



Eric Kimathi

University-Norwegian University of Life Sciences

Nationality-Kenyan

Application for: ISU National President

Dear fellow ISU comrades,

It is with your privilege that I forward my application to be the ISU National President for the year 2017/2018.

We are privileged to be studying in Norway at a time when internationalisation and diversity have taken a central position within higher education. Having said this, we are faced with increasing voices that seek to undermine the gains of internationalisation. In recent times, we have had to contend with proposals to introduce tuition fees for international students, discontinuation of the quota scheme, budget cuts, reduced numbers of international students and reports that there is minimal interaction between Norwegian and international students. I believe these challenges gives us motivation to show our unity in diversity as international students in Norway.

The welfare of international students is very close to my heart having studied a joint Erasmus Mundus master programme in education in Norway, Sweden, Malta and Ireland. My academic travels have put me in the right context of the crucial issues facing international students such as different learning and teaching approaches, different examination criteria, housing, immigration, language and other cultural issues that students both local and international have to cope with.

My engagement with student leadership began during my studies at Oslo and Akershus University College when I was elected the president International students Union (ISU-HIOA). During my time there, I was very closely with the section for internationalisation. Moreover, I collaborated well with the international which resulted to a programme currently dubbed “art and chill” activities such as dance, knitting, and drumming etc all meant to bring together international students.

Through your vote last year, I currently serve in executive board of the ISU-Norway as the political affairs officer. During this time, I have been very active in campaigning for free higher education in Norway, joining hands with fellow leaders in standing against introduction of fees for international students. Besides, I have handled cases regarding students with visa and academic issues together with the national president. Moreover, we have tried to reach out to UDI towards lobbying for re-evaluation of the visa fees, work hours and visa processing. We may not have had a breakthrough yet but I promise to keep pushing more on this key issue. Last year I led the state budget working group which evaluated the Norwegian state budget. I have been co-ordinating the ISU political committee which has been working on rolling out a campaign to support free education. Serving in the current executive board and being part

of the day to day running of ISU affair has been crucial in preparing me for the micro and macro tasks that faces ISU President.


In my role as the next president, I will ensure that we are represented in every possible forum within the government and other stakeholders to keep the organisation more visible. Besides I promise to be instrumental in ensuring that the executive and national board work together to dispense their constitutional mandate and implementation of ISU work plan which will be adopted in the coming national assembly. I believe that as part of the new board we shall continue the good work that the current board has done especially the collaboration with embassies, good relations with partner organisations such as SAIH, Spire, Changemaker, Industri Energy, AIESEC,ESN etc towards facilitating solidarity on issues of interest especially on internships, tuition fees, students at risk among others. We shall also seek to improve and bring new ideas to make the work of ISU more efficient especially on collaborating and working with the local branches through union development officer on things such as re-branding of the 'ice-breaker campaign' for this year. This organisation continues to operate on limited budget which at times has been strenuous, and for this reason I will follow through with the efforts of the current board in exploring more funding for ISU. I work closely with the organisation consultant in making applications to LNU and other possible sources to boost our finance kitty.


I believe together we can, if we rise above those things that divide us and focus on those which unite us. For there can be nothing for us without us. we the International Students of Norway. Holla ISU-Norway!!

Thank You!

Eric

PERSONAL INFORMATION **Eric Kimathi**

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Sex Male | Nationality Kenyan

POSITION **ISU National President**

WORK EXPERIENCE

01/06/2016–Present

Political Affairs Officer (National Executive Board)

International students Union, Norway (ISU-Norway)

Kolstadgata 1, 0652 Oslo (Norway)

<http://isu-norway.no/>

- Responsible for making ISU Norway visible through the media and other such avenues.
- Monitoring media possibilities for ISU and using them appropriately with approval of the NP, in accordance with the ISU Norway Platform 2009.
- Responsible for publishing press releases approved by the NB.
- Leading the information campaigns together with the National President
- Responsible for the reception and presentation of cases and petitions from the local branches to NB.
- Tracing the national and regional laws regarding international students and inform local branches.
- In charge of bringing issues regarding housing and academic welfare of students to the NB.

02/02/2016–31/05/2016

Local branch President

International Students Union - Oslo and Akershus University College (HIOA)

- Facilitating board meetings and responsible for the day-to-day business.
 - Bonafide Representative of ISU at various forums.
 - Member of the ISU National Assembly.
 - Liaising with Student Parliament and HIOA administration on issues pertaining international students.
 - Responsible for writing regular activity reports to local and national bodies.
 - Endorses financial decisions for authenticity.
 - Signs off on minutes of Board meetings.

