Universities set to raise cut-off points

With Uganda now having 12 public universities, those who will miss out on Makerere admission will find spaces in other public universities.

BY AL MAHDI SSENKABIRWA & NOELINE NABUKENYA

The improved performance in the 2025 Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) exams may tighten entry cut-off points this year, university officials said.

The officials from public universities said this is likely to affect the usually competitive academic programmes, including Law, Medicine and Engineering.

Prof Mukadasi Buyinza, the Makerere University academic registrar, said the cut-off points will vary per programme.

"We look at how many have applied, and we usually have a limit per programme. If the thread cuts you out, you are not admitted," he said during an interview on Tuesday.

Prof Buyinza projected that the cut-off points would shoot higher since the performance was good.

The 2025 UACE exams results released by Uganda National Examinations Board (Uneb) last Friday showed that of the 165,172 candidates who sat the exams, at least 133,291 (68.6 percent) scored the minimum two principal passes required to enroll for an undergraduate university programme.

This implies a 3.1 percent increase from the 92,273 who qualified the previous year.

Pass rate

Uneb data shows that a total of 68,906 candidates (41.7 percent) secured three principal passes compared to 54,334 (38.6 percent) in 2024. Another 44,385 candidates (26.9 percent got two principal passes, compared to 37,935 (26.9 percent) in 2024.

A higher percentage of 98.9 percent qualify for the UACE certificate.

Uneb Executive Secretary Daniel Odongo said the figures were consistent with the overall better' performance and a significant increase in entries for the examination in 2025.

"...an extra 21,018 university places should be available to absorb these," he noted during the release of the exam results.

In cases where one principal and two subsidiary passes levels are considered for admission to tertiary institutions, especially those offering diploma level programmes, Mr Odongo said a total of 145,129 candidates (87.9 percent) would qualify.

Prof Buyinza said: "I want to clarify this – we (Makerere University) are not reducing the number of admissions as earlier reported in the media, we are maintaining the usual figure."

Over the years, the university has been admitting about 14,000 stude...

Cut-off points for private students' admissions

PROGRAMME	CODE	ALL	M	F
Bach. of Sci In Accounting (Eve)	ACC	14.9		
Bach. of Business Admin (Afternoon)	ADA	39.4		
Bachof Business Admin (Day) Jinja	ADJ	14.2		
Bach of Business Admin (Day) Mak	ADM	39.8		
Bach. of Science In Agric Eng (Day)	AGE		43.3	36.4
Bach of Agribusiness Mgt (Day)	AGM		35.0	35.1
Bach. of Science In Agriculture (Day)	AGR		36.3	34.5
Bach. of Business Admin(Mbale)	AML	18.3		
Bachelor of Applied Psychology (Day)	APS	42.8		
Bachelor of Applied Psychology (Eve)	APY	35.3		
Bachelor of Architecture (Day)	ARC		49.5	49.1
Bachelor of Arts (Arts) - Day - Jinja	ARJ			
Bachelor of Arts (Arts) - Day	ARS	14.6		
Bachelor Arts (Social Sciences) (Eve)	ASE	16.0		
Bach. of Arts (Social Sciences) (Day)	ASS	16.5		
Bach of Adult& Community Educ (Day)	BAC	23.9		
Bach. of Agric Ext & Rural Inn.(Day)	BAI		31.3	31.3
Bach. of Animal Pdn Tech & Mgt (Day)	BAP		31.9	30.8
Bach. of Business Admin (Eve) Mubs	BBA	22.4		
Bachelor of Business Computing (Day)	BBC	31.1		
Bach. of Business Admin (Day) Mubs	BBD	26.4		
Bach of Bus. Computing (Eve) Mubs	BBE	28.8		
Bac. of Sci In Biomedical Eng (Day)	BBI		45.7	42.5
Bach. of Bus. Computing (Jinja) Day	BBJ	16.6		
Bach. of Sci. In Bioprocessing Eng	BBP		39.1	36.1
Bach. of Sci In Biotechnology (Day)	BBT		35.8	33.2
Bach. of Sci In Conservation Biology (D)	BCB		19.2	20.3
Bach. of Adult & Community Educ (E)	BCE	17.4		
Bachelor of Dental Surgery (Day)	BDS		47.7	45.4
Bach of Sc In Dental Lab Technology	BDT		38.5	38.2
Bach. of Arts In Econ (Day) Mubs	BEC	13.6		
Bach. of Environmental Health Science	BEH		35.8	34.2
Bach. of Enterprenuership (Day) Mubs	BEN	16.1		
Bach. of Early Childhood Care &Educ	BEY	17.1		
Bachelor of Fine Art	BFA	29.9		
Bach. of Sci In Fisheries &Aquac. (Day)	BFS		22.4	22.6
Bach.of Geographical Sciences (Day)	BGS	32.8		
Bach. In Sci In Human Nut. & Dietetics	BHD		36.6	38.0
Bach.of Human Resource Mgt (Eve)	BHE	28.6		
Bsc In Tourism &Hospitality Mgt (Day)	BHJ	14.4		
Bach. of Human Resource Mgt (Day)	BHM	28.3		
Bach. of Infor Sys & Technology (Eve)	BIA	18.0		
Bach. of International Business (Day)	BIB	23.9		
Bsc In Industrial Chemistry (Day)	BIC		39.4	34.9
Bach. of Industrial Art & Applied Design	BID	38.3		
Bach. of office& Information Mgt (Day)	BIM	15.8		
Bach. of Agric. Ext And Rural Inn. (Ext)	BIX		26.1	25.5
Bsc. In Tourism & Hospitality Mgt (Aft)	BJA	19.1		
Bach.of Business Computing (Jinja)	BJB	18.1		
Bach. of Journalism & Comm. (Day)	BJC	44.5		
Bach. of Journalism & Comm. (Eve)	BJE	39.4		
Bach. of Commerce (Jinja) Evening	BJJ	7.9		
Bach.of Commerce (Jinja - Mubs) Day	BJO	11.6		
Bsc In Accounting Jinja - Mubs	BJS	15.4		
Bach. of Marketing (Evening)- Mubs	BKE	14.8		
Bach. of Industrial Livestock & Bus	BLB		21.4	18.8
Bach. of Leisure, Events &Hotel Mgt	BLC	13.6		
Bach. of Library &Information Sci (Eve)	BLE	14.2		
Bach. Leadership & Governance (Day)	BLG	15.7		
Bach. of Leisure, Events & Hotel Mgt	BLM	15.6	.	
Bach. of Biomedical Lab Tech (Eve)	BLT		41.9	39.2
Bsc In Accounting (Mbarara) Day	BMA	13.8		
Bach. of Business Admin (Mbale)	BML	14.3		
Bach. of Business Admin Mbarara	BMM	17.8		
Bsci In Medical Radiography (Day)	BMR		44.3	45.4
Bach. of Marketing (Day)	BMS	15.4		
Bach. of Enterprenuership (Eve) Mubs	BNE			
Bach. of Business Admin (Eve) Mbr...				

