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Intelligent Management
and Tracking Systems

How SACPO Digitised SETA Grant and Work-Integrated Learning Administration with OLUMS on AWS

The South African Public Colleges Organisation (SACPO) required a digital platform to manage learner funding, workplace attendance, stipend claims, progress evidence and reporting across public TVET programmes. Manual administration created delays and limited programme visibility.

OLUMS implemented its Grant Management and WIL platform on Amazon Web Services (AWS), supporting more than 1,000 learners and creating governed workflows for learners, supervisors, placement officers and grant administrators.

Challenge

- Manual grant budgets, attendance, stipend and payroll processes
- Limited real-time visibility of learner progress and exceptions
- More than 1,000 learners requiring digital transition

Solution

- AWS-hosted SETA Grant Management and WIL platform
- Role-based learner, supervisor and grant-administration workflows
- Digital evidence, claims, approvals and executive reporting

Results

- More than 1,000 learners transitioned to digital workflows
- Seven core grant-management capabilities implemented
- Improved visibility, data accuracy and reporting



The Customer

SACPO is a national education-sector organisation supporting South Africa's public Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges. It coordinates initiatives involving workplace learning and SETA-funded learners.

The OLUMS agreement commenced on 1 January 2023. Production infrastructure was wound down in December 2024, followed by reporting, reconciliation and commercial close-out completed by 31 March 2025.



About OLUMS

Online University Management Systems (OLUMS) is an education technology company specialising in digital platforms for higher education and skills development. Founded in 2019, OLUMS designs systems that support academic operations, industry engagement, and regulatory compliance.

As an AWS Partner, OLUMS builds and operates its platforms on Amazon Web Services to meet the scalability, security, and reliability requirements of public sector and higher education institutions.



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The Challenge: Moving Grant Administration Beyond Paper

SACPO coordinated learners, colleges, workplaces and SETA-funded programme requirements.

Manual Grant Processes

Paper and spreadsheets complicated budgets, attendance, stipend claims and payroll preparation.

Limited Oversight

Administrators lacked timely progress, compliance and at-risk learner information.

Multi-Role Adoption

More than 1,000 learners and their operational stakeholders required a consistent digital process.

The Solution: A Digital Grant and WIL Operating Platform

OLUMS implemented its Grant Management and WIL platform on AWS.

Integrated Workflow

The solution supported:

- Grant budgets and learner and employer records
- Attendance, stipend claims and payroll preparation
- Progress monitoring, digital POE and executive reporting
- Defined roles and consolidated PDF and Excel reports supported programme oversight.

Results: Digital Reach and Stronger Programme Visibility

Learner Transition

More than 1,000 learners moved from fragmented administration into digital workflows.

Process Coverage

Seven capabilities covered budgets, records, attendance, claims, payroll, progress and evidence, and reporting.

Operational Insight

The platform improved visibility and data accuracy while exposing adoption issues requiring intervention.

A governed AWS environment for learner funding and workplace evidence

The SACPO service used linked AWS account 202384225808 under OLUMS shared production account 960023070339. Application workloads operated on Amazon EC2 behind an Application Load Balancer, with Amazon RDS for structured learner and workflow data and Amazon S3 for evidence and reports.

Amazon VPC security controls separated workload tiers. AWS WAF protected the public path, while AWS KMS, AWS CloudTrail, Amazon GuardDuty, Amazon Inspector and Amazon CloudWatch supported encryption, security monitoring and operational oversight. Controlled releases used AWS CLI and CodeDeploy.

The platform connected learners, workplace supervisors, placement officers and grant administrators through one role-based workflow.



Designed for grant transparency and audit-ready evidence

Each learner record linked programme and funding information to attendance, claims, progress evidence and approvals. Administrators could identify outstanding actions and produce consolidated PDF and Excel reports.

The delivered scope included operational WIL and grant-management functions. A wider nine-province Placement Portal was proposed but was not part of the completed implementation and is not claimed as an outcome. Production infrastructure was wound down in December 2024, with final close-out by March 2025.



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From Manual Administration to Structured Grant Workflows

The OLUMS portal digitised the key operating steps surrounding SETA-funded learners: programme setup, learner and workplace records, attendance, stipend claims, payroll preparation, progress tracking, digital evidence and reporting.

The resulting data improved transparency and supported more timely programme oversight. It also provided a basis for identifying at-risk learners and operational exceptions instead of relying exclusively on retrospective manual reports.

“We have consistently found OLUMS to be professional, reliable, and highly competent in their field.”

Neo Matsena

Chief Executive Officer

**South African Public
Colleges Organisation**

Change Management as a Core Delivery Requirement

The project showed that a working platform does not guarantee consistent adoption. Some users continued to rely on manual registers or missed training. Future implementations will appoint change champions, mandate digital-first processing, complete role-based onboarding before launch, provide low-connectivity support and monitor adoption through agreed weekly measures and escalation routes.