



**OFFICIAL RELEASE STATEMENT BY THE  
CHAIRPERSON  
HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD**

**AT THE RELEASE OF THE APPROVED SUCCESSFUL  
STUDENT LOAN BENEFICIARIES  
FOR THE A CADEMIC YEAR 2024/25**

**11<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

## **RELEASE OF APPROVED STUDENTS' LOANS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25**

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- **HON. MINISTER OF STATE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION,**
- **THE PERMANENT SECRETARY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
AND SPORTS**
- **BOARD MEMBERS OF HESFB,**
- **COMMISSIONER HIGHER EDUCATION AND TRAINING,**
- **REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND  
SPORTS,**
- **STAFF OF HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING  
BOARD,**
- **MEMBERS OF THE PRESS**
- **LADIES AND GENTLEMEN**

### **1.0 Introduction**

On behalf of the Higher Education Students' Financing Board, we welcome you all to the eleventh round of the release of the Students' Loan Beneficiaries for the Academic Year 2024/25.

In a special way, I would like to welcome the Hon Minister of State for Higher Education to this occasion, the Board members and staff of the Ministry of Education and Sports and of the Board and our friends from the different media houses.

Hon Minister, through you, I convey my sincere appreciation to the Minister of Education and Sports for her support to the Board and the entire Ministry staff for the cordial working relationship.

Hon Minister, on behalf of the Board, we appreciate your continued support and guidance given to the Board and the good work you are doing for the Education sector. We applaud you for ensuring that the government of Uganda continuous to support brilliant but less privileged students who cannot afford the costs of Higher Education. Hon Minister, the demand for the student loans has been increasing yearly and this time round, we received a total of 6,661 applications way above the 1,921 received last academic year. The Board has worked tirelessly with the help of our able Secretariat staff to accomplish the task on time. I do appreciate the Board members and staff for the good job well done.

I would like to welcome and pay special tribute to the members of the Press for your continued support and covering our events. The press has given the student loan scheme activities wide coverage. It is our sincere prayer that you continue to report accurately on matters of Financing Higher Education in the Country.

Hon Minister, the intended objective of widening and broadening access to Higher Education is slowly being registered through increased number of the student on the loan scheme as highlighted in this report.

## **2.0 Background**

The Higher Education Students' Financing Board was established by an Act of Parliament No. 2 of 2014, as a body corporate mandated to provide Loans and Scholarships to eligible citizens of Uganda to enable them access Higher Education at affordable rates.

The objectives of the scheme are:

- ❖ To increase equitable access to Higher Education for all Ugandans;
- ❖ To support qualified students who cannot afford Higher Education;

- ❖ To ensure regional balance in Higher Education services for all Ugandans;
- ❖ To support programmes which are deemed critical for national development;
- ❖ To ensure a sustainable revolving loan Fund.

Hon Minister, the Board has worked hard to widen and broaden access to Higher Education. To date, a total of 16,439 students have been awarded loans in various 25 Universities both Public and Private and 33 Other Tertiary Institutions.

This is the eleventh time that the Board is awarding loans to students pursuing Higher Education at both the Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions. We started way back in the Academic Year 2014/15 and awarded 1,201 undergraduate students. This was followed by 1,273 in 2015/16 for both undergraduate and diploma students; then 1,325 in 2016/17; 1,448 students in 2017/18; 2,943 in 2018/19 then 1851 in 2019/2020. In the academic year 2020/21; 1,146 loans were awarded, in 2021/22; 1,593 loans were awarded, while in the academic year 2022/23 only 625 loans were awarded. The previous academic year 1,196 loans were awarded and this academic year 2024/25; 1,838 loans have been considered. Hon Minister, this brings the total number of the supported students to 16,439 since inception, this is very good performance for which we would like to thank His Excellency the President for fulfilling his promise.

### **3.0 Eligibility into the scheme**

In line with the law that established the Scheme, the Board in approving the successful loan applicants took into account the following:

- ❖ An applicant must be a Ugandan;
- ❖ Admitted for an accredited course or programme of study;
- ❖ Admitted in an accredited (Chartered) Institution of Higher Learning;
- ❖ Applied for the loan;
- ❖ The Board took into consideration regional balance, gender, social economic status and equity in accordance with the Higher Education Students' Financing Act of 2014. All applicants were subjected to a uniform score card which considers proxy social economic indicators to arrive at the lending decision.

### **4.0 Call for Applications**

This year , the Board called for loan applications on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2024 in three newspapers of nation wide outreach; this was followed by sensitization messages on community radios, TVs and quiet a lot of engagement was done using our social media handles. These included facebook, you tube, X formerly called twitter, and whatsApp. Hon. Minister, you will observe that our social media handles are doing us a great deal of outreach without spending much money in our sensitizations efforts.

