



PRESS RELEASE

THE PROVISIONAL APPROVAL OF 2021/2022 LOANS FOR STUDENTS FROM ACCREDITED HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

1.0. Introduction

The Higher Education Students' Loans and Grants Board (HESLGB) is pleased to announce to all accredited higher education institutions, continuing and newly selected students in these higher education institutions, parents/guardians and the general public that on 10th December, 2021, the Board made a provisional approval of higher education students' loans for 2021/2022 academic year. The approved list will be subjected to a **Vetting and Appeals** process which is jointly carried out by the Board and respective University/College administrators.

2.0. Overview of the Mandate of HESLGB vis-à-vis Student loans

Under the HESLGB Act, the Board is mandated and empowered to carry out a number of functions. Here, I wish to highlight those that relate directly to the disbursement of loans and grants to students:

- a. Receive and consider applications for student loans and student grants from students;

- b. Determine the maximum number of eligible students to be given student loans and student grants in any one particular year;
- c. Administer and supervise the process of payment of student loans and student grants;
- d. Advise the Minister on matters of policy and law concerning the grant of student loans and student grants;
- e. Establish operational links between the Board and accredited higher education institutions for facilitation of a smooth, efficient and effective administration of student loans and student grants.

3.0. Eligibility criteria

Student loans and grants administered by HESLGB are not open to all students in institutions of higher learning and are not entitlements. The HESLGB statute spells out core eligibility criteria. Since the criteria is laid down in law, the mandate of the Board is to implement it in the best way possible. If necessary, the Board can recommend amendments to the law through the Minister. Key eligibility criteria set out in the law are as follows:

- a. The student who applies for a loan must be a **citizen** of the Republic of Malawi;
- b. The applicant must be a **registered student** pursuing an accredited higher education program at an accredited institution of higher learning;
- c. The study program in which the applicant is enrolled must be a **generic** program leading to an award of a **Bachelor's degree** or a **Higher National Diploma** (*excludes: economic fee paying, mature entry, weekend program, distant learning, upgrading and general diploma students*);
- d. The applicant must be a **needy student** who does not have any other sources of financial assistance to cover the cost of tuition fees and/or upkeep (*evidence of socio-economic household characteristics, inability to pay etc must be provided*);
- e. Must be a **student with six credits in MSCE** or its equivalent upon getting admitted to an accredited higher learning institution (*excludes students who do college bridging courses and those in private universities that get admitted with less than six credit*);
- f. Must be a person who is **not funded by other organizations** or sources (*excludes students who are on scholarships etc*);

- g. Must **not have attended an elite school** unless there is evidence demonstrating change in circumstances and therefore, neediness;
- h. For continuing students, he or she must have **passed the examinations** necessary to enable him/her to advance to the next year or stage of study (*Excludes repeaters on academic grounds who must pay for themselves during the year of study being repeated*);
- i. For continuing students, he or she must have **verifiable good conduct** and commitment to studies (*excludes those with disciplinary sanctions*)

NB: The Board is scheduled to review the eligibility criteria in the first quarter of the year 2022.

4.0. The Loan Process

The Board runs a seven-stage process to scrutinize loan applications and disburse the loans:

Stage	Core Activity	Details
1	Application	Online and hardcopy applications; Application forms available at DEM offices; all accredited universities and colleges; HESLGB secretariat.
2	Screening	Applications screened against eligibility criteria; Process jointly done by HESLGB and respective University/College Administrators.
3	Provisional approval	Committee on Loans and Grants followed by the Full Board.
4	Publicity of provisional lists of beneficiary students	Press announcement; public notices at the Universities/colleges; Public feedback expected to address errors of inclusion and exclusion.
5	Vetting	Jointly done by HESLGB and University/College administrators; Carried out at the college/university campus at the start of academic year/semester; Addresses public feedback on the provisional list if any; Errors of exclusion addressed through the appeals pathway; Removes provisionally approved beneficiaries who are on scholarships, or are repeating a year of study on academic grounds, or have been withdrawn on academic or medical grounds or have been found

		that they have other sources of financing their education.
6	Bonding	Successful applicant signs loan contract, countersigned by HESLGB and stamped by HESLGB and University/College Administrator respectively
7.	Disbursement	HESLGB disburses tuition fees directly to University/college accounts; and upkeep to student accounts using the EFT platforms

5.0. Retention Policy

The Board has a retention policy which obliges the Board to continue supporting eligible students that have been given loans until they complete their studies so long as they apply every year and remain eligible.

6.0. