

History of School of Computing and Informatics



The School of Computing and Informatics (SCI) was originally formed in 1969 as the Computing Centre, a Department in the Faculty of Engineering. In 1976, the Computing Centre moved to the Chiromo Campus where it occupied the purpose built premises used by the School today. It was formally established in 1977 as the Institute of Computer Science whose mandate included academic as well as university ICT services. In the year 2002, and in the interest of realizing more focused management and efficiency of the two functions, ICS was split into two units i.e. ICTC and SCI.

The School takes its name from the core competencies that it seeks to nurture: Computing, to cover the theory and science of computation and Informatics to exemplify the practical outworking of this theory in technology and application. The School is a regional leader in research, research and development (R&D) and advanced education in computing. It was the first to offer Bachelors and Postgraduate degrees in Computer Science in the region.

SCI is located at the picturesque Chiromo Campus off Riverside Drive within the College of Biological and Physical Science of the University of Nairobi. SCI is housed in a two storey building with office facilities for over 50 members of staff, a computer room, several computer labs with a fully networked modern computer infrastructure, a library and several classrooms.

It is charged with teaching and research activities. It has eleven on-going and very competitive programmes: Diploma (Computer Science), BSc. (Computer Science), Postgraduate Diploma (Information Systems), M.Sc. (Information Systems), M.Sc. (Computer Science), M.Sc. (Computational intelligence), M.Sc. (Distributed Computing Technology), M.Sc. (IT Management), M.Sc. (Applied Computing), PhD (Information Systems) and PhD (Computer Science).

The research mandate of the School of Computing and Informatics consists of seven research groups in the following thematic areas:

1. E-governance
2. Mobile Financial Services
3. ICT for development (ICT4D)
4. Human Language Technology (HLT)

5. Technology Supported Learning
6. Distributed systems and networks
7. E-science

Since the establishment of SCI, we have had a total of five (5) Directors and one Deputy Director as shown below:



Prof. Bob Scott

Director, ICS (1977 -1985)



Prof Anthony J. Rodrigues

Director, ICS (1985 - 1996)



Prof. Timothy M. Waema
Director, ICS (1996 - 2002)



Dr. Katherine W. Getao
Director, SCI (2002 - 2007)



Prof. William Okelo-Odongo

Director, SCI (2007 to date)



Mr. Christopher A Moturi

Deputy Director, SCI (2007 to date)

Major Milestones:

1977: Establishment of Institute of Computer Science

1980: Postgraduate Diploma in Computer Science started

1992: Launch of BSc in Computer Science

1996: Horizontal Extension of ICS Building

1998: MSc in Information Systems

2000: PhD in Computer Science

2000: PhD in Information Systems

2003: MSc in Applied Computer Science

2003: Split into School of Computing and Informatics and ICT Centre

2003: Establishment of New Computer Labs in the 8-4-4 Complex

2013: MSc in Applied Computing

2013: MSc in Computational Intelligence

2013: MSc in Distributed Computing Technology

2013: MSc in Information Technology Management