### **5.0 The Loan Award Selection Criteria**

Hon. Minister, this academic year, the Board adopted a three (3) Loan Award Selection Model in line with Parliament's recommendations and aspirations. In selecting the successful Loan Applicants, the Board considered every application on the basis of its social economic situation where the Integrated Loan Management Information Systems awards points

to determine the learners' level of vulnerability. We further went ahead to select the Applicants according to their districts of origin. In this way 60% of the students have been considered according to District Quota, while 40% have been awarded this financial support according their levels of social economic vulnerability. We are pleased to report that every part of the country has had appropriate share of representation with emphasis on regional balance.

## **6.0 Number of Applications Received**

The Board received a total of 6,661 applications compared to 1,925 received in 2023/24 and this signifies a growth of 246% in the number of applications received.

I am happy to report that we have beneficiaries from all the districts of the Country; and the loan award selection process took serious consideration to ensure a national outlook through regional balance. The Districts of known for low participation rates like Amudat; Buvuma, Kalangala, Kareng, Madi – Okolo; Obongi; Kotido; and Moroto all have presented learners for support.

## **7.0 Successful Loan Applicants**

The number of successful Loan Applicants is 1,838 representing a success rate of 27.6% of the applications received; of these 1,048 (57%) are male while 790 (43%) are females. 1,372 students are going to pursue Undergraduate Degree programmes, while 466 are going to pursue Diplomas. Hon. Minister the total number of female successful applicants as mentioned earlier is 790, up from 317 supported last academic year.

Hon Minister, We continue to award loans to persons with disabilities on affirmative action to pursue both science and humanities programmes and a

total of 29 students with disabilities were awarded loans to pursue both Science and Humanity courses. Of these 18 are males, while 11 are females.

## 8.0 Participating Higher Learning Institutions

Loans are given to students who study from either a Public University or Chartered Private University and Other Tertiary Institutions offering diploma courses. The number of Universities admitting students taking loans is 25 Universities this academic year 2024/25 and a host of other diploma awarding institutions. The approved Universities for the academic year 2024/25 are the following: -

<b>HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD</b>			
<b>LIST OF THE RECOMMENDED PUBLIC &amp; PRIVATE CHARTERED UNIVERSITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDENTS' FINANCING SCHEME FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/25</b>			
<b>S/No</b>	<b>Public Universities</b>	<b>S/No</b>	<b>Private Chartered Universities</b>
1	Busitema University	1	African Bible University
2	Gulu University	2	Bishop Stuart University
3	Kabale University	3	Bugema University
4	Kyambogo University	4	International University of East Africa
5	Lira University	5	ISBAT University
6	Makerere University	6	Islamic University in Uganda
7	Mbarara University of Science & Technology	7	Kampala International University
8	Mountains of the Moon University - Fort portal	8	Kampala University
9	Muni University	9	Muteesa I Royal University
10	Soroti University	10	Ndejje University
	Makerere University Business School is an affiliate of Makerere University	11	Nkumba University
		12	Uganda Christian University
		13	Uganda Martyrs University
		14	University of Kisubi
		15	Victoria University

Hon. Minister, I would like to congratulate Muteesa I Royal University and the University of Kisubi upon receiving their Charters and for their admission to participate in the Students' Loan Scheme.

Hon Minister, the participating Other Tertiary Institutions are reflected in the main report.

## **9.0 Loan Coverage**

The loans awarded to students shall cover the students' tuition fees, functional fees, research fees payable to the Tertiary Institutions and funds to cover Aids and Appliances for persons with disabilities. The funds for loans shall be disbursed directly to the tertiary institutions and not to the beneficiaries

## **10.0 Way Forward**

- i) All successful Loan applicants shall be informed through SMS messages and the HESFB Website and other social media platform today.
- ii) All successful Loan Applicants shall be required to sign Loan Agreements with HESFB. The Loan Agreements shall be dispatched to the tertiary institutions and administered by staff of Higher Education Students' Financing Board.
- iii) The loan amounts shall be disbursed to the respective Higher Learning Institutions after execution of agreements and **NOT** to the loan beneficiaries.

## **10.0 Conclusion**

We would like to pay special tribute to the following:

- 1) The Minister for her continued support.
- 2) The Minister of state for HE for gracing the occasion and supporting the Board.
- 3) The Permanent Secretary and staff of the Ministry of Education and Sports for the good working relationship.
- 4) All the participating Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions for the good and cordial relationships



- 5) The Board Members and Staff of the Secretariat for doing their work promptly and putting in extra hours to beat the deadlines.
- 6) The Press for the continued sensitization of the public and coverage of the activities of the Board

I now take the pleasure to invite the Honourable Minister of State for Higher Education to make your remarks and officially release the list of the successful Loan Beneficiaries for the academic year 2024/25.

Eng Dr. Charles Wana- Etyem

**CHAIRPERSON**

**HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD**