

# Nine universities accredited to

By Jacqueline Emedek

**C**avendish University in Uganda was accredited to teach the law course on October 12, 2016 by the National Council for Higher Education (NCHE), making it one of the latest entrants. Accreditation of a university to teach law means that the teaching of the discipline in that particular institution is endorsed by the regulators of the industry — NCHE and the law council through its committee on legal education and training (CLET) as it meets and will maintain the standards set.

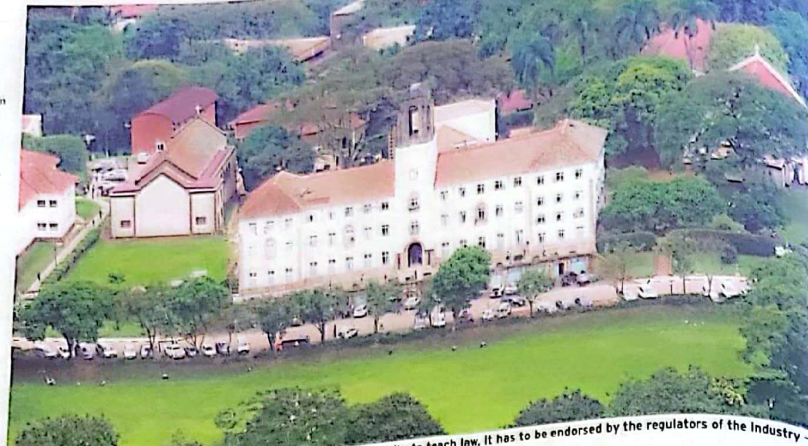
According to Prof. John Opuada-Asibo, the executive director of NCHE, such accreditation is provided for under the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2006.

He says it is important to consult the regulatory bodies because they are the ones who do the practice.

"They are the ones who will be the recipients of the products and, therefore, they should also have an input in the teaching so that they are sure that the schools their products come from have acceptable operations," he says.

The linkage between NCHE and all professional associations and regulatory bodies is also held by a memorandum of understanding as to how the various bodies should work together and it is backed by the Solicitor General.

This linkage is one of the reasons why NCHE is accompanied by one or two people from the professional associations and regulatory



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bodies when they visit universities during the accreditation process.

However, the law council also conducts its own accreditation process. Frank Nigel Obhemb, the director of the Law Development Centre (LDC), explains that accreditation by the law council is important because law is a profession, just like doctors and engineers, who are also governed by their councils.

"NCHE is looking at the university as a whole, but when it comes to the course, the council would not know

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what law books are required, but the law council would look at that and recommend the basic textbooks," he notes.



At UCU, one must sit and pass the pre-entry examination to qualify to study law

## Qualifications for students to do law

There are various channels of admission depending on one's individual circumstances. Applicants who satisfy the requirements below are eligible for admission:

- Candidates from High School with at least five credits at O'level (UCE) and at least two principal passes at A'level (UACE).
- Students with qualifications from outside Uganda must have them assessed and certified by NCHE.
- At Makerere University and Ugandan Christian University, one must sit and pass the pre-entry examinations.

- Students aged 25 years and above who must have passed an NCHE accredited mature age entry examination.
  - Degree holders in non-law disciplines.
  - Diploma in law holders.
  - Transfer students who started the study of law at another accredited institution and choose to join another university at any point before the fifth semester.
- Experts advise that potential students need to visit the law council and NCHE offices in order to authenticate the accreditation of the law degree at any university of their interest.

accredited them, some of their students had reached third and fourth years. However, when the students came to LDC, we refused to admit them," Obhemb says.

**What the accreditation process entails**  
Dr Olive Sabiti, the dean of the faculty of law at Cavendish University, says accreditation is a two-tier process, comprising institutional and programme accreditation.

The first tier is institutional accreditation. All institutions of higher learning in Uganda must be approved by NCHE. Thereafter, the university needs programme accreditation — the permission to teach law specifically.

"The process is initiated by an application to NCHE, which consults the law

council through CLET," Sabiti says.

The application is submitted together with the bachelor of laws curriculum, structure, rules, regulations and a comprehensive report on, inter alia, the scope and status of the physical infrastructure of the university, the number and expertise, projections for development of the available human resource (both academic and administrative staff) and level of accessibility to books and computers.

Both institutions then separately inspect the university premises to verify the information in the submitted documents. The regulatory authorities then notify the university by way of a report or letter of their decision.

The quality assurance framework for universities and the licensing processes

# teach law

## Accredited universities

Currently, there are nine universities in Uganda accredited to teach law, according to NCHE. These include:

- Makerere University
- Ugandan Christian University
- Cavendish University
- Nkumba University
- Gulu University
- Uganda Pentecostal University
- Kampala International University
- Busoga University

for higher education institutions states that in order for a university to be accredited, it should have land for campus in an urban and rural area, a council, a senate, staff and students unions, infrastructure and classroom space.

The lecturer-student ratio for law programme is one to 15 and the library-book ratio is one to 40. In addition, 60% of the staff should hold PhDs, while 70% or more of the staff should hold a master's degree.

"The council also considers the proportion of budget spent on salary. If an institution spends more than 75% on salary, then it will not be accredited," Opuada-Asibo says.

The council also looks at the number of students employed by the university, books published by academia and the projects won by the academia.

It also enables the university

as a legitimate undergraduate legal education provider to fully participate in all local and international law organisations and activities.

For example, Cavendish University of Uganda is now a member of the International Association of Law Schools and this year, it hosted and participated in the prestigious International Law Jessup moot competition.

"Accreditation allows students to transfer from one institution to another. For instance, a student may move from an expensive university to a more affordable one or from an unstable university prone to strikes to a more stable one," Sabiti says.

**ACCREDITATION OF UNIVERSITIES TEACHING LAW HAS HAD CHALLENGES SUCH AS UNIVERSITIES TEACHING THE DISCIPLINE AFTER BEING ACCREDITED BY NCHE, BUT BEFORE BEING GIVEN A GO-AHEAD BY THE LAW COUNCIL**



Busoga University, located in Iganga, was also accredited to teach law



Kampala International University also teaches law

The law degree is a four-year programme offered in two semesters, each year culminating in a total of eight semesters over the full duration of the course. Students from accredited

law schools qualify for the pre-entry examinations prior to joining LDC for the post-graduate but course. "It is crucial to look out for how many students from that

particular university passed the pre-entry examination because these results are public information," Obhemb says. "Last year, Makerere

University had 70% and UCU had over 50%, so if a university has less than 40%, you need to think twice about the quality of education they offer," he adds.

## GULU UNIVERSITY

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### FACULTY OF LAW

#### OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Gulu University is a Public University teaching law program which is Accredited by National Council of Higher Education and approved by Law Council. The University has a fully-fledged Faculty of Law equipped with well-trained and adequate in number the law academic staff with masters and PhD. Faculty of Law at Gulu University is situated in a separate law block with spacious classrooms and office space. The university also has a fully equipped separate library for law, which includes:

- International and Local Text books for all law course units.
- Acts of Parliament, Statutes, statutory Instruments and others law are available
- Local and International Law Reports in different volumes from the year 1900 to 2016 edition.
- Lexis Nexis and other online e-library access.
- Computers and internet connections.
- Gulu university is Internationally recognise

Gulu University satisfies the requirement of Law Council and is continuously updating its standard.

**Our tuition is very affordable and registered students have access to scholarship programs.**  
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