Byenkya, the Kiryandongo district | project," Byenkya said. The agricultural input package | services to farmers. The UCSATP is a six-year project | approved in late 2[illegible] implementation began in June

Scholarships open doors for bright but vulnerable youth

BY TITUS KAKEMBO

For many young people across Uganda and the wider African continent, university education remains a distant dream disrupted by poverty, displacement, disability and limited opportunity.

To address such challenges, Makerere University, in partnership with the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme, has announced 245 undergraduate and 13 master's scholarships for the 2026/2027 academic year.

The programme targets students whose ambitions have often been constrained by economic hardship and social vulnerability.



The 2026/2027 Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme will benefit 245 undergraduate and 13 master's scholars, including refugees and Ugandans

The scholarships are open to refugees, internally displaced persons, young people with disabilities, students from minority communities, international students, and Ugandans facing financial challenges.

The master's scholarships present an important opportunity for young African graduates who wish to pursue advanced studies but cannot afford graduate tuition. Applicants must be 35 years or younger, although refugees and students living with disabilities are eligible up to the age of 40.

Undergraduate applicants should be 28 years or younger at the application deadline. But for refugees, internally displaced persons, and people with disabilities, they have to be 32 years or younger at the time of the application deadline.

The application process is free and conducted online through the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme portal. The deadline for submission of applications is Friday, June 5, 2026, at 11:59pm, East African time.

For thousands of young people facing financial hardships, the scholarship could become more than financial aid.

For more information and applications, visit the programme portal at *https://apply.mastercardfoundation.mak.ac.ug*

BENEFITS, WHAT IS NEEDED TO APPLY

Beneficiaries will gain access to mentorship, leadership training, community engagement opportunities, and professional development.

Applicants for undergraduate programmes must first apply for admission to Makerere University's main campus under the private sponsorship scheme for the 2026/2027 academic year.

Eligible students are also expected to demonstrate leadership potential and active involvement in community service, a sign that the programme seeks to equally nurture future change-makers.

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