



PRESS RELEASE

EQUITY BANK GLOBAL SCHOLARS HITS A TOTAL OF 519 WHO HAVE ACCESSED SCHOLARSHIPS WORTH KSHS 12 BILLION

56 scholars joined the program in 2019 bringing the total number studying or are alumni of global universities to 519

Nairobi, 4th September 2019..... Fifty six Equity Leaders Program (ELP) scholars have been admitted to various top tier universities this year. The 2019 class brings the total number of ELP scholars studying or are alumni of top global universities to 519, sponsored at a cumulative value USD 120M (Ksh12 Billion).

Of this year's 56 admissions, 17 are alumni of the *Wings to Fly* program who scored Grade A, while the rest were the top students in their Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE) exams in their respective sub counties who are annually enrolled into the Equity Leadership Program.

The 2019 cohort will be joining universities in the United States, Russia, South Korea, South Africa, Rwanda, Hungary, Canada and Slovakia. They are joining diverse top tier universities including Harvard (3), Cornell (1), Princeton (2), University of Pennsylvania (2), Massachusetts Institute of Technology -MIT (2), Amherst (1), and John Hopkins (1).

Speaking during the send-off ceremony in Nairobi, Equity Group CEO and Executive Chairman of Equity Group Foundation, Dr. James Mwangi, advised the scholars to focus on academics, leadership training, networking and global transformational exposure and excel in their respective specialties.

"In the course of this journey, you will encounter challenges like language barriers and cultural differences. I encourage you to overcome these difficulties and embrace the new environment with courage and open-mindedness. Your host community, Equity Group, the local community as well as your parents are supporting you and expecting a lot from you. I am confident that you will make all of us proud," said Dr. Mwangi.

"The objective is to develop you, as a generation of servant leaders who will think globally; are inspired to fight poverty and the challenges on our continent; embrace sustainable development; improve our living standards and give back to society," added Dr. Mwangi.

Some of the scholars expressed their gratitude for what the program has been able to do for them. Apart from admission into prestigious universities, the students each received a stipend of between Kshs 100,000 - 200,000 to cater for air tickets and shopping.

Christine Njeri, who is headed to MIT said, "I was a kid who had been raised in a slum where literally no one recognized who I was. When the Wings to Fly Program sponsored me, I was challenged to work hard and I did well in high school. I joined the Equity Leaders Program thereafter and the resilience, mentorship and leadership journey I was taken through by the program has prepared me for where I'm headed. This is all because someone took a chance on me and I am grateful to Equity and its partners in the ELP program."

Another scholar, Samuel Gari, headed to Princeton University said, "My dream to create sustainable energy and waste management in Kenya is still alive thanks to this program that has really guided and encouraged me. I'm happy to be joining Princeton this fall, where I'm certain I will get the skills to fulfill my dream thanks to the mentorship I derived from the ELP program."

Started in 1998, ELP admits the top performing boy and girl in the KCSE exams from each sub county in Kenya and *Wings to Fly* scholars who score "A" in the national exams. 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.

To date, ELP has benefited 14,529 scholars who are currently studying both locally and abroad or are alumni of various universities. ELP scholars have distinguished themselves as mentors and role models to secondary school students



during their semester breaks to inspire and encourage students to aim at academic excellence. They also take leadership positions in their universities and in their communities where they participate in decision making.

ELP global scholars usually return to Kenya from their universities abroad 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 2019 – LIST

SUMMARY

USA	42
South Korea	2
Rwanda	2
Russia	2
Slovakia	2
Hungary	1
Canada	1
South Africa	2
China	2
TOTAL	56

No	Name	Former High School	University Admitted To	Country
1	Brandon Mathu	Mang'u High School	University of Chicago	USA
2	Brian Linus	Kanga High	Northwestern University	USA
3	Brian Maina Kamau	Alliance High School	Williams College	USA
4	Calvin Magara	Moi High School- Kabarak	Minerva Schools KGI	USA
5	Carolyn Chepkemboi	Mary Hill Girls High School	Bates College	USA
6	Christine Njeri Waweru	Mary Hill Girls High School	MIT	USA
7	Christine Nyambura Ngugi	Moi Girls High School- Eldoret	University of Pennsylvania	USA
8	Chuck Junior Lugai	Friends' School Kamusinga	Pomona College	USA
9	Daniel Solomon Abate	Strathmore School	Dartmouth College	USA
10	Edith Ngundi	Loreto High School- Limuru	Minerva Schools KGI	USA
11	Emmanuel Murage Kibicho	Moi Forces Academy- Nairobi	Yale University	USA
12	Emmanuel Kwizera Kwigenga	Baricho High School	Brandeis University	USA
13	Faith Jepkosgei Rugut	Moi High School- Kabarak	Harvard University	USA
14	Harriet Mueke Muutu	Mary Hill Girls High School	Brown University	USA