15/05/2015–10/06/2015

Organisational Intern

Early Childhood Ireland
Hainault House, Belgard Square, Tallaght,, Dublin 24 Dublin, Éire/Ireland
www.earlychildhoodireland.ie

- Coding and analyzing research surveys.

01/02/2015–10/05/2015 **Volunteer**

PLAN International, Dublin (Ireland)

- Sponsorship correspondence data management.

01/11/2013–31/07/2014 **Project Manager**

MCK Meru Children's Home
133, 60200 Meru (Kenya)

- Project leader with 10 staff members.
- Secretary to the organisation board of management.
- Preparation of annual and quarterly budget.
- Finance management in liaison with the accounts clerk.
- Progressive research on street children.
- Preparation of Periodic reports to donors and board of Management.
- Co-ordination of the Township school feeding programme.
- Structuring of the new street children rescue and rehabilitation programme.

01/03/2011–25/10/2013 **College Programme Officer (Part time)**

Mumoni ECDE Teachers Training College
447-60200. Kitui County (Kenya)

- College programmes manager (115 students).
- Supervising fifteen staff members.(teaching and non-teaching).
- Teacher trainer (child rights, child development and research methods).
- Teaching practice assessor.
- Supervising diploma research dissertations .

05/09/2012–30/11/2012 **Organisational Intern**

International Child Resource Institute Africa (ICRIA)
Hazina Towers 16th fl., P.O. Box 27075-00100. Nairobi (Kenya)

Roles involved:

- Staff assistant to the early childhood education and child health programs in Kiambiu slum
- Field visits to pre-schools and families in Kiambiu slum.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

01/09/2016–Present

Master of Science in International Development Studies

EQF level 7

Norwegian University of Life Sciences, AS (Norway)

Main courses:

- Introduction to Development studies
- Development theory and development
- Human rights and development
- Global food security
- Poverty
- Gender and Development
- International relations theory

14/08/2014–15/08/2016 **International Master in Early Childhood Education and Care.(IMEC)** EQF level 7

Erasmus mundus joint master programme offered in cooperation with Oslo and Akershus University College of Applied Sciences in Norway, Dublin Institute of Technology in Ireland, University of Malta in Malta and University of Gothenburg in Sweden.

Dissertation topic:

"Promoting social justice in ethnically and culturally diverse ECEC settings: Perspectives of kindergarten teachers in Norway"

17/04/2015 **Workshop on Child Protection Policy (CPP)**

PLAN Ireland, Dublin (Ireland)

- Overview of Child abuse and it's impact on Children.
- What is organisational child protection policy.
- Importance of CPP to PLAN Ireland.
- How to create safe child environments.
- How CPP enables one to responds to concerns of child abuse.
- Mainstreaming CPP in various departments

25/10/2013–25/10/2013 **Holistic Child Development Summit "The Plight of the African Child"**

Institute of Child Development, Daystar University, Nairobi (Kenya)

- Human rights challenge.
- Orphan and vulnerable children challenge
- Children therapy
- Holistic child Development.

14/09/2009–05/07/2013 **Bachelor of Education Early Childhood Education (First class honours)** Bachelors degree in ECDE.

Kenyatta University, Nairobi (Kenya)

A four year undergraduate course on Early Childhood Education and Care.

15/04/2013–21/04/2013 **Transformational Leadership training For growing leaders.**

Kenyatta University Mentoring Department, Nairobi (Kenya)

- Contribution of youth to national cohesion
- Youth Leadership and morality
- Personal Branding
- Youth to Youth nurture and mentorship
- Transformational Leadership in Kenya.

12/10/2012–13/10/2012 **Trainer of Trainers (ToT).**
 Kenyatta University Centre for Gender Equity and Empowerment. (Training of Trainers Workshop), Nairobi (Kenya)
 Training workshop for students on Gender Sensitization and Dissemination of the Kenyatta university Gender policy and gender based violence and sexual harassment policy.

10/05/2010–15/05/2010 **Trainer of Trainers (ToT)**
 Kenyatta University Wellness Centre., Nairobi (Kenya)
 Training on drugs abuse, drug legislation and drug related stress and counseling.

PERSONAL SKILLS

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
Kiswahili	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user
 Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Communication skills Good written and spoken English
 Learning basic Norwegian

Organisational / managerial skills Good Interpersonal skills, time keeping and planning, efficiency in completing tasks, adaptable to different situations, good problem solving.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Referees Professor Jan-Erik Johansson
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