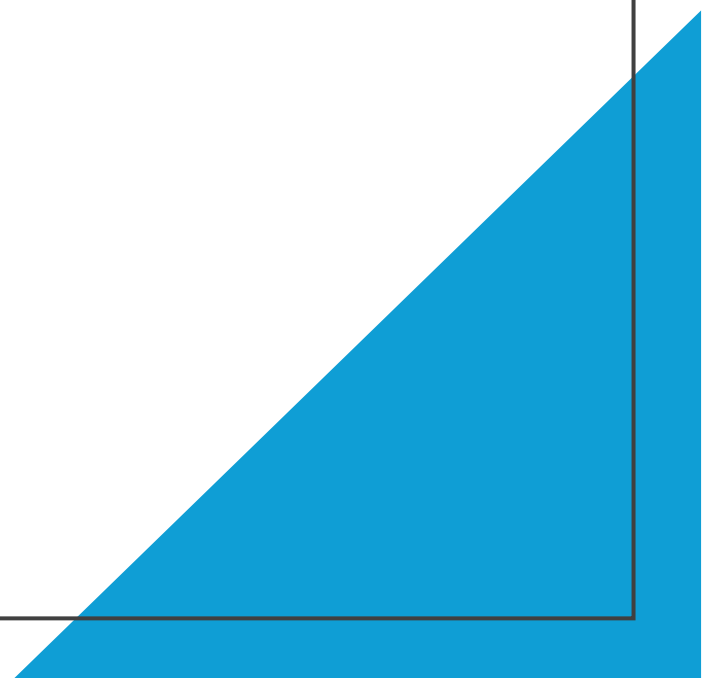


Sekelela Online University

Sekelela Online University (SOU) operates as a subsidiary of the Sekelela Foundation Inc., a publicly incorporated nonprofit organization.



Sekelela Online University: Summary

-  **SOU: Empowering global talent** — a digitally enabled postgraduate institution cultivating world-class scientific and public health leaders from developing nations.
-  **Untapped talent, systemic barriers** — across Africa and other low- and middle-resource regions, thousands of highly capable graduates lack structured mentorship, research infrastructure, and global academic integration, limiting their ability to reach international research standards despite strong intellectual potential.
-  **Closing the structural gap** — SOU delivers internationally benchmarked postgraduate training
 - Structured research mentorship,
 - Co-supervision with UK, European, and U.S. institutions,
 - Milestone-based funding tied to measurable outcomes, and
 - Focused research in oncology, infectious diseases, and health systems.
-  **Translating funding into impact** — driving peer-reviewed publications, producing globally competitive graduates, and building sustainable research ecosystems in home countries.
-  **Partner with Sekelela Online University** — advancing the launch of our inaugural cohort and building a scalable, high-accountability research training platform.

The Problem

 **Rapid expansion, uneven capacity** — universities across developing nations are growing quickly, but critical enablers often lag:

 **Limited access to experienced supervisors** — insufficient exposure to internationally seasoned academic mentors

 **Weak grant-writing competitiveness** — challenges securing global research funding

 **Restricted global network integration** — limited participation in international research collaborations

 **Inadequate lab and analytical support** — gaps in infrastructure and technical resources

 **Underdeveloped governance systems** — lack of structured, high-standard academic oversight

The result is:

 **A persistent cycle of under-realized potential** — systemic gaps continue to limit global research impact:

 **Strong enrollment, limited outcomes** — talented students enter postgraduate programs with high potential

 **Insufficient mentorship** — constrained guidance reduces research quality and competitiveness

 **Low international publication impact** — few studies achieve global visibility or citation

 **Disconnected from global leadership** — graduates lack integration into international research networks

 **Institutional capacity remains constrained** — systemic limitations persist across universities

 **High-stakes consequences** — in oncology and public health, regions bearing the greatest burden of cancer and infectious diseases contribute only a small share of globally cited research

 **The real gap** — not intellectual capability, but deficits in structured mentorship, international integration, and performance accountability

The Solution: Sekelela Online University

🎓 **Sekelela Online University (SOU)** — a digitally delivered, research-focused postgraduate institution with international oversight and milestone-based funding

Core Features

💻 **Digital & hybrid delivery** — online coursework in research methodology, oncology, and implementation science, combined with structured proposal development and virtual supervision panels

🌐 **International co-supervision** — research proposals peer-reviewed by UK, European, and U.S. partners, supported by joint supervision frameworks and shared academic governance standards

📊 **Milestone-based funding model** — funding tied to measurable progress, including approved protocols, completed data collection, thesis submission, peer-reviewed publication, and successful oral defense.

🔬 **Focused research priorities** — oncology (molecular, epidemiology, environmental determinants), cancer in developing regions, high-burden infectious diseases, implementation science, and health systems strengthening.

🎯 **High-rigor, high-impact model** — not a mass-enrollment university, but a selective platform designed to produce globally competitive research and leadership outcomes.

