UNIVERSITY ACCESS ADVISOR 2022-2023

Renowned international university advisor Laura Kaub joins Duolingo English Test and UNHCR in their first-of-its-kind partnership in hiring a dedicated university advisor to directly support UNHCR as they work with refugees seeking higher education.

BACKGROUND

On World Refugee Day in 2021, the Duolingo English Test announced our commitment to hiring a university advisor to directly support UNHCR and their work with refugees seeking higher education in the hope that establishing this position will be transformative in creating a framework for refugee access. The advisor will be dedicated to advising 25 refugee students from targeted regions of the world by guiding them through the university admissions and financial aid processes—reinforcing UNHCR’s 15by30 initiative which aims to increase refugee enrollment in higher education to 15% by 2030. Today, for reference, only 5% of all refugees ever enroll at a university.

Duolingo opened the search to fill this role in late 2021 and was welcomed with overwhelming support, recommendations, and a wide pool of extremely qualified applicants from the international education community. Today, we’re honored and excited to announce that Laura Kaub is now leading this crucial initiative.

DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST + UNHCR WELCOME LAURA KAUB

Laura Kaub
Nairobi, Kenya
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Laura Kaub has nearly 15 years of experience in helping young African leaders gain access to and succeed in higher education in the United States and around the world. She worked as an international admissions officer at Barnard College, and as the founding director of African Leadership Academy (ALA)’s university guidance program. Later, she served as the founding director of the MasterCard Foundation Scholarship Program at ALA and as manager of the Yale Young African Scholars (YYAS) program, a free university-access initiative that introduces African secondary school students to opportunities for admission and financial aid. Laura joined Nova Pioneer Schools for Innovators and Leaders as their inaugural director of post-school success where she oversaw personal and pre-university development of students across Nova Pioneer’s
three secondary schools. She has worked most recently with Abaarso School in Hargeisa, Somaliland, to help build out their university access and alumni support programming. Laura is a member of the International Association for College Admissions Counselors and served two terms on their Inclusion, Access, and Success committee. She sat on African Leadership Academy’s U.S. Advisory Council in 2017-18 and is a Past-Chair of the HALI Access Network, an association of schools and organizations working with high-achieving, low-income African students who wish to pursue tertiary education abroad. She still serves on HALI’s Executive Committee.

HOW TO HELP LAURA

Laura’s work will begin with a cohort of students in the spring of 2022 so they may enroll in universities for undergraduate study in the fall of 2023. With such a timeline, Laura welcomes any support via resources and conversations that will immediately help, including:

- Universities eager to invite such highly qualified refugees into their communities;
- Foundations and other donors who want to support the refugee students pursue their studies.

Interested universities should reach out to learn more about the candidates and discuss partnering with the Duolingo English Test and UNHCR to enroll highly qualified refugee students. This is an exciting opportunity to help address a critical need and to enrich your university community with students who bring a unique and valuable perspective to classrooms and residential life conversations.

In the meantime, keep an eye out for further details about this critical initiative as it launches this spring. Alongside Laura, the Duolingo English Test will be hosting a webinar for institutions to learn more in the coming weeks.

QUESTIONS FOR LAURA?
Email Laura at laura.kaub@duolingo.com

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE DUOLINGO ENGLISH TEST?
Email institutional support at institutional@duolingo.com

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

The Duolingo English Test is an innovative and accessible English proficiency assessment for today’s international students and institutions. Digital-first and learner-first, the test is available online, on demand—while using subject matter experts and AI to ensure it is reliable and secure. Brought to you by Duolingo, the most popular way to learn a language, whose mission is to lower barriers to education.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is a global organization dedicated to saving lives, protecting rights and building a better future for refugees, forcibly displaced communities and stateless people.