PROGRAMME	CODE	ALL	M	F
Bach. of Business Admin (Eve) Jinja	BRO	12.7		
Bsc In Accounting (Day) Mubs	BSA	23.2		
Bsc In Finance (Day) Mubs	BSF	14.5		
Bach. of Information Systems & Tech	BSI	32.3		
Bach. of Infor Systems And Tech (Day)	BSJ	19.8		
Bsc of Speech & Language Therapy	BSL		40.3	37.1
Bach. of Bus. Statistics (Eve) Mubs	BST	8.2		
Bach. of Bus. Admin Arua - Mubs	BSU	15.5		
Bsc In Software Engineering (Day)	BSW		44.7	40.2
Bach of International Business (Eve)	BTB	17.0		
Bsc In Tourism &Hospitality Mgt (Day)	BTH	31.8		
Bach. of Travel & Tourism Mgt (Day)	BTT	16.9		
Bach. of Urban & Regional Planning (	BUP	36.2		
Bach. of Business Statistics (Day)	BUS	10.2		
Bach. of Visual Comm., Design & Mm	BVC	33.2		
Bachelor of Science In Valuation	BVL		38.4	37.8
Bach. of Environmental Science (Day)	BEV		32.6	32.5
Bsc In Water And Irrigation Engineering	BWE		42.8	37.3
Bachelor of Cytotechnology (Day)	BYT		39.8	37.9
Bach. of Youth Devt Work (Ext)	BYW	14.6		
Bsc In Computer &Comm. Eng (Day)	CCE		34.6	23.5
Bachelor of Commerce (Afternoon)	CEA	32.6		
Bsc In Civil Engineering (Day)	CIV		49.7	45.9
Bach. of Commerce (Day) Mb'ra Mubs	CMM	11.3		
Bach. of Commerce (Evening) Mubs	COB	9.0		
Bachelor of Commerce (Day) Makerere	COE	37.3		
Bach. of Commerce (Day) Jinja - Mak.	COJ			
Bachelor of Commerce (Day) Mubs	COM	19.6		
Bach. of Procurement & Supply Chain Mgt (	CRJ	16.9		
Bach.of Proc.& Supply Chain Mgt (Eve)	CRO	13.7		
Bsc In Computer Science (Day) Mak	CSC		43.1	38.0
Bsc In Computer Science (Eve) Mak	CSE		41.1	36.1
Bsc In Computer Science Jinja - Mak.	CSJ		29.7	23.0
Bach. of Commerce (Ext) - Jinja -Mak	CXJ			
Diploma In Performing Arts (Day)	DPA	16.3		
Bach. of Arts In Economics (Aft) Mak	ECE	21.7		
Bach. of Arts In Econ (Jinja - Mak) Day	ECJ			
Bach. of Arts In Econ (Evening) Mubs	ECN	8.9		
Bach. of Arts In Econ (Day) Mak	ECO	28.4		
Bachelor of Arts With Education (Day)	EDA	34.3		
Bsc With Education (Biological) Day	EDB		41.5	38.0
Bsc With Education (Physical) Day	EDP		42.8	37.7
Bsc With Education (Economics) Day	EEC		30.9	30.2
Bsc In Electrical Engineering (Day)	ELE		48.9	43.8
Bsc In Food Science &Tech(Day)	FST		36.6	36.9
Bach of Human Res. Mgt (Eve) Mbale	HMA	18.0		
Bach of Human Res. Mgt (Day) Mbale	HML	19.7		
Bach of Human Res. Mgt (Day) Mb'ra	HNM	18.5		
Bach. of Human Res. Mgt (Eve) Mb'ra	HOM	20.7		
Bach. of Human Res. Mgt (Day) Jinja	HSJ	18.9		
Bach of Human Res. Mgt (Jinja) Eve	HSO	14.8		
Bach. of Information Sys & Technology	IST	36.9		
Bach.of Bus.admin (Aft) Jinja - Mak	JAA	19.0		
Bach. of Entrepreneurship (Jinja) Day	JBE	17.3		
Bach.of Entrepreneurship (Eve) Jinja	JBI			
Bsc In Computer Science (Aft) Jinja	JCA		16.7	19.7
Bach. of Arts In Econ (Aft) Jinja - Mak)	JEA			
Bach. of Commerce (Aft) Jinja - Mak	JOA	12.0		
Bach. of Arts (Arts) (Aft) - Jinja Mak	JRA			
Bach. Leadership &Governance (Eve)	LGM	14.2		
Bach. of Library &Information Sci(Day)	LIS	27.2		
Bsc In Land Surveying & Geomatics	LSG		47.0	43.7
Bach.of Medicine & Bach. of Surgery	MAM		49.7	46.3
Bscience In Mechanical Eng(Day)	MEC		47.9	43.0
Bach. of Biomedical Lab Tech (Day)	MLT		41.9	
Bachelor of Arts In Music (Day)				
Bachelo...				

