

Higher Education Improving the Employability of Refugees

Kepler, a non profit higher education program, began offering US degrees to students in Rwanda in 2013. In 2015, they expanded the program from Kigali to Kiziba refugee camp in Western Rwanda. In addition, students from refugee camps throughout Rwanda and urban refugees began attending the Kigali campus in 2015. The program is done in partnership with Southern New Hampshire University's College for America program that allows students to earn an internationally recognized degree that opens up opportunities for students following graduation. In 2017, Southern New Hampshire University has received \$10 million to expand this refugee education initiative in other countries.

Vision

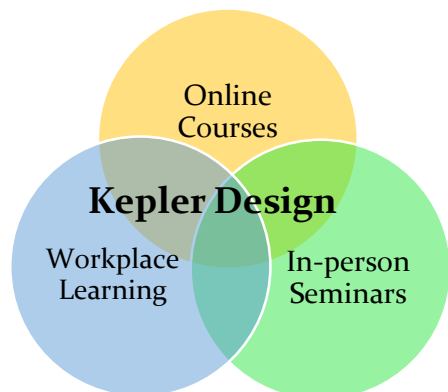
Kepler graduates would be immediately employable upon graduation, able to advance quickly to leadership positions in the Rwandan society and elsewhere in the region.



Photo by Alex Buisse

The first group of 16 students in Kiziba with associate degrees graduated in July 2017. Now they will be seeking their bachelor's degrees.

Impact



Kepler combines the best online learning with in-person seminars and intense education-to-employment support providing a US-accredited degree.

Students acquire the following skills:

- Competence: English, math, and computer literacy
- Analytical thinking: creative, logical, and statistical thinking skills
- Expertise: BA degrees in Communications, Management, and Health Care Management
- Workforce Ready Skills: reliable, organized, and detail-oriented behavior

- Kepler supports all in securing meaningful internships during their studies.
- Students are supported to engage in employment or entrepreneurship after graduation.
- Graduates from Kepler increase Rwanda's pool of high-skilled labor, benefitting the private sector and overall contributing to Rwanda's economy through professional jobs.

Program Results:

98% of Kepler's students are on track to earn their BA degrees in Kigali and Kiziba

93% of third year Kigali students are offered a full-time job by the time of graduation

over **500** students across Rwanda

110 students are refugees working toward earning a degree

50/50 gender ratio
51% are female
49% are male

UNHCR Website

<http://www.unhcr.org/rw/livelihoods>

Partner Website

<http://www.kepler.org/>

UNHCR Contact

Jakob Oster
Livelihoods Officer
oster@unhcr.org

Partner Contact

Ashley Haywood
Director of Refugee Education Programs
ashley@kepler.org