No	Name	Former High School	University Admitted To	Country
15	Hussein Fuaad Mahmoud	Moi High School-Kabarak	John Hopkins University	USA
16	Ian Olago Jaccojwang	Starehe Boys' Center & School	Princeton	USA
17	John Kinyua Mwai	Maranda High School	Connecticut College	USA
18	Juliet Nzuna Mwaniki	Alliance Girls High School	Minerva Schools KGI	USA
19	Kennedy Mukinga Nduati	Strathmore School	Yale University	USA
20	Lauryn Hillary Onyore Akinyi	Kenya High School	Vassar College	USA
21	Lilian Chepkoech Korir	Mary Mount Secondary School	Davidson College	USA
22	Lynnet Wambui Muritu	Pangani Girls High School	Columbia University	USA
23	Mariam Muchai	Machakos Girls High School	Northwestern University	USA
24	Mark Eric Fairweather	Lenana School	Minerva Schools KGI	USA
25	Mark Gitau	Light Academy	Dartmouth College	USA
26	Naomi Kirimi	Pangani Girls High School	MIT	USA
27	Paul Opiyo	Alliance High School	Vanderbilt University	USA
28	Peris Wanjugu Mwangi	Nakuru Girls High School	Smith College	USA
29	Phyllis Adhiambo Oduor	Karima Girls High School	Amherst College	USA
30	Quiverlynne Atieno Ochieng	Moi Girls High School-Eldoret	Bowdoin College	USA
31	Rachel Tuzo Mulunda	The Kenya High School	Harvard University	USA
32	Redscar Daniel Odindo	Starehe Boys' Center & School	Harvard University	USA
33	Samuel Migwi	Mang'u High School	Dartmouth College	USA
34	Samuel Otieno Gariy	Alliance High School	Princeton University	USA
35	Sauda Habib Salim	Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan Secondary School	University of Pennsylvania	USA
36	Sheldon Ouma Otieno	Kapsabet Boys High School	Stanford University	USA
37	Smith Muhuri Ngakunya	Nyeri High School	Middlebury College	USA
38	Tunu Mugure Wamai	Consolata Secondary School	Minerva Schools KGI	USA
39	William Wanyonyi Masafu	Alliance High School	University of Central Florida	USA
40	Wendy Akinyi Alwala	Nakuru Girls High School	Cornell University	USA
41	Stefannie McKenzie	Kenya High School	Columbia University	USA
42	Swaib Ouma Okita	Alliance High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA
43	Liplan Ekwam Lekipising	Lenana School	ALU	Rwanda
44	Tracy Chiyumba	Alliance Girls High School	ALU	Rwanda
45	Samuel Mburu Wainaina	Machakos School	Éotvös Lorand University	Hungary



No	Name	Former High School	University Admitted To	Country
46	Philip Macharia	Kerugoya Boys High School	Comenius University in Bratislava	Slovakia
47	Valentine Odindo	Alliance Girls High School	Comenius University	Slovakia
48	Mohammed Bille Mohamud	Lodwar High School	Queens University	Canada
49	Phylis Maina Wahura	Bishop Gatimu, Ngandu High School	Harbin Institute of Technology	China
50	Kingori Gathungo	Alliance Girls High School	Beijing Jiaotong University	China
51	Maryann Wanjira Gicheru	Bishop Gatimu Ngandu Girls	Keio University	South Korea
52	Leah Nangila Nabangi	Alliance Girls High School	Stony Brook University-Korea	South Korea
53	Simon Kirubi Mburu	Moi High School Mbiruri	KNR Technological University	Russia
54	Mary Wangui	Mary Hill Girls High School	Gubkin Russian State University	Russia
55	Grace Akinyi Bako	Starehe Girls' Center	University of Cape Town	South Africa
56	Diana Asiko	Moi High School-Kabarak	University of Cape Town	South Africa

About the Equity Leaders Program

The Equity Leaders Programme was founded in 1998 and has scaled up over time to benefit 14,524 scholars. 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 internship runs for the 6-10 months between secondary school completion and the beginning of university. 5,968 scholars have benefitted from internships at Equity Bank prior to joining local or global universities. Of these, 514 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.

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