points

University, said the cut-off point for government-sponsored students will be stiff. "We are yet to set cutoff points for the academic year 2026/2027, pending the Public Universities Joint Admissions Board (PUJAB) meeting that selects students for admission," he said.

Dr Ssempala added: "It is only those students with 20 points (3As) who are likely to get government sponsorship. Those students with less than 20 points are not likely to be admitted on private sponsorship."

He advised parents with students who scored Cs (12 to 16 points) to try admission to private universities because they are not very competitive due to the high tuition fees charged.

"But the parent must find the resources to sustain that student throughout the course. For example, some private universities demand between Shs6 million and Shs8 million per semester from a student pursuing a Bachelor of Medicine, but at Kabale University, which is public, the same programme costs Shs2.5 million," Dr Ssempala explained.

Prof Mouhamad Mpezamihigo, the vice chancellor of Equator University of Science and Technology (EQUSaT), said they plan to absorb 700 students for both the April and August intakes, with 90 offering Bachelor of Medicine.

"Apart from Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Dental Surgery, which have one intake in August, the other programmes have another intake in April," he said.

See full list on www.monitor.co.ug

Determining factors. Usually, the cut-off points are determined solely by two factors: the students' performance that year and the capacity of an institution. If the performance was better, it automatically means the cut-off points will be tight." - Peace Karungi, the Busitema University public relations officer

airtel

Airtel Uganda Limited (the "Company") hereby info
Wednesday 18 March, 2026, the shareholders of th

1. Receipt and approval of the Minutes of the Annual G
2. Adoption of the audited financial statements for the
3. Approval and declaration of a final dividend of UGX
UGX 446 billion at the rate of UGX 11.15 per share.
4. Confirmation of the appointment of Mr. Neeraj Jain
5. Rotation and re-election of Mr. Keith Kalyegira and
6. Re-appointment of M/s Deloitte

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