ABOUT THE e-LEARNING CENTRE

1. Introduction
The e-Learning Centre is a newly established Unit of the University of Nairobi whose mandate is to implement the University's strategic plan by facilitating greater access and enhancing the quality of education through the use of e-learning technologies in teaching and learning. To realize this mandate, the Centre seeks to achieve the following specific objectives:

i) Enhance quality of teaching and learning by utilizing modern instructional materials and methods, including increased use of ICT.

ii) Expand access to University education, by developing capacity for increased enrollment through non-conventional approaches in teaching and learning.

iii) Expose staff and students to ICT-driven teaching and learning experiences required in a competitive higher education environment.

iv) Offer tutorial and learner support services.

2. Functions
The functions of the Centre are to:

i) Create awareness and sensitize the University community on e-Learning services through workshops, seminars, conferences and public lectures.

ii) Train users in all Departments in the general use of educational technologies, including operation of e-Learning equipment and software to facilitate integration and use of ICTs in all educational programmes.

iii) Develop capacity across all Departments in Instructional Design, Graphic and Multimedia, and Management of the e-Learning Portfolio.

iv) Develop e-Content (digital content) and process and package into audiovisual materials such as CD-ROMs, VCDs and DVDs.

v) Collaborate with the Centre for Open and Distance Learning (CODL) in the development and delivery of learning content.

vi) Encourage use of e-Learning to facilitate access to study materials via mobile phones.

vii) Support students to access digitized course materials on the University’s e-Platform and the Library.

viii) Use e-Learning as a means of creating and increasing equity within programmes.

ix) Carry out research and evaluation of the utilization of e-Learning services.

3. Courses offered
The Centre, in collaboration with the African Virtual University, offers two certificate courses which target both pre-service and in-service teachers who teach mainly science subjects. The objective is to promote the quality of teaching science subjects in schools by equipping the teachers with skills to integrate ICT into their lessons. The courses are:

i) ICT Basic Skills course. This is offered in three modules of 120 hours each and leads to a certificate. The course targets participants without prior computer knowledge.

ii) ICT Integration in Education. This is an advanced certificate course that focuses on multimedia design and applications. It is covered in 120 hours and the participants for this course are required to have ICT basic skills. Sixty teachers are enrolled in the certificate courses.

4. Programmes actively using e-Learning
The following programmes are actively using the University e-learning platform:

i) M.Sc. Information Systems

ii) M.Sc. Computer Science

iii) M.Sc. Agricultural Resource Management

iv) M.Sc. Biometry

v) M.Sc. Social Statistics

vi) B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering

vii) B.Sc. Agriculture, Nutrition, Food Science, Range Management, Horticulture, Agriculture and Agric. Education

5. Future Projections
In 2011, the Centre plans to:

i) Carry out sensitization on e-learning services in all the Colleges of the University.

ii) Collaborate with academic units to develop and deliver e-content.

iii) Develop and offer the Master of Arts in Project Planning and Management as a full online programme.

iv) Expand the number of programmes using e-Learning by 30%.

INTRODUCTION
The African Virtual University (AVU) in collaboration with the University of Nairobi — College of Education and External Studies (CEES) is launching Certificate courses in Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) for Education Managers, Administrators, Teachers and Teacher Educators. The courses are designed to improve institutional management, teaching and learning practices and increase the number of ICT literate personnel in the education sector.
TARGET AUDIENCE
The program targets both in-service and pre-service teachers, Teacher Educators, as well as those in institutional management who wish to improve their teaching and learning practices. The program is also ideal for those who wish to access online resources and undertake research activities.

BENEFITS
The ICT courses will:
• Improve the quality of teaching and learning in primary schools, secondary schools and universities through the use of ICTs
• Contribute to the creation of a critical number of ICT literate teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools
• Increase the number of ICT literate teachers, administrators and managers
• Improve the quality of school or university administration and management through the use of ICTs

Benefits to individuals
• Upgrade ICT skills in Education
• Improve teaching and learning in the classroom
• Improve daily administrative tasks
• Promote regional integration and mobility of teachers (The program is also offered in several African Countries)
• Contribute to achievement of the Millennium Development Goals

COURSE STRUCTURE
The Certificate Courses offered include:
(a) ICT Basic Skills Certificate
(b) Integration of ICTs in Education

(a) ICT Basic Skills Certificate
The ICT basic skills program will mostly be delivered face-to-face with an Online component at the AVU ODeL Center situated at the University of Nairobi CEEES, Kikuyu Campus. The Center has at least 25 computers with internet connection.

The ICT Basic Skills Certificate is modular structured and consists of 3 modules. Each Module requires 120 hours and takes 2 months to complete. There are 3 contact hours per week and the rest of the time is for Exercise and research. On completion of the 3 modules a Joint accreditation certificate will be awarded. The modules in this course include:
Module 1: Introduction to ICTs
Module 2: Text-based Productivity Tools
Module 3: Graphics & Information Management System

(b) Integration of ICTs in Education
The Integration of ICTs in Education course focuses on enabling teacher educators and teachers to use ICTs in the teaching and learning environment. This course is a progression from the ICT Basic Skills and focuses on developing teacher competencies and abilities. The course will enable teachers to know why, when, where and how ICTs contribute to teaching objectives, how to choose those that are most appropriate to stimulate learning and improve the quality of the education offered, and facilitate students' use and analysis of information from the Internet and other Educational software. The course is intended to increase the effectiveness of teaching and improve students' learning.

The Integration of ICTs course is modular structured and consists of 3 modules. Each Module requires 120 hours and takes 2 months to complete. There are three contact hours per week and the program will be offered through a mixed mode delivery: online asynchronous (direct interaction) and synchronous (flexible indirect interaction) and face-to-face. On completion of the 3 modules a Joint accreditation certificate will be awarded. The modules in this course include:
Module 1: Theories and Practice of Integration
Module 2: Using ICTs in Mathematics, Sciences & other subjects
Module 3: Using ICTs in the Classroom environment

Course Duration
Each Certificate course takes 6 months to complete. Registration is continuous. A course starts whenever there is a quorum

Learning Modes
The course offers a flexible mode of learning including the following:
• Online Learning using a Learning Management System
• Face to face learning
• Synchronous (direct interaction) and Asynchronous (flexible indirect interaction)
• Offline Learning (Using CD ROMs, Video and Audio etc.)
• Text materials (where necessary)
• Online/Offline Tutorials

Assessment
Each course has specific methods of assessment

Course Fees
Registration Fees are KES 1,000 and each Module costs KES 12,000

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

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