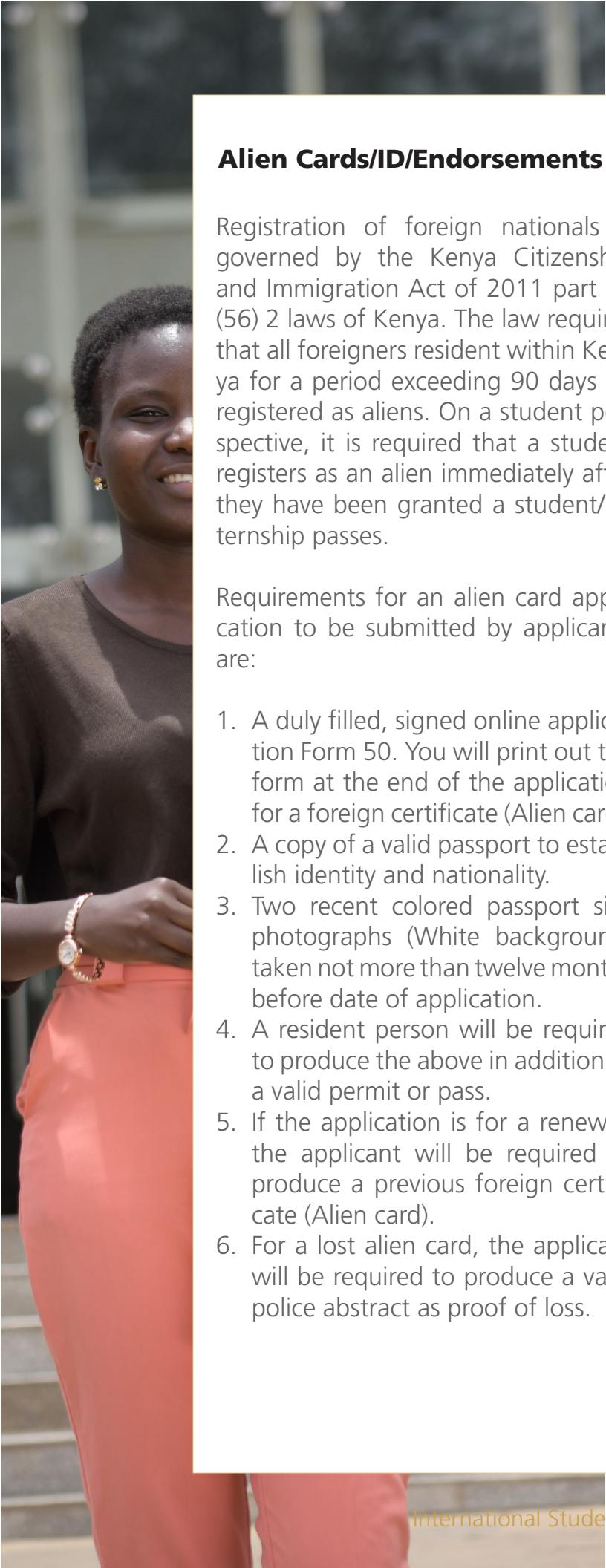
- Passport size photos on a white background (Taken within the last six months).
- Copy of both bio data and a valid visa/stamp page from your passport.
- Copy of your basic academic transcripts and A/O level certificates.
- Equation of the basic academic certificates into the Kenyan system (Non-East Africans) (<https://rev.knqa.go.ke/>)
- Commitment letter from parent/guardian addressed to:

The Director of Immigrations
P.O. Box 30191-00100
Nairobi.

NB: A commitment letter should also be a letter of request.

- Copy of parents/guardians ID or passport.
- For self-sponsored students, a certified copy of your Bank Statements is required.
- Police clearance certificate/certificate of good conduct from country of origin.
- A Proof of in-patient medical insurance or a proof of purchase for the same (see end of guidebook).
- Ksh 5,050 issuance fee per annum.

Alien Cards/ID/Endorsements



Registration of foreign nationals is governed by the Kenya Citizenship and Immigration Act of 2011 part VII (56) 2 laws of Kenya. The law requires that all foreigners resident within Kenya for a period exceeding 90 days be registered as aliens. On a student perspective, it is required that a student registers as an alien immediately after they have been granted a student/internship passes.

Requirements for an alien card application to be submitted by applicants are:

1. A duly filled, signed online application Form 50. You will print out the form at the end of the application for a foreign certificate (Alien card).
2. A copy of a valid passport to establish identity and nationality.
3. Two recent colored passport size photographs (White background) taken not more than twelve months before date of application.
4. A resident person will be required to produce the above in addition to a valid permit or pass.
5. If the application is for a renewal, the applicant will be required to produce a previous foreign certificate (Alien card).
6. For a lost alien card, the applicant will be required to produce a valid police abstract as proof of loss.

