



PRESS RELEASE

98 SCHOLARS UNDER THE EQUITY LEADERS PROGRAM (ELP) JOIN TOP GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

- ***In the 2022/2023 admissions cycle, 98 scholars under the Equity Leaders Program (ELP) have been admitted to 52 global universities located in 18 countries across North America, Europe, Middle East, Asia, Australia, and Africa.***
- ***The scholarships to cover their undergraduate education are valued at Kshs. 2.44 billion (USD 17,116,817)***
- ***Fourteen (14) scholars received admission to Ivy League universities bringing to 191 scholars admitted to these prestigious institutions in the USA.***
- ***To date, 857 ELP scholars have secured admission and scholarship in global universities.***
- ***The scholars have been urged to embrace global citizenship and innovate solutions for Africa's challenges.***

NAIROBI, 7th August 2023: Equity Group Foundation (EGF) Executive Chairman Dr. James Mwangi has commissioned the airlift of 98 scholars who have secured admission and scholarships to join 52 global universities located in 18 countries. The scholars are drawn from the Equity Leaders Programs in four countries – Kenya (73), Rwanda (19), DRC (5), and Uganda (1). The 98 scholars have secured scholarships valued at Kshs. 2.44 billion (USD 17,116,817) for the 4-year duration they will be pursuing their undergraduate studies. Equity Group will provide an airlift token of up to Kshs. 200,000 to each of the scholarship beneficiaries to support the transition into their global universities.

The scholars who are part of Equity's paid-internship program, have benefited from college counselling under EGF's Education and Leadership Development pillar. The intensive college counselling program ran for two months where scholars are coached and mentored on essay writing, university selection, and provided for training on admission exams taking as applicable. Additionally, the scholars have been taken through a week-long camp where they have received guidance on the transition journey to becoming global scholars.

Speaking at a ceremony to celebrate the scholars, Dr. Mwangi lauded them for staying focused on their goals and securing funding and scholarship to access the world's best education systems. "As you step into this new phase of your life, remember that you have earned your place competitively among thousands of applicants from around the globe. You have differentiated yourself and demonstrated that you have what it takes to be a true global citizen. I urge you to keep that focus in your quest for knowledge. Remember that with you, Africa has hope that it can leapfrog on several development indicators, and I encourage you to remain rooted on the continent's ambitions".

The scholars will be joining universities in different countries across the globe including the United States of America (USA), Canada, United Kingdom, China, India, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Hungary among others.

In line with Equity Group's strategy the *Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan (ARRP)*, Dr. Mwangi who serves as Equity Group Holdings Plc MD and CEO reminded the scholars on the six pillars that anchor the plan with emphasis on the last one on Technology-enabled ecosystems where they have an opportunity to make significant impact. "You will be joining academic institutions that work collaboratively with the private sector and research and who invest in cutting-edge technology necessary to give you globally competitive knowledge and skills. Take advantage and learn as much as you can but keeping a lens on how such technologies and systems can empower you to innovate solutions to Africa's challenges", he added.

In his advice to the outward-bound scholars, Dr. Mwangi remarked that data from the global alumni indicated that 47% proceed to work in Tech for leading companies such as Amazon, Google, Meta, and Microsoft. A further 21% work in Consulting for companies such as Bain, Boston Consulting Group, McKinsey and 15% end up in Finance in organizations such as Wellington, Fidelity, and BNP. The ELP Global Alumni have also ventured into social entrepreneurship upon returning to the continent and set up successful startups in various sectors such as health, education, and human capital management. In the



process, they have continued to create jobs both directly and indirectly which contributes to Equity’s overall goal of creating jobs through the ARRP.

Speaking during the Airlift Ceremony, one of the scholars, Jok Magok Kuch from Kakuma Refugee camp, expressed his excitement and enthusiasm, “I'm excited to join the University of Toronto under the Equity Leaders Program. I aim to acquire knowledge and skills to contribute to Africa's transformation through quality education and transformative leadership. I strongly believe this opportunity will enable me to become a living testament to the positive impact of Equity’s mission,” he said.

