

Service Delivery at HESFB

The Ministry of Education and Sports under its mandate has started the implementation of Financing Higher Education studies for Ugandans through the Higher Education Students' Financing Act, 2014 by setting up the Higher Education Students' Financing Board.

The objective of the Board is to increase equitable access to higher education in Uganda and also support qualified students who may not afford higher education.

The Higher Education Students' Financing Board has been established to address the problem of inequitable access to higher education by many Ugandan citizens given the large number of drop-outs due to their inability to meet the costs of higher education.

Key Highlights

1. The Higher Education Students' Financing Board is meant for Ugandan scholars **ONLY**, pursuing higher education in recognized Public and Private Institutions of Higher Learning.
2. Initially the Loan shall cover Tuition, Functional fees, Research fees and Aids and appliances for PWDs **ONLY**.
4. The Loan will attract Interest determined by the Minister of Education and Sports in consultation with the Minister in charge of finance.
5. A student who has received the loan shall start re-paying the loan at least one (1) year after completing his/her course



HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD

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HESFB



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

HIGHER EDUCATION STUDENTS' FINANCING BOARD (HESFB)



BROCHURE



Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB)

Introduction

The Uganda Higher Education Students' Financing Board (HESFB) 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 Students' Financing Board 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 through the Higher Education Students' Financing Act, 2014 established the Board to implement the objects of the Act on its behalf which is in line with the education sector policy objective.

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 Higher Education Students Financing Board will abide by the following core values:

- Fairness
- Transparency
- Integrity
- Courteous
- Innovativeness

Objectives

The introduction of the Higher Education Students Financing Board 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 higher Education Students' Financing Board by filling in a required form and submit it within a specified timeframe.

The Higher Education Students' Financing Act, 2014

The Higher Education Students' Financing Bill, 2013 was passed by Parliament in December, 2013, assented into Law by H.E the President on February 2, 2014 and gazzeted on February 28, 2014 into an Act of law.

Loan Beneficiaries

The Higher Education Students' Financing Board will initially offer loans to students pursuing both sciences and non sciences in local public and private chartered universities pursuing courses considered to be critical to national development and covering human capital gap. 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 Higher Education Students Financing Board shall cover **tuition fees, functional fees, research fees and Aids and appliances for Persons With Disabilities (PWDs)**. The Board 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. enable the beneficiaries to meet the critical pedagogical expenses critical to facilitate completion of academic programmes.

Application for the Loan

Application for loan shall be as follow :-

- (1) An eligible student may apply to the Board for the loan.
- (2) Every application shall be accompanied with;

- a) A copy of admission letter from the university/institution
- b) A valid identification document
- c) Copies of certified academic certificates or result slips and transcripts
- d) A copy of birth certificate or a passport
- e) Three most recent passport photos
- f) Prescribed/application fees
- g) A reference letter from an individual in social standing
- h) Fully filled completed application form
- i) Accurate present residence/home sketch map

Students shall apply for the Loan after being admitted at the Higher Education Institutional.

The loans shall be given to hybrid of sciences and non science programmes that are relevant to national development .

The board shall also determine the programmes to fund with approval of the minister of education

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 fees, *research fees, functional fees*, aids & appliances for persons with disabilities) while the non pedagogical component such as accommodation, meals, transport costs etc will be cost shared by the students.