



PRESS RELEASE

92 Equity Leadership Program (ELP) Scholars Receive Admission to 43 Global Universities

- *The 92 will benefit from undergraduate scholarships valued at a total of USD 18,856,327 (slightly over Kshs 2 billion).*

Nairobi, 31st August 2020...92 scholars from the Equity Leadership Program (ELP) comprising of *Wings to Fly* alumni beneficiaries as well as those who topped the 2019 Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education examination in their respective sub counties have received admission to 43 global universities. The forty-three (43) institutions are across five continents in different countries including the United States, Canada, Germany, Hungary, Turkey, Costa Rica, the United Kingdom, United Arab Emirates, Ghana, Mauritius, Rwanda and South Africa.

With this year's admission the largest single year cohort, the total number of scholars who have so far gained admission to global universities under the Equity Leaders Program is 633.

The global scholars will benefit from undergraduate scholarships valued at over USD 18M (slightly over Kshs 2 billion) and receive a stipend of Kshs.16 million to facilitate their preparation and travel to their host countries.

Commenting on the admissions when releasing the Kshs.16 million for air tickets, Equity Group Foundation (EGF) Executive Chairman, Dr. James Mwangi noted that despite the prevailing global pandemic, EGF through its Education and Leadership Development pillar has been able to coach and mentor bright, promising youth, to deliver the highest single year admissions and scholarship for airlift in search for higher education.

"We are proud of our ELP scholars for the hard work that they have put into this. Their dedication, consistency and perseverance has seen them gain admission into some of the best institutions of higher learning in the world including the Ivy League Universities."

Of the 92, 19 scholars have been admitted to Ivy League Universities in the United States including Yale (2), Harvard (4), University of Pennsylvania (3), Princeton (3), Cornell (1), Dartmouth (2), Columbia (2) and Brown (2). "We have equipped our ELP scholars with the knowledge and skills to navigate new cultures and to thrive in any environment they are placed in. We challenge them to go and conquer the world by excelling in their academics and taking up key leadership roles and contributing to changing narratives about Africa as well as transforming of lives," added Dr. Mwangi.

ELP provides a paid internship to top performing secondary school scholars including *Wings to Fly* alumni beneficiaries. The program aims to educate and provide mentorship and exposure to Kenyan youth, create a generation of value-based leaders, who bring about positive change in the community by driving sustainable economic growth and social progress in Kenya and globally.

Maxwell Ojiambo, a *Wings to Fly* alumnus and an ELP scholar who is set to join Stanford University to pursue Electrical Engineering said, "My experience in *Wings to Fly* and ELP has taught me that tough times don't last forever. Equity took a chance on me and they turned me into a promising young man with big dreams and a great vision for the future. I am truly grateful for the experience."

Another ELP scholar, Joanne Nekoye who is set to pursue Computer Science at Brown University said, "I am excited to start a new chapter in my life. I joined ELP as a top KCSE performer and the experience has been unique. My application process to Brown was seamless and I also learnt a lot about leadership, responsibility and giving back through my internship at Equity. I hope to come back home to share my skills and newfound knowledge. I sincerely appreciate Equity and its partners for believing in me and other young people in our country."



Since inception in 1998, ELP has supported 6,713 paid internships by Equity Bank at a cost of approximately Kshs.3 billion. Of these, 633 have been coached and mentored to secure admission and scholarship to enable their transition to to global universities while the majority study locally in leading universities. 33% of the ELP interns are continuing scholars, while 67% have graduated from various institutions and continued to become productive members in community building. The first ELP scholar, Samuel Kirubi, has since scaled up in his professional career to become the Managing Director of Equity Bank Uganda.

ELP global scholars do return to Kenya during their summer holidays to team up with their colleagues in local universities and spend their time mentoring the incoming ELP scholars on how to apply for college admissions, as well as preparing them for life in universities locally or abroad.

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EQUITY LEADERS PROGRAM GLOBAL SCHOLARS SUMMARIES

DISTRIBUTION BY COUNTRY

	Region	Country	Count	Percentage
1	Africa	Mauritius	19	21%
2		Ghana	4	4%
3		Rwanda	3	3%
4		South Africa (SA)	1	1%
5	Europe	Hungary	8	9%
6		Germany	1	1%
7		Turkey	1	1%
8		United Kingdom (UK)	1	1%
9	Middle East	United Arab Emirates (UAE)	1	1%
10	North America	United States of America (USA)	51	56%
11		Canada	1	1%
12	South America	Costa Rica	1	1%
		Total	92	100%

No	Student Name	High School Attended	Name of University/College Admitted to	Country
1	Abel Abong Ariko	Moi High School Kabarak	Northwestern University	USA
2	Alison Jelagat Keitany	Alliance Girls High School	Stanford University	USA
3	Allan Kimathi Gikonyo	Moi High School Kabarak	Princeton University	USA
4	Allan Kiprono Kipkorir	Moi High School Kabarak	University of Bristol	UK
5	Allan Nyaanga Manono	Alliance Boys High School	University of Debrecen	Hungary
6	Alphania Wanjira Muthee	Starehe Girls Centre	Harvard University	USA
7	Amina Ali Hussein	Pangani Girls High School	Bowdoin College	USA
8	Anicet Dushime Wa Mungu	Nakuru Boys High School	Stanford University	USA
9	Ann Kinanu	Nkuene Girls High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
10	Benson King'ori Mugure	Njumbi High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
11	Benson Mwanthi Kathini	Lenana School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius



12	Bill Omole Otieno	Kericho Boys High School	University of Debrecen	Hungary
13	Brian Kipchumba	Kapsabet Boys High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
14	Byrone Omondi Rusana	Maseno School	Budapest University of Technology and Economics	Hungary
15	Cedella Ijai Odiara	Kenya High School	Hillsdale College	USA
16	Charles Munga Muiruri	Starehe Boys Centre	Earth University	Costa Rica
17	Christine Mel	Alliance Girls High School	Brown University	USA
18	Christine Nasieku Lekishon	Asumbi Girls High School	University of Wisconsin - Madison	USA
19	Christine Njeri Mwangi	Alliance Girls High School	Yale University	USA
20	Collins Munene Kariuki	Nyeri High School	Pomona College	USA
21	Cynthia Adhiambo Otieno	Alliance Girls High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA
22	Cynthia Njoki Gichuki	Bishop Gatimu Ngandu Girls	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
23	Dancan Ochieng Odira	Agoro Sare High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
24	Danvick Muli Mbondo	Alliance Boys High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
25	David Njoroge	Alliance Boys High School	Amherst College	USA
26	Dennis Kamakei Yiallie	Tenwek High School	Haverford College	USA
27	Dennis Mwai Kimiri	Mangu High School	Budapest University of Technology and Economics	Hungary
28	Diana Adhiambo Omondi	Buru Buru Girls Secondary	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
29	Edwin Otieno Ouko	Light Academy	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA
30	Emmanuel Kipngetch	Alliance Boys High School	Columbia University	USA
31	Faith Uchi Murima	Kenya High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA
32	Frankline Misango Oyolo	Kapsabet Boys High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
33	Frederick Kiarie Njoki	Nakuru Boys High School	Ashesi University	Ghana
34	Gachomba Mwangi	Moi High School Kabarak	METU	Turkey
35	Galgallo Tadicha Diba	Miathene Boys	Williams College	USA
36	Ian Kiplagat	Kapsabet Boys High School	Dartmouth University	USA
37	Ian Mwangi Kamweru	Moi High School Kabarak	Amherst College	USA
38	Irine Juliet Otieno	Pangani Girls High School	Yale University	USA
39	Jackline Wambui Gathoni	Moi High School Kabarak	Dartmouth University	USA
40	Jadis Azade Aganda	Alliance Girls High School	Ashesi University	Ghana
41	James Kagiri Kihato	Muranga Secondary School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
42	James Kaluna	Maseno School	Johns Hopkins University	USA
43	James Kibe Mwathi	Meru School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
44	Jane Waithira	Starehe Girls Centre	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
45	Janester Kerubo	Pangani Girls High School	Smith College	USA
46	Jasper Ombura Ochieng	Maranda Boys High School	University of British Columbia	Canada
47	Joan Nekoye Omukaga	Booker Academy	Brown University	USA
48	Joram Arita Bosire	Alliance Boys High School	Vassar College	USA



49	Joshua Ochieng	Maseno School	Harvard University	USA
50	Khabhar Abdi Duntow	Kangaru School	University of Debrecen	Hungary
51	Lucia Mwanzia	St. Francis Misyiani Secondary School	Rhodes College	USA
52	Lydia Chepkorir Masis	Moi Girls Eldoret	Swarthmore College	USA
53	Lynda Wanza Mwema	Precious Girls, Riruta	Jacobs University, Bremen	Germany
54	Macbeth Kwamboka Matibe	Alliance Girls High School	Minerva Schools at KGI	USA
55	Mark Saruni Koinet	Lenana School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda
56	Martha Wangechi Njuguna	Loreto Limuru	Columbia University	USA
57	Marthar Wanjiku Nderitu	South Tetu Girls High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
58	Martin Thiga Wakaba	Alliance Boys High School	Cornell University	USA
59	Maxwell Ojiambo Ojiambo	Kanga Boys High School	Stanford University	USA
60	Mercy Chebet	Moi Girls School Nairobi	Ashesi University	Ghana
61	Mercy Kerubo Omwoyo	Alliance Girls High School	Northwestern University	USA
62	Mercy Moraa Nyamusi	Alliance Girls High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda
63	Michelle Jepkemboi Kyalo	Kenya High School	Vanderbilt University	USA
64	Mike Ashiku Omamo	Lenana School	Bennington College	USA
65	Mike Kiplangat	Kapsabet Boys High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda
66	Mukamani Onori Luchera	Moi High School Kabarak	Lafayette College	USA
67	Naomy Chepngeno	Saseta Girls	Wesleyan University	USA
68	Noel Dalmas Oduory	Kapsabet Boys High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
69	Peter Kimanthe Nduswa	Mully Childrens' Family Ndalani High School	University of Debrecen	Hungary
70	Philip Barven Gurmakh	Upperhill Boys High School	Minerva Schools at KGI	USA
71	Priscillah Nyaboke Oichoe	Kipsigis Girls High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
72	Rachael Nyaguthie Mugendi	Kenya High School	Ashesi University	Ghana
73	Reagan Musoka Wafula	Musingu Boys High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
74	Richard Waweru Maina	Nairobi School	Minerva Schools at KGI	USA
75	Robertson Muriithi Waweru	Nakuru Boys High School	Duke University	USA
76	Rose Gathoni Njuguna	Pioneer Girls	Minerva Schools at KGI	USA
77	Roy Allan Ochieng Onyando	Maranda Boys High School	Harvard University	USA
78	Russel Omondi Otieno	Alliance Boys High School	Pomona College	USA
79	Ruth Kerubo Nyarindo	Butere Girls High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
80	Samuel Ndichu Waithira	Njiiri School	Davidson College	USA
81	Shalyn Moraa Nyakea	Moi Girls School Nairobi	Princeton University	USA
82	Simon Mwaura Ngige	Ndururumo High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
83	Sydney Karimi Kariuki	St. Bhakita Bahati Girls	University of Pennsylvania	USA



84	Tevin Villa Singei	Alliance Boys High School	Princeton University	USA
85	Trevor Pius Kasuku	Nairobi School	Vanderbilt University	USA
86	Trevour John Jaoko	Mangu High School	University of Debrecen	Hungary
87	Velma Adhiambo Anyona	Daraja Academy	University of Rochester	USA
88	Veronica Wanjiku Mburu	Senior Chief Koinange Girls High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Mauritius
89	Vincent Cheruiyot	Kericho Boys High School	University of Debrecen	Hungary
90	Wesley Monyenye Osogo	Alliance Boys High School	Harvard University	USA
91	William Alubokho Ashioya	Maseno School	New York University - Abu Dhabi	UAE
92	Nelly Fridah Atieno Gwadi	Nyamira Girls Secondary School	Moscow Power Engineering Institute	Russia

About Equity Group Foundation

Equity Group Foundation (EGF), the corporate implementing foundation of Equity Group Holdings Plc, has as its mission to champion the transformation of lives and livelihoods for 100m people in Africa by 2024 through the design and implementation of innovative programs that leverage Equity Group's infrastructure and partnerships to create shared value. Established in 2008 as the Group's social engine, the Foundation delivers economic opportunities, capacity, tools, and technologies that enable individuals and businesses to increase productivity, resilience and share in socio-economic growth. EGF responds to the continuum of issues that challenge the socio-economic advancement of the people of Africa, especially low-income individuals, and families. EGF's Creating Shared Value [CSV] strategy provides social development initiatives in Education and Leadership Development, Food and Agriculture, Health, Financial Inclusion and Entrepreneurship Development, Energy and Environment and Social Protections for the most vulnerable citizens. EGF's programs are underpinned by technology, innovation, and synergy as a central means to launch, nurture, and scale up Africa's next generation of successful leaders and entrepreneurs delivered to all communities in which Equity has operations.

About the Equity Leaders Program

The Equity Leaders Program was founded in 1998 and has scaled up over time to benefit 16,919 scholars. The paid internship component of the Equity Leaders Program admits the top performing boy and girl in the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (K.C.S.E.) exams from each sub-county in Kenya where Equity Bank has a branch as well as *Wings to Fly* graduates who score a minimum grade of A-. The 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 paid internship runs for the 6-10 months between secondary school completion and the beginning of university. 6,713 scholars have benefitted from internships at Equity Bank prior to joining local or global universities. Of these, 633 scholars have secured admissions and scholarships in top global universities.

The leadership development model seeks to develop scholars in 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 in these thematic areas, the program also endeavors to create a strong network of scholars working 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 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 6-10 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 various secondary schools
- 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.

Website Link - <https://equitygroupholdings.com/>

Flickr- <https://www.flickr.com/photos/equitybank/>

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