Zeddy Kipyegon, who is joining New York University, Abu Dhabi also noted "Under the Wings To Fly program, I was well taken care of while in high school. I then joined the ELP program where I got access to multiple opportunities as a scholar. Being a part of the program has transformed me a lot".

With this year’s admissions, a total of 856 students have so far benefitted from the college counselling program and have successfully received admission to prestigious universities on fully funded scholarships. This intake includes 14 students who will be joining Ivy League Universities including University of Pennsylvania (3), Yale (3), Harvard University (3), Princeton University (2), Cornell University (1), Brown University (1) and Columbia University (1).

The Equity Leadership Program is an Equity Group Foundation initiative that was established in 1998 to nurture leadership skills in the youth who have demonstrated great promise. The rigorous leadership development program selects top-performing students nationally from the Equity Group banking subsidiaries with the aim of creating a community of transformative leaders who will work together across borders and various sectors to drive sustainable economic growth and social progress in Africa.

Ends...

2022/2023 GLOBAL SCHOLARS' ADMISSION SUMMARY

Continent	Country & Institution	Female	Male	Total
North America (45)	United States of America	16	25	41
	Amherst College		2	2
	Brandeis University		1	1
	Brown University	1		1
	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)		1	1
	Carleton College	1		1
	Columbia College, Missouri	1		1
	Columbia University		1	1
	Cornell University	1		1
	Davidson College		1	1
	Drexel University	1		1
	Grambling States University		1	1
	Hampshire College	1		1
	Harvard University	2	1	3
	Howard University	1		1
	Middlebury College		1	1
	Northwestern University	1	2	3
	Pomona College		1	1
	Princeton University	2		2
	Stanford University	1	1	2
	University of Pennsylvania		3	3
	Wesleyan University	1	1	2
	Wheeling University		3	3
	Whitworth University		1	1
	Williams College	1	2	3
	Yale University	1	2	3
Canada	1	3	4	



Continent	Country & Institution	Female	Male	Total
	Carleton University	1		1
	University of British Columbia		1	1
	University of Toronto		2	2
Europe (11)	Hungary	3	5	8
	Budapest Business School	1		1
	University of Debrecen		3	3
	University of Pecs	2	2	4
	Netherlands	1		1
	Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam	1		1
	Slovakia		1	1
	Comenius University		1	1
	UK	1		1
Leeds University	1		1	
Middle East (10)	Qatar	1	1	2
	Georgetown University, Qatar	1	1	2
	Turkiye		3	3
	Kocaeli University		1	1
	Samsun University		1	1
	Ankara University		1	1
	United Arab Emirates	3	2	5
New York University, Abu Dhabi	3	2	5	
Asia (5)	China	1		1
	Hangzhou Normal University - Alibaba Business School	1		1
	India	2	1	3
	Delhi University	1		1
	Punjabi University		1	1
	Swami Vivekanand Group of Institutes	1		1
	Korea		1	1
Kyudong University		1	1	
Australia (1)	Australia		1	1
	University of Technology, Sydney		1	1
Africa (26)	Rwanda	10	7	17
	Africa Leadership University	4	5	9
	University of Global Health Equity	1		1
	University of Rwanda	5	2	7
	Mauritius		1	1
	University of Technology, Mauritius		1	1
	South Africa	1		1
	University of Cape Town	1		1
	Ghana	1	2	3
	Ashesi University	1	2	3
	Kenya	1	3	4
USIU - Africa	1	3	4	
Grand Total		42	56	98

About the Equity Leaders Program

The Equity Leaders Program was founded in 1998 and has scaled up over time to benefit 18,735 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 leadership development model seeks to develop scholars in four program areas: personal and professional development; global exposure; creativity & innovation; and community engagement. Scholars in the paid internship program have an opportunity to join the College Counselling Program to receive coaching and mentorship on how to apply



to and secure admissions in leading global institutions. For those who study locally, they join ELP University Chapters that provide them an opportunity to continue being in a network and further hone their leadership and personal development. They continue to serve as mentors to their younger 'siblings' in the *Wings to Fly* program in secondary schools.

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 100 million people in Africa by 2025 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.

Website Link - <https://equitygroupholdings.com/> **Flickr-** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/equitybank/>