APPLICATION FOR STUDENTS' LOAN SCHEME OPENS

By Nelson Kiva

The Government has opened applications for the 2026/2027 Students' Loan Scheme, targeting academically qualified, but financially disadvantaged Ugandans seeking higher education opportunities.

In a public statement issued yesterday, the education ministry permanent secretary, Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda, announced that applications opened yesterday, May 25 and will close on July 17, 2026, at 11:59pm.

ADMITTED TO FIRST YEAR

"The ministry hereby invites applications for study loans under the Students' Loan Scheme from eligible Ugandan students admitted to the first year of approved undergraduate diploma and degree programmes for the Academic Year 2026/2027," Turyagyenda stated.

Introduced in 2014 under the Higher Education Students Financing Act, the scheme was established to support bright, but needy students who miss out on government sponsorship under the merit and district quota systems.

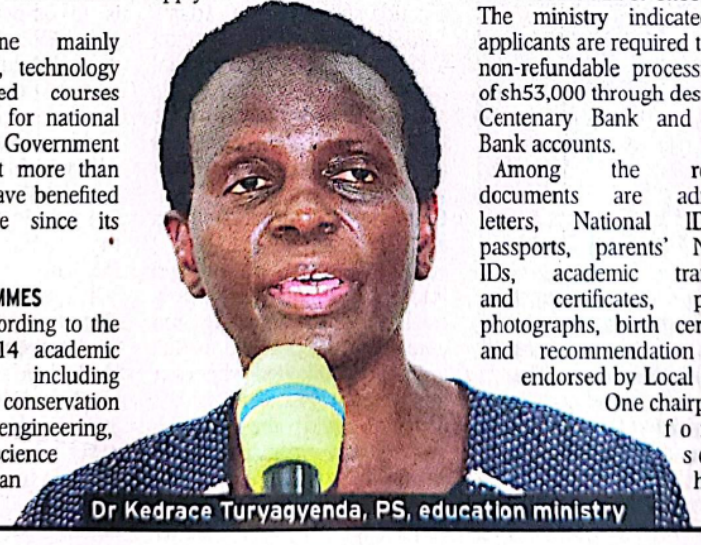
« Applicants should be aged 35 years and below.

The programme mainly prioritises science, technology and health-related courses considered critical for national development. Government records show that more than 14,000 students have benefited from the scheme since its inception.

ACADEMIC PROGRAMMES

The financing, according to the ministry, targets 14 academic programmes, including agriculture and conservation sciences, engineering, laboratory science programmes, human medicine and health care management sciences, nursing and midwifery, pharmacy and pharmaceutical sciences, animal sciences, oil and gas engineering, science education, special needs education, statistics, computer science and information technology, pure sciences, and tourism and hospitality.

Turyagyenda encouraged persons with disabilities to apply.



Dr Kedrace Turyagyenda, PS, education ministry

"The objectives of the Higher Education Students Financing Scheme are to increase equitable access to higher education in Uganda; to support highly qualified students who may not afford higher education; to support programmes critical for national development; and to ensure regional balance in higher education services in Uganda," she explained.

PROCESSING FEE OF SH53,000

The ministry indicated that applicants are required to pay a non-refundable processing fee of sh53,000 through designated Centenary Bank and DFCU Bank accounts.

Among the required documents are admission letters, National IDs or passports, parents' National IDs, academic transcripts and certificates, passport photographs, birth certificates and recommendation forms endorsed by Local Council One chairpersons, former school head teachers and sub-county chiefs or town clerks.

Applicants with disabilities are required to attach a doctor's report and recommendation from the National Union of Disabled Persons of Uganda (NUDIPU).

FALSE INFORMATION

The ministry warned applicants against submitting false information.

"Applicants who provide false or misleading information shall be disqualified, as all submitted information will be verified for accuracy and authenticity," Turyagyenda said.

Applicants must also not be beneficiaries of another scholarship or funding programme and should be aged 35 years and below.

WHAT THE LOAN COVERS

The ministry said the loans will cover tuition and functional fees. Persons with disabilities will also receive support for aids and appliances, while research funding may be provided, depending on budget availability.

However, the loans will strictly be awarded to first-year students pursuing approved undergraduate diplomas and degree programmes. The maximum annual loan limit has been capped at sh7.6m.

"Any academic programme costing above this limit shall not be funded by the ministry," the ministry warned.

The ministry said applications will strictly be submitted online through the ministry website and the Integrated Loan Management Information System (ILMIS). "No hard copy applications shall be received," the ministry emphasised.

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