

Mastercard Foundation

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program celebrates last cohort

At the just-concluded 76th Graduation Ceremony at Makerere University, which took place between 24th and 27th February 2023, the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at Makerere University celebrated the graduation of the final Cohort of 10 Mastercard Foundation Scholars from the first phase of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme (2013-2023). This brings the total number of graduates from Phase One to 974 out of the 1,032 Mastercard Foundation Scholars recruited. **Barbara Buteera** brings you the 10 graduates, and what their dreams and aspirations are.



Eunice Ajambo graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Commerce. She is motivated and detail-oriented, with a strong academic foundation in accounting, taxation, finance, and business management. Her course provided her with practical knowledge and analytical skills relevant to today's dynamic commercial environment.

During her academic journey, she developed a strong interest in taxation and financial compliance. She undertook coursework and case studies that enhanced her understanding of corporate taxation, value-added tax, financial reporting, and business decision-making.

These experiences strengthened her ability to analyse financial information, interpret regulations, and apply commercial principles effectively. Eunice aspires to build a professional career in finance and taxation, with a focus on tax advisory, revenue administration, and corporate finance. She is passionate about ethical business practices and believes that effective financial management and tax compliance are essential for sustainable economic growth.

Noeline Namatovu graduated with a Bachelor of Business Administration from Makerere University. A daughter of a single mother, her graduation is both joy and a big relief to her mother.

After the loss of her father, she received invaluable support from a priest, a friend of her late dad.

"The priest took me to school and covered my fees until I completed Senior Six. Although he couldn't help with university expenses, it motivated me to seek a scholarship, and this Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at Makerere University enabled me to pursue my university education."

Namatovu shares. Initially aspiring to be a doctor, she found the sciences challenging and shifted her focus to accounting, where she plans to major and pursue professional qualifications. Her achievements have inspired young people in her community.



Jackline Azola graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Conservation Biology from Makerere University's College of Natural Sciences. Her passion for nature and commitment to addressing environmental issues, including degradation, pollution, and the unsustainable exploitation of natural resources, have motivated her to pursue a career in conservation.

As a conservation biologist, Jackline's primary objective is to ensure that natural resources and the environment are preserved in their pristine state.

She is dedicated to promoting sustainable resource utilisation and advocating for eco-friendly business practices. To achieve this, she plans to implement comprehensive conservation education initiatives for the general public.



Dr. Florence Akite graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Medicine from Makerere University, a testament to resilience and support. Losing her father at a young age could have derailed her aspirations, but instead, it fueled her determination to succeed.

Throughout her academic career, she received encouragement and assistance from generous individuals who recognised her outstanding academic achievements.

As a Mastercard Foundation Scholar, she not only excelled academically but also actively engaged in her community, treating animals as she gained experience as a vet student. In her hometown of Dokolo, Northern Uganda, she has played a vital role in treating animals and enhancing the health and welfare of local livestock.



Christine Namiyingo graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Education from Makerere University, majoring in Economics. Her academic journey has been challenging, particularly given her experience with bipolar disorder; however, she is grateful for the support she has received from the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program team at Makerere University. She is keen to pursue a Master of Business Administration (MBA) to strengthen her expertise

in Business Management and realise her aspiration of becoming an entrepreneur. Beyond her academic pursuits, Christine is deeply committed to her faith, which she considers a significant factor in her success.

She is also dedicated to assisting those in need, guided by a belief in the acts of generosity, which are rewarded. Inspired by accomplished individuals, she actively seeks mentorship to foster her personal development.

Dr. Immaculate Babalanda is a dedicated veterinary professional who recently completed her Bachelor of Science in Veterinary Medicine at Makerere University.

Throughout her studies, she maintained a strong focus on animal health, food safety, and sustainable livestock systems.

Passionate about agricultural innovation, she founded the Green Grub Revolution Project, which promotes black soldier fly larvae as a sustainable, cost-effective alternative to traditional poultry feed. Her work focuses

on bridging the gap between scientific research and grassroots community needs.

Currently, through her Fellowship at the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI-Nairobi), Immaculate is strengthening her research and leadership in one health and climate-smart livestock production.

She envisions a career at the intersection of veterinary medicine and agricultural innovation, where she can scale sustainable feed alternatives and contribute to resilient food systems across Africa.



Barbra Auma attained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from Makerere University, representing a significant milestone in her educational journey. Hailing from a modest family of eight children, she faced numerous challenges on her path to higher education, particularly after her father, a security guard, was unable to fund her university tuition following her Senior Six.

Consequently, her graduation not only signifies a personal accomplishment but also embodies a remarkable triumph over adversity. Her academic excellence earned her a place in the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at Makerere University, a pivotal opportunity that enabled her to pursue her dreams. Barbra is particularly dedicated to advocating for girls' education.



Vicky Mazapke proudly earned her Bachelor of Business Administration from Makerere University, showcasing the remarkable outcomes of determination and resilience in overcoming adversity. Having lost both parents at a young age, pursuing higher education seemed an unattainable dream. However, with her auntie's support, she successfully completed her primary and secondary education. Her dedication and academic excellence earned her a place in the Mastercard Foundation Scholars

Program, paving the way for her academic journey at Makerere University. Now equipped with her degree, Vicky has set her sights on becoming a successful businesswoman while nurturing her passion for storytelling as a film writer and director. She is grateful for the opportunities provided by the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program, which not only empowered her but also inspired her to launch a project that supports orphans in her community.