



PRESS RELEASE

EQUITY GROUP AIRLIFTS 64 SCHOLARS TO GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES IN 2018 AS PROGRAM VALUE HITS KSHS 11.13B

This brings to 465 the number of scholars who have joined the program since inception. The ELP's objective is to develop a generation of servant leaders with global exposure and the drive to transform the African continent

Nairobi, Wednesday, 1st August 2018...The Equity Bank airlift program to global universities has this year reached a value of Kshs 11.13 billion, with 465 scholars having secured admissions to universities abroad, including Ivy League institutions.

The 64 beneficiaries joining the program this year have been admitted on full scholarships to leading varsities in the world. Since its inception, the airlift program has seen top Kenyan students join such prestigious institutions as Harvard (22 scholars), University of British Columbia (13), Yale (13), Stanford University (7), Princeton (7), Duke (14), University of Pennsylvania (14), Massachusetts Institute of Technology (M.I.T) (6), Amherst College (10), Brown University (7), Cornell University (15), Dartmouth College (8), Michigan State University (9), University of Toronto (15), University of Edinburg (5), University of California, Berkeley (9), Carnegie Mellon (3) and African Leadership University (12) among others.

The Bank further extended a stipend of between Kshs 100,000 and Kshs 200,000 to each of the 64 scholars leaving the country, totaling to Kshs 11.4 million for their travel and other essentials.

Speaking during the send-off ceremony, Equity Group CEO and Executive Chairman of Equity Group Foundation Dr. James Mwangi advised the scholars to exploit the extraordinary opportunities for academic excellence, leadership training, networking and global exposure that the scholarships offer.

“This global experience is only available to a select few and will shape your mindset and set you on a path to influence your community and contribute to the socio-economic transformation of our country. Take advantage of the numerous opportunities to build global networks and get a world-class all-round education. You will inspire other secondary school students back here in Kenya to believe that they can realize their dreams and compete on the global stage with other scholars from around the world,” said Dr. Mwangi.

The 2018 cohort are part of a larger group of 12,236 scholars in the Equity Leaders Program (ELP). The students have already gone through a year's mentorship and a paid internship program at the Bank, which is fashioned as an advanced leadership development training. ELP is run by Equity Bank and coordinated by Equity Group Foundation which is the social investment subsidiary of Equity Group Holdings Plc.

To prepare the scholars for their arrival in universities abroad, the Bank facilitated 33 ELP scholars already in international universities to come home for the Global Summer Internship Program (GSIP) run by Equity Group Foundation to mentor the 2018 applicants.

GSIP is an opportunity for ELP scholars studying in global universities to intern with Equity Group during their summer holiday. The program ensures scholars studying abroad maintain the connection to their communities in Kenya. It aims to create a community of transformative leaders who work together across borders and across sectors to drive sustainable economic growth and social progress in Africa.



The Equity Leaders Program (ELP) starts as a transition pre-university program for the top performing students in all the counties. These include the 'A' scholars from the renowned *Wings to Fly* Program for academically gifted but financially challenged children executed by Equity Group in partnership with Mastercard Foundation with support of USAID, UKAID, KfW and other partners.

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The 2018 ELP Scholars to Global Leading Universities

	NAME	KCSE GRADE	SECONDARY SCHOOL	UNIVERSITY ADMITTED TO	COUNTRY
1	Viola Adhiambo Owiti	A	Moi Girls High School Eldoret	University of British Columbia	Canada
2	Valentine Gituti Weirungu	A-	Moi Girls High School Eldoret	University of British Columbia	Canada
3	Juliet Mutheu Otieno	A	Precious Blood Riruta	University of British Columbia	Canada
4	Abdirahman Hajj Salad	A-	Dagoretti High School	University of British Columbia	Canada
5	Joy Sere Mvoi	A-	Teresa D'Lima Girls Secondary	Shanghai Jiao Tong University	China
6	Diana Wambui Njuguna	A-	Alliance Girls High School	Earth University	Costa Rica
7	Judyrose Wamuyu	A-	University of Nairobi	Sciences Po	France
8	Esther Kavini Nzau	A-	Alliance Girls High School	Ashesi University	Ghana
9	Gideon Kipruto Rono	A	Kericho High school	Budapest University of Technology	Hungary
10	Zacharia Ria Ndungu	A	Light Academy	National Institute of Technology	India
11	Felista Kemunto Obasi	A	Mary Hill Girls High School	UWC Adriatic	Italy
12	Rachel Wanjiru Kimemia	A-	Mugoiri Girls	Ecole Centrale De Nantes	Mauritius