Kenya is a multilingual country. Although the main languages spoken are English and Kiswahili, there are 62 local languages categorized as tribes. On etiquette and customs, a common way of greeting is the handshake. The length of the handshake greeting depends on a personal relationship with the other party while other short handshakes are for casual acquaintances. Greeting the elderly or persons of a higher status, one holds the right wrist with the left hand while shaking the hand of the person to demonstrate respect. Common term used for greeting is "Jambo" a Swahili word meaning "How are you?"

On dining etiquette, Kenyan table manners are relatively formal but the patterns of dining vary across various ethnic grounds or economic position of the host. It is advisable that as a visitor, you watch what others are doing then emulate the patterns.

Kenyan traditional food comprises but not limited to Ugali (Cornmeal Staple), Irio (Mashed Peas and Potato Mix), Githeri (Beans and Corn), Kenyan Pilau (Spiced Rice), Wali wa Nazi (Coconut Rice), Sukuma Wiki (Collard Greens / Kale), Nyama Choma (Roasted Meat), etc.

Social setup

Kenyans are group-orientated rather than individualistic. "Harambee," (coming from the Bantu word meaning "to pull together") defines the people's approach to others in life. The concept is essentially about mutual assistance, mutual effort, mutual responsibility and community self-reliance.

Learn some Swahili words and phrases!

"Jambo" - How are you?

"Kijana" - Youth, teenager.

"Mtoto" - Child or kid.

"Jina lako nani?" - What's your name?

"Unaitwaje?" - What's your name?

"Karibu" - Come in, enter, welcome

"Kwaheri" - Goodbye

"Asante" - Thank you

"Sana" – so much.

"Tuonane" - See you

"Njoo" - Come.

"Azima" - Borrow.

"Nenda" - Go.

"Naja" – I am coming.





TENANCY LAWS



Rental Rights and Obligations.

The Strathmore Law Clinic welcomes you all to Strathmore University, and to Kenya. During your stay, it is expected that you may have to interact within the framework of a few basic contracts for your necessities.

One such contract is a tenancy agreement should you decide to rent an apartment. Before doing so, it is crucial that you familiarize yourself with the laws governing tenancies in Kenya. These include, the Constitution, the Land Act, and the tenancy agreement which is a legally binding contract that must conform to the law. In this document, the Law Clinic will break down your rights and obligations under such agreements.

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Preliminaries

Before agreeing to move into an apartment, it is important to conduct some due diligence. It is advisable to visit the premises and check a few things:

- Are basic amenities such as water, electricity and garbage collection available?
- Are there any deposit payment requirements?
- What are the conditions to be refunded the deposit should the tenancy be terminated?
- Are you dealing with an agency or the owner of the property directly?
- What payment arrangements are possible and do they suit your capabilities?

Obligations

Aside from the detailed rules that the tenancy agreement stipulates, the law implies basic obligations on you, the tenant:

- An obligation to pay rent;
- An obligation to vacate the apartment in the same manner you found it as at the start of the agreement, except where damage is caused as a result of reasonable wear and tear, or an accident not attributable to you or an occurrence of natural disaster; and
- An obligation to keep the property in a reasonable state of repair.

Generally, these obligations are the bare minimum and the agreement, or any other internal housing rules may regulate your conduct within the premises you have rented.

Increase in Rent

The rental relationship is based on agreement. Any increases in rent ought to be based on the terms you have agreed upon with the landlord. Where there is no agreement, the law, in the Rent Restriction Act, sets out when a landlord is allowed to increase rent.

In law, the landlord is allowed to increase rent to account for inflation, increases in land rates, and improvements to the premises. Even when there are agreements in place, the landlord has to let you know of any plans to increase rent. A notice of 90 days must be given.

Rights

It is very common for landlords in Kenya to offer units for rent without a tenancy contract for you to sign in place. However, to be on the safe side, it is advisable to ask for some form of documentation detailing the agreement.

A landlord cannot refuse to rent out an apartment to you on the basis of your request for documentary proof. Documentation will serve you well should there be any future disputes regarding the terms of your agreement. Generally, the terms upon which you agree will govern the relationship between you and the landlord. However, this is only to the extent that the agreement is in line with the law.

Where these agreements do not cover all the bases, the Land Act implies some rights. The landlord must:

- Ensure you quiet possession (undisturbed enjoyment) of the property so long as you have paid rent;
- Ensure that he/she does not commit or allow to be committed, any activities on the adjoining property that would affect the property you have rented, e.g. renting the next-door apartment to a business;
- Keep the roof, walls, drains and common areas in a proper state of repair;
- Keep the house fit for human living;
- Ensure the building is usable for the purpose it is being rented out for;
- Pay all taxes, rates and other outgoings;
- Repair the house where the building has been damaged substantially if the damage is not occasioned by the tenant.



These include land rates and any other charges on the property as a whole. This does not exclude you from paying monthly rent and any other utilities that may not form part of the rent such as water, electricity or garbage collection. You are urged to confirm if these are included in the rent or charged separately, they are in many cases charged separately.

In addition to these charges, you may also be asked to pay a service charge to cater for the common areas of your apartment building and the shared resources such as security. It is usually a fixed amount. The constitutional principle of equality also applies: a landlord cannot refuse to rent you an apartment on the basis of sex, religious orientation, race, nationality or ethnicity. This is discrimination.

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Overdue Rent

It is sometimes the case that you may fall behind on your monthly payments. In such cases, the landlord is required to furnish you with a notice of default in rent payment and ultimately he/she has a right to take the matter to court to claim the rent should negotiations fail.

However, where the rent is in arrears, the landlord can levy distress for rent by instructing auctioneers to attach your belongings and sell them. This can only be done during the day, and cannot be done on Sunday. The law also restricts the type of belongings which may be sold (Distress for Rent Act).

Note: Landlords are not allowed to lock you out of the house. This is illegal and you should report such instances to the police.

Benefit

This information is offered by the Law Clinic to the International Students of Strathmore University for their benefit only. This information is contextual and should only be used for the purpose it was requested.

The Law Clinic shall not be held liable for reliance on this information. However, it is willing to offer further guidance where needed:

lawclinic@strathmore.edu.



A photograph of a man and a woman standing in an indoor hallway. The man, on the left, is wearing a blue zip-up sweater over a colorful patterned shirt and is pointing at an open book he is holding. The woman, on the right, is wearing a yellow zip-up jacket and is looking down at the book. They appear to be discussing its contents.

ACCOMODATION

Recommended Hostels

Men Hostels

KAFOMA – Mukuru Studyville,
Madaraka Tel:0714-371811 / 0738-
038456

By Grace Boys Hostel Nyali Court
(opposite Karuri Court)
Block A77 Flat 906
Madaraka Estate
Tel: 0705261065/0701631161

Ollyz Student Housing
Nyali Court A939 Tel: 0725364803

Shalom Men's Hostel
Tulia Court Block 98
Flat 1113 Madaraka Estate 0723 595839

Calvin Hostels for Men
Central Court Block 89A
Madaraka 0724 779529

Gomwe Mens Hostel Mai Mahiu road,
next to college of Tourist,
Gate No.18 Nairobi West
0721 365349/0719488230/0783140826

St. Agnes Boys Hostel
Tulia Court
0707 827408

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Recommended Hostels

Ladies Hostels

Keri Residence,
Madaraka
Tel 0703034480.

Penta Residence,
Siwaka Estate
House 3 & 45
Tel. 0723-954514

Josepheines Bakhita
ladies hostels
Central and Nyali courts
Madaraka Estate
0715733070

Hacinom's Home Hostel
Siwaka Plaza
Tel: 0720-934227

Glory Ladies' Hostel,
Madaraka(MF 26 Door B)
Tel 0722-274818 / 0722-953882

KAFOCA – Mukuru Studyville,
Madaraka
Tel:0714-371811 / 0738-038456

Hocs Ladies Hostel
New Madaraka Flats
block 98 Door 1111
Tel: 0721-542810/0736498497/
0721101729

Marina Girls Hostel
Central Court
Block 91A House
No 1048
0722 756270/0795144087

Recommended Hostels

Ladies Hostels

CADE Serviced Ladies Hostel
Madaraka New Housing Flats,
Block 34
Tel: 0711-772270 / 0732-359494

Sunvilla Ladies Hostel
New Madaraka Flats
Block 49 House No. 1136
P.O.Box 51409-00100
Nairobi
Tel:0724804933/0721482765

Lily Hostel Madaraka,
Flat A931 0722371546
Tamora Girls Hostel
Madaraka,
Central Court
0722 400585/0726 776591

Unique Shelters Ladies Hostel,
South C
Tel: 0712-950224/0722-365326

Moly Homes
Madaraka
Block A80
House 937
Tel 0722 824034

Mystica Hostel
Madaraka
Tulia Court
block 97
House Number 1110
Tel: 0710 727794

Amira Ladies Hostel Karuri Court –
Ustawi Court
Block 79 Flat 927
Madaraka
0725 631714

Prime Ladies Hostel
Madaraka
Nyali Court
Block 80A
House No 934.
Tel 0713 251526

Aggys Ladies Hostel
Siwaka Estate
House No 56
Madaraka
0722 936213

Selly Hostel
0725 273088/0704 553029

Cozy Hostel
0733 974615/0715 395737

Parallel Four
Parallel Four Hostel
Off Keri road, Madaraka
Tel: 0742 337991.
[Email: booking@parallelfour.com](mailto:booking@parallelfour.com)

The University recommends all the above hostels. However, for the sake of having a central and convenient hostel or accommodation in terms of space, proximity to the University, swift support and affordability, our office recommends Parallel four as our number one recommended hostel.



Activities for International Students.

International Students activities

The university has set aside time and resources to support activities for the international students. These activities are for recreation while helping them acclimate to the new environment, among other purposes.

Buddy System

This is a program designed to assist new International Students have a smooth integration into Kenya and Strathmore University Life. The Office of the Dean of students has made an arrangement whereby the international students are paired or teamed up and assume responsibility for one another's welfare or safety as soon as they arrive in Kenya and specifically Strathmore University. International students are encouraged to seek assistance from the office of the Dean of students and be allocated a buddy as soon as they get admitted into the University.

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Embassy and City Tours

We encourage and facilitate our international students to visit their embassy based in Kenya and learn about the services they can readily receive locally. We also take them around the city where they get to see local landmarks, parks, historical sites, important buildings, etc. They get to also acclimate to the new environment. The city tours and embassy visits are done during their first semester in the University.

Career Workshops

These are offered in conjunction with international student's affairs office. Career development services office has designed a workshop program that offers career support and advice throughout the study period to assist international students in career exploration, planning, and preparation. They are also advised on locally available opportunities for them as well as the documents they need in order to gain permission to work in the country.

Team Building

We engage the international students in activities that enhances their social relations and define roles within teams, often involving collaborative tasks. The international students, under the office of the Dean of students, go out for mountain hikes, walk in the parks and game days as a way of enhancing their social relationships or making them feel at home.

Sports

The university have very abled coaching staff that is readily available to aid you through sporting activities, either for recreation or competition purposes. The University also has at least a team in every sport that represents the University in major leagues as well as the Inter University league and tournaments that is open to students regardless of their nationality. International students are encouraged to join and be part of the teams for recreation and other purposes that will enhance their fitness as well as their social life.

International student's association

As part of the student's activities, some international students under the office of the Dean of students formed an international student's body that basically advocates for matters regarding the international student's affairs. Through the association, they connect and enhance a working relationship between the office and the international students.

International Cultural Day

The university honors the fact that its population is characterized by a diversity of cultures. On that note, it sets aside a day to celebrate the diverse cultures, where people from all walks of life come together and share their cultures with others and learn from others as well. The cultural day is graced by presentations in form of traditional dances, food, dressing, art etc.





A photograph of three young adults, two men and one woman, standing outdoors. They are all wearing sunglasses and smiling. The man on the left is wearing a dark blue suit and holding a tablet. The woman in the center is wearing a black turtleneck. The woman on the right is wearing a red ruffled blouse. They are standing in front of a building with a sign that partially reads "Sir The... Building".

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS MEDICAL COVER

UniCare

Medical Coverage for international students studying in Strathmore University, Kenya, is available to all students who have met the university admission criteria and qualify for the Kenyan student pass/ visa award.

The university, in conjunction with Jubilee insurance group, is offering the international students an in-patient medical cover for up to 500,000 Kenya shillings per annum.

The cover will also include pre-existing medical conditions but more details on the arrangement can be communicated upon request or through the fliers available at our desks and in soft copy.

All international students are required to purchase this cover on admission as part of the requirements.

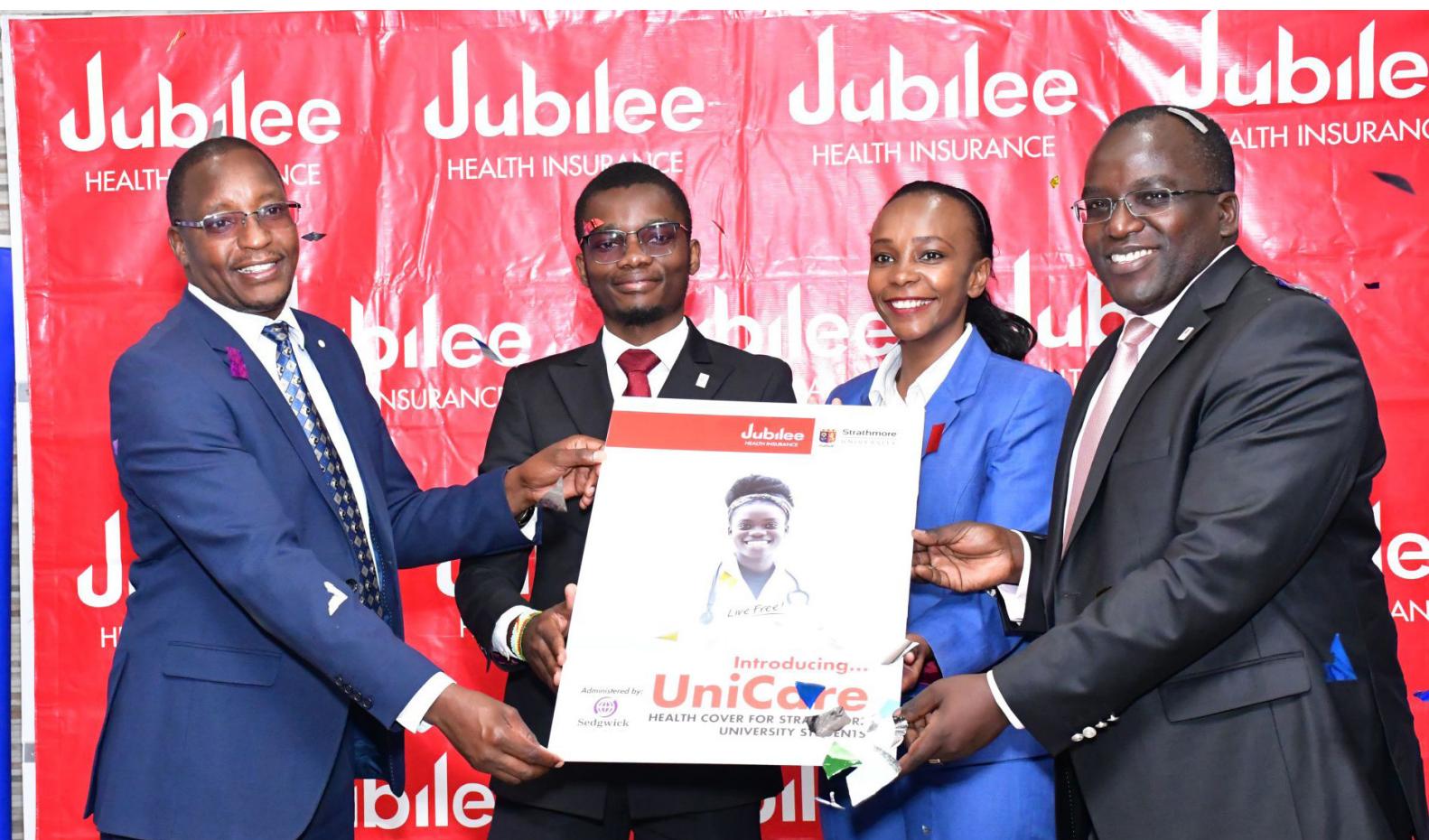
For assistance with the cover, please send an email to studentpass@strathmore.edu

With **uniCare**, students can rest assured knowing they have access to key benefits, including:

- Inpatient limit of Kes. 500,000.
- Covid-19 coverage of Kes. 200,000.
- Pre-existing and chronic conditions covered up to Kes. 250,000.
- Emergency road and air evacuation services
- Day care surgery treatment.
- Hospitalization and diagnostic services.

To enroll, simply fill out the Jubilee Health Insurance application forms available at the University International students office as you pay the subscription fees of **KES11,150**.

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INPATIENT BENEFITS	CATEGORY
Pre-existing, Chronic & HIV/ Aids Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered up to Kes.250,000
Congenital Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KES. 200,000
Hospital Accommodation (Bed Type) per Day.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Ward bed
Illness Inpatient Dental & Optical excluding laser	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KES. 100,000 each
Inpatient Dental & Optical accidents (Each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered to the full Inpatient limit
Day Surgery/Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Covered
Psychiatry Conditions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20% of the Inpatient limit
Post-hospitalization up to 30 days after discharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KES. 40, 000
Covid 19 Hospitalization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 200,000
Last Expense Per student	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> KES. 50,000

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Bibliography

Department of immigration services.
(n.d.). Retrieved from Foreign National Management: <https://fns.immigration.go.ke/services.php>

Kenya, E.-r. (n.d.). kenINVEST. Retrieved from Eregulations: <https://eregulations.invest.go.ke/procedure/74/step/377?l=en>



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