

Service Delivery at SLS

The Ministry of Education and Sports under its mandate plans to implement a Students' Loan Scheme for students in higher institutions of learning beginning Financial Year 2013/14. The objective of the loan scheme is to increase equitable access to higher education in Uganda and also support qualified students who may not afford higher education.

The proposed Students' Loan Scheme (SLS) has been well tarred and developed to address the problem of inequitable access to higher education given the large number of dropouts due to inability to meet the costs of funding education by many of the Ugandan citizens.

Table 1: Approved Courses to be granted Students' Loans FY 2013/14

S/No.	Programmes/ Courses
1	B. Medicine & Surgery (MBChB)
2	B. Pharmacy
3	B. Nursing
4	B. Dentistry
5	B. Medical Lab. Sciences
6	B. Medical Lab. Completion
7	B. Clinical Medicine & Comm. Health
8	B. Community Health
9	B.Sc. Medical Radiography
10	B. Veterinary Medicine
11	B. Nursing Completion
12	B. Pharmaceutical Sciences
13	B. Physiotherapy
14	B.Sc. Education
15	B. Agriculture
16	B.Sc. Agriculture Mechanization
17	B.Sc. Water Resource Eng.
18	B.Sc. Agro Processing Eng.
19	B.Sc. Animal Production and Management
20	B.Sc. Mining
21	B. Agriculture & Entrepreneurship
22	B. Voc. Studies in Agric. with Educ.
23	B.Sc. Electrical Engineering
24	B.Sc. Civil Engineering
25	B.Sc. Mechanical Engineering
26	B.Sc. Petroleum Engineering

Key Highlights

1. The Students Loan Scheme is meant for Ugandan scholars **ONLY**, pursuing higher education in recognized Public and Private Universities.
2. Initially the Loan shall cover Tuition and Functional fees **ONLY**.
4. The Loan will attract an Interest determined by the Board and approved by the Minister.
5. The Loan will initially benefit 1,000 Students (brilliant but needy students) to pursue Science related programs in both Public and Private Universities (Chartered universities). This programme will cover the disciplines shown in the Table 1.
6. A student who has received the loan shall start repaying the loan at least one (1) year after completing his/her education.



Ministry of Education and Sports

Students' Loan Scheme

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Students' Loan Scheme



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

Ministry of Education & Sports - STUDENTS' LOAN SCHEME





Students' Loan Scheme(SLS)

Introduction

The Uganda Students' Higher Education Financing Scheme (Students Loan Scheme) is a fund intended to provide financing to Ugandan students who have qualified for higher education in recognized institutions of higher learning but are unable to support themselves financially.

The 1995 Constitution provides for protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms particularly under Chapter 4. Article 30 provides that all persons have a right to education and this is expounded in the preamble to the Constitution which provides for the National Objectives and Directive Principles of State Policy that directs the State to take appropriate measures to afford every Ugandan citizen equal opportunities to attain the highest educational standard possible. The essence of the higher education financing scheme is to support the sector policy objective of increasing access to quality education in view of the large number of brilliant but needy students who are not among the 4,000 students sponsored by government and cannot raise fees for self sponsorship. In this regard, the Ministry of Education & Sports formed a Taskforce to put in place mechanisms that are going to kick start the activities for implementation of the student loan scheme.

Vision

Access to higher education for all Ugandans.

Mission

To provide student loans to eligible citizens of Uganda to enable them access higher education at affordable rates and increase equitable access to higher education in the country.

Our Core Values

In pursuing these objectives, the Loan Scheme will abide by the following core values: fairness, transparency and high level of integrity, courteous, team work spirit and encourage open communication in carrying out our work.

Objectives

The introduction of the students' loans scheme will serve the following objectives;

1. To increase equitable access to technical and higher education in Uganda;
2. To support highly qualified Ugandan students who may not afford higher education;
3. To ensure regional balance in higher education services in Uganda;
4. To develop and support courses critical to national development and to ensure quality education in public institutions through quality assurance and supervision.
5. To ensure sustainable revolving loans fund.

Eligibility Criteria

The scheme is for Ugandan students seeking to pursue higher education in an accredited institution of higher learning recognized by the National Council for Higher Education and also pursuing an accredited programme. The applicant will have been admitted to an accredited Higher Education Institution. The applicant will be required to make a written application to the Students' Loan Scheme by filling in a required form and submit it within a specified timeframe.

The Higher Education Students' Financing Bill, 2013

The Higher Education Students' Financing Bill, 2013 is in its advanced stages and ready for Cabinet discussion and thereafter, it will be forwarded to Parliament for debate.

Students' Loan Amount

Initially the loan amount is put at a capping of a weighted average Unit cost of Ugx. 4 Million to cater for the pedagogical component (*tuition and functional fees*) while the non pedagogical component such as accommodation, meals, transport costs etc will be cost shared by the students.

Loan beneficiaries

The Students' Loan Scheme will initially offer loans to students pursuing their first degrees in local public and private chartered universities pursuing courses shown in Table 1. Over the following years the loans shall be extended in the ratio of 3:2 Humanities to Science programmes. The programs to be awarded loans will be decided upon by the Board with the approval of the Minister.

Loan Coverage

In the interim, there will be cost sharing between the government and the students whereby the Students' loan Scheme shall cover **tuition fees and functional fees only** and will consider payments for accommodation charges; meals; books and stationery in future depending on the availability of funds. This is because of the limited capitalization of the loan scheme and therefore students will not be awarded adequate loans to cover all the pedagogical and non pedagogical expenses. Besides, cost sharing will lead to a reasonable number of students to access loans. Provision of tuition and functional fees will enable the beneficiaries to meet the critical pedagogical expenses critical to facilitate completion of academic programmes.

Application for the Loan

- (1) An eligible student may apply to the Board for the loan.
- (2) Every application shall be accompanied with
 - (a) a copy of an admission letter from the institution of higher education
 - (b) a copy of a document identifying the applicant
 - (c) Copies of academic results slips, certificates or transcripts
 - (d) Three recent passport photographs
 - (e) Prescribed fees

In the interim, students will apply for the Loan after being admitted at the University.

Loan Application process

Application forms shall be available at the Universities (office of the Dean of Students); Regional Uganda Post office across the country or the Ministry website <http://www.education.go.ug>. Students are advised to apply for the loan after being admitted at the university but before the opening date to allow ample time for processing and remittance. The forms will be delivered back to the office of the Deans of Students where they will be collected by the staff of Students' Loan Taskforce. This is to ensure that there is limited congestion of students at the offices of SLS

Applicants will be required to pay a processing fee as determined by the Board. In future application forms will be downloaded from the Board's website; picked from the Dean of Students, post office and designated places to be determined by the Board.

The Applicants will be required to fill in an application form. The form will capture key aspects of one's background (Bio-data); educational background, family information and other details likely to be adequate basis for preliminary consideration for award of a loan.

Pre- Loan Award Sensitization

All the beneficiaries of the loan will be sensitized on the financial implication of taking a loan and their obligation as loan beneficiaries (loanees).

Students' Loan Scheme

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