13	Percy Chelangat Mibei	A	Kaplong Girls High School	Ecole Centrale De Nantes	Mauritius
14	Odhiambo Moses Ojwang	A	Alliance High School	Ecole Centrale De Nantes	Mauritius
15	Hellen Awuor Okelo	A-	The Kenya High School	African Leadership University	Rwanda
16	Lydia Akinyi Jwan	A-	Alliance Girls High School	African Leadership University	Rwanda
17	Edwin Nyongesa Mukhebi	A	St. Teresa Secondary	Carnegie Mellon University	Rwanda
18	Mubari Liz Mwendwa	A	The Kenya High School	University of Cape Town	South Africa
19	Cassandra Dacha	A-	Moi Girls Nairobi	University of Cape Town	South Africa
20	June Wangari Nyaga	A-	Kabare Girls' High School	Necmettin Erbakan University	Turkey
21	Mohamednur Ali Mohamed	A-	Alim High School	Ondokuz Mayıs University	Turkey
22	Matano Mohammed Telengo	A-	Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed	Yalova University	Turkey
23	Brenda Kageni	A	Pangani Girls	University of Edinburgh	UK
24	Gabriel Ohawa	A	Kapsabet High/ Africa Leadership Academy	University of Edinburgh	UK
25	Grace Nkatha Kiruja	A-	Karima Girls High School	University of Edinburgh	UK
26	Daniel Ngoria	A-	Alliance High School	University of Manchester	UK
27	Joyce Chepngeno Bor	A	Moi Tea Girls Secondary	Bowdoin College	USA
28	Phoebe Chepkemei Lokwee	A	Alliance Girls High School	Brown University	USA
29	Purity Kemunto Bundi	A-	Sironga Girls	Carthage College	USA
30	Collins Kibet	A	Alliance High School	Colby College	USA
31	Kenneth Kiprotich	A-	Alliance High School	Columbia University	USA
32	Mumasi Benjamin Waluchio	A-	Moi Forces Academy - Nairobi	Columbia University	USA



33	Nduhiu Linda Wanjiru	A	The Kenya High School	Cornell University	USA
34	Collins Kiprotich Too	A	Litein High School	Cornell University	USA
35	Parit Jackson Tupana	A-	Alliance High School	Cornell University	USA
36	Gitahi Jeff Maina	A	Utumishi Boys Academy	Dartmouth College	USA
37	Douglas Gichohi Maina	A	Alliance High School	Duke University	USA
38	Nduhiu Ian Nderi	A	Moi High School Mbiruri	Hamilton College	USA
39	Haya Naphtal Obillo	A	Alliance High School	Harvard University	USA
40	Kimurgor Kalya	A	Moi High School Kabarak	Harvard University	USA
41	Rachael Mbuhe Kiti	A-	Bahari Girls Secondary	Hillsdale College	USA
42	Ngonge Timothy Mbaga	A-	Kenyatta High Mwatate	Lafayette College	USA
43	Stephan Njumbi	A	Starehe Boys Center	M.I.T	USA
44	Veronica Wairimu Muriga	A	Kenya High School	M.I.T	USA
45	Fabian Francis Mkocheke	A	Nairobi School	Middlebury College	USA
46	Wainaina Grace Wanjiku	A	Moi Girls School Nairobi	Northwestern University	USA
47	John Faith Kasasi	A	Alliance Girls High School	Northwestern University	USA
48	Kelvin Ngure	A-	Nairobi School	Pennsylvania State University	USA
49	Ronnie Kaigua Kihonge	A	Alliance High School	Princeton University	USA
50	Lesly Chepchirchir Kemboi	A-	Moi Girls High School Eldoret	Smith College	USA
51	Ochako Hesbon Mogere	A	Kisii High	Swarthmore/Northwestern	USA
52	Abdikadir Omar Abdulle	A	Nairobi School	Tufts College	USA



53	Vallary Muhambe Muhalia	A	Alliance Girls High School	University of Chicago	USA
54	Kayeyia Roshelle Gakii	A	Precious Blood Riruta	University of Pennyslavia	USA
55	Naomi Maranga	A	Kenya High School	University of Pennyslavia	USA
56	Mirriam Chemutai	A	Alliance Girls High School	University of Pennyslavia	USA
57	Maronga Rhoda Kendi	A	The Kenya High School	University of Rochester	USA
58	Dokata Kosi	A	Butula Girls/ Africa Leadership Academy	University of Rochester	USA
59	Tracy Nyambura Wambui	A-	Precious Blood Riruta	University of Wisconsin - Madison	USA
60	Kariuki Joyce Muthoni	A	Kabare Girls	Vanderbilt University	USA
61	Mutuku Janice Mutheu	A	Moi Girls School Nairobi	Vanderbilt University	USA
62	Walter Githaiga Mwaniki	A-	Thika High School	Vassar College	USA
63	Kwena Tracy Ndore	A	The Kenya High School	Vassar College	USA
64	Mwangi Wanjiku Lorna	A	Precious Blood Riruta	Yale University	USA

About Equity Leaders Program

The Equity Leaders Program was founded in 1998 and has since scaled up over time to benefit a total of 12,236 scholars. The program admits the top performing boy and girl in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.) exams from each district in Kenya. Wings to Fly scholars who score an A in K.C.S.E. also qualify to join ELP. The Wings To Fly program aims at empowering young academically gifted scholars by supporting their access to education in public universities in Kenya and around the globe, as well as equipping them with leadership skills.

The program is centered on a rigorous internship experience that allows scholars to work as members of staff at Equity Bank branches around the country before they join university. The internships/program develops the scholars professionally, gives them real-world working experience, as well as a college savings scheme which allows scholars to fund their university education in Kenya with their internship stipends.

In addition to the pre-university internship experience, the program provides internships and leadership development experiences to scholars throughout their time in university and beyond. The leadership development model seeks to develop scholars across four program areas:



1. **Personal and Professional Development** to enable scholars to identify their unique talents and strengths and to match their individual interests with meaningful career opportunities
2. **Global Exposure** to encourage scholars to expand their horizons and become world class-leaders who can compete and succeed in a global marketplace
3. **Creativity and Innovation** to empower scholars to think creatively about providing solutions to the challenges and opportunities facing communities around the world
4. **Community Engagement** to inspire scholars to use their abilities for good and to make a positive impact on society

While developing individual scholars across these four thematic areas, the program also endeavors to create a strong network of scholars who work together across disciplines and sectors to transform their communities, their country, and the world at large.

This leadership development model is delivered through the following key initiatives:

- The **Internship** program which allows scholars at local universities to return for internships with Equity Group and its partners during university holidays to get professional experience while saving for their university education. The program runs for the 9-18 months between secondary school completion and the beginning of university.
- The **Global Summer Internship Program** which allows scholars studying at international universities to return to Africa for their summer holidays and intern with Equity Group and its partners, giving them work experience and building their professional networks on the continent
- The **College Counseling** program which supports Equity scholars to access admission and scholarships to some of the world's leading universities, including the Ivy League universities in the US
- The annual **Leadership Congress** which allows scholars to connect with each other to form a strong community, learn about leadership and employability skills, and interact with successful leaders from various industries
- The **Innovators Program** which trains and develops scholars in innovation and entrepreneurship skills, allowing them to write business plans and pitch their ideas for seed funding
- The **Centers of Excellence** program where scholars provide residential mentorship to students at three high schools around Kenya: Kwale Girls, Nyawara Girls, and Nyagatugu Boys
- The **eQademy** program which encourages scholars to take Massively Open Online Courses (MOOCs) to complement their university education with ideas from leading global thinkers
- The **ELP Journals** platform which encourages scholars to express themselves through writing and digital media, allowing them to share their poems, short stories, political commentary, photographs, and more with fellow scholars
- The **University Chapters** at campuses in Kenya and abroad that serve as platforms for interaction, networking, and activities for the scholars during their university session
- The **Wings to Fly Mentorship Program** which enables scholars to visit Wings to Fly high school scholarship recipients at their respective high schools to provide mentorship and academic coaching



465 ELP scholars have been admitted or are currently studying at top global universities. ELP has been developing academically bright high school graduates across five dimensions: values, skills, education, work experience and global networks.

About Global University Scholars

During their internship period, ELP invites applications from the scholars who wish to study abroad. They are taken through a rigorous college counselling program in readiness for submitting outstanding applications to top global universities. Several scholars have proceeded to study in Ivy League institutions in the USA and leading universities in Canada, UK, China, Spain, Turkey, France, South Korea, South Africa, Ghana and Rwanda.

A good number of our scholars are now working globally. Many of the scholars are also finding internship offers in globally competitive corporations thereby opening up opportunities for career development at the global level. Several of these scholars have returned to Kenya after completing their studies.