



Jeremy Awori Managing Director, Barclays Bank of Kenya Ltd.

C4DLab, University of Nairobi's startup incubation center, has inked a multi-million shilling partnership with Barclays Bank PLC to roll out a mentorship programme targeting undergraduate students in Kenyan colleges and universities.

Dubbed 'Ready' to Work', C4DLab, the Lead Partner, is setting the stage to soon roll out the modality of the programme, with the first beneficiaries being the University of Nairobi students, who together with students from other campuses will be equipped with relevant skills for the job market.

According to the Lab Director, [Dr Tonny Omwansa](#), the ready-to-work initiative by C4DLab and Barclays will take the form of short training sessions in respective fields, and one-on-one engagement with industry players.

"Soon, the students, especially in their third or fourth year of study all over Kenya, will, courtesy of the Barclays ReadytoWork programme, be engaging with their mentors either online, or at designated venues here at the University of Nairobi's Chiromo Campus," he said.

In the meantime elsewhere, ReadytoWork is touted as "the starting point and the bridge to a young person's future."

"ReadytoWork, created by Barclays, is a pan Africa initiative that helps prepare young people for the critical transition from education into the world of work.

It will empower young people with the training, support and learning they need to enhance their employment and self-employment prospects," reads part of the Frequently Asked Questions section of the programme's website (readytowork.barclays).

"With the aim to improve the employment prospects of young people through education resources, online content, workshops and work experience, ReadytoWork is specifically tailored to give young people work skills, people skills, money skills and entrepreneurial skills, better equipping them to find a work opportunity or start up their own business".

Moreover, the [FAQs](#) section of the website reads, “as the curriculum is blended learning and mainly self-taught, the pace of completion is determined by the learner. There will however be an ‘estimated time’ noted in each learning topic indicating how long each should take to complete. This will help learners manage their time effectively as they work through the curriculum”.