Academic Model

 **Programs at SOU** — rigorous, research-driven pathways designed for measurable academic impact

 **Research-based Master's degrees (12–18 months)** — intensive programs focused on producing publishable research

 **PhD pathways (3–4 years)** — advanced training to develop independent, globally competitive researchers

 **Postgraduate certificates** — targeted skill-building in:

 Research methodology – [Can Pursue Public Health or Allied Field]

 Grant writing

 Oncology research

 Implementation science

Academic Model-Continued

Structured research pipeline — every student advances through clearly defined, outcome-driven milestones:

1.  **Proposal development & international peer review**
2.  **Ethical approval & study registration**
3.  **Data collection phase**
4.  **Data analysis & thesis preparation**
5.  **Manuscript submission to peer-reviewed journal**
6.  **Oral defense & degree award**

 **Outcome-driven design** — this structured pathway ensures that funding consistently translates into measurable, high-quality academic outputs

Funding Model & Financial Accountability

 **Performance-based funding model** — SOU operates a transparent, milestone-driven disbursement structure to ensure accountability and impact

 **Master's funding (12–18 months)** — staged disbursement tied to progress:

 **5–10%** upon proposal approval

 **10–20%** during fieldwork and data collection

 **20%** upon thesis completion and journal submission

 **Final installment** upon successful defense and publication acceptance

 **Supervisor compensation model** — proportionate remuneration (capped at 10–15% of student bursary) to ensure:

 Incentivized, high-quality mentorship

 Efficient and responsible use of funds

 Transparent allocation of resources

Funding Model & Financial Accountability- Cont'd

 **Diverse funding sources** — strategically aligned with mission-driven partners:

 Philanthropic foundations

 Development agencies

 Global health charities

 Impact-focused family offices

 Academic institutional partnerships

 **Individual contributions** — enabling high-net-worth individuals and committed supporters to directly fund and track the impact of specific students or research projects

 **Guaranteed academic outputs per funded student:**

 Completed thesis

 At least one peer-reviewed submission (Master's) and two or more (PhD)

 Structured capacity development within the student's home institution

Governance and Risk Mitigation

 **Governance & accountability** — SOU operates under the Sekelela Foundation, a publicly incorporated nonprofit with independent oversight

 **Independent Board of Directors** — responsible for:

 **Academic standards** — ensuring global quality and rigor

 **Financial transparency** — clear, accountable use of funds

 **External auditing** — verification of financial integrity

 **Partnership oversight** — governance of international collaborations

 **Transparent annual reporting to sponsors** — comprehensive performance tracking including:

 **Student progression metrics**

 **Peer-reviewed publication outputs**

 **Financial allocation audits**

 **Impact indicators** — growth in local institutional capacity

 **Risk-managed funding model** — milestone-based disbursement reduces financial risk while increasing predictability of academic and research outcomes

Impact Model

 **Multi-level impact model** — SOU delivers measurable outcomes across individual, institutional, and system-wide levels

 **Individual impact** — developing globally competitive researchers and leaders

 **Internationally competitive graduates** — equipped to meet global academic and research standards

 **Increased publication output** — higher rates of peer-reviewed research

 **Enhanced scholarship competitiveness** — stronger success in securing funding and fellowships

 **Leadership readiness** — prepared for roles in academia, policy, and global health

Impact Model - Continued



Institutional impact — strengthening capacity within home institutions



Enhanced supervision capacity — improved quality and availability of local mentors



Development of research culture — embedding rigor, accountability, and productivity



Expanded global collaboration — stronger links with international research networks



Improved grant acquisition — increased ability to secure competitive funding



System-level impact — advancing sustainable, locally driven research ecosystems



Locally relevant research — addressing cancer and public health priorities in context



Evidence-based policy contribution — informing national and regional health strategies



Reduced external dependency — strengthening independent research leadership



Sustainable scientific ecosystems — long-term capacity for innovation and impact

Pilot Phase Proposal

 **Pilot Phase Proposal** — launching a high-impact foundational cohort in oncology and public health

 **Cohort scope** — funding **15–20 Master’s candidates** to validate the SOU model in real-world conditions

 **Pilot objectives** — clear, measurable success criteria:

 **Demonstrate feasibility** of the milestone-based funding model

 **>80% thesis completion rate** — ensuring strong academic outcomes

 **≥70% peer-reviewed submission rate** — driving global research visibility

 **International partnerships** — establish collaborations with at least **two global institutions**

 **Timeline** — **24-month pilot duration** to allow full academic and research cycle completion

 **Funding requirement** — **to be determined** based on finalized bursary structure and cohort design

 **Financial transparency** — detailed projections and budget breakdown available upon request

Founder's leadership

 **Founder's leadership** — grounded in decades of global experience across academia, research, and industry

 **Dr. Boyd Mudenda (Founder)** — medical doctor with **40+ years of experience** spanning:

-  Academic medicine
-  Oncology research
-  Postgraduate supervision
-  Pharmaceutical development
-  Executive biotech leadership

Founder's leadership - Continued

 **Academic and industry excellence** — former **Clinical Lecturer in Surgery at the University of Liverpool**, later transitioning to the pharmaceutical industry and contributing to the **development and regulatory approval of six anticancer drugs**

 **Current leadership role** — serving as **Executive Director of a biotechnology company** advancing a novel therapeutic toward market approval

 **Commitment to mentorship** — supervised **MSc and PhD students in Zambia (2012–2016)** through both in-person and online models, with a focus on developing globally competitive researchers

 **Vision and legacy** — Sekelela reflects a lifelong commitment to **mentorship, global scientific equity, and building sustainable academic and research ecosystems**

Partnership Opportunity

 **Partnership opportunity** — collaborate to build a globally competitive research ecosystem

 **Fund pilot cohorts** — directly support the training of high-potential postgraduate researchers

 **Enable digital infrastructure** — invest in scalable platforms for learning, supervision, and research delivery

 **Sponsor thematic research tracks** — advance priority areas such as oncology and cancer epidemiology

 **Co-develop supervision frameworks** — partner in shaping international, high-standard mentorship models

 **Establish named scholarships** — create legacy programs with visible, trackable impact

 **Shared vision** — together, we can develop a new generation of scientific leaders from underserved and developing regions, equipped not just to participate in global research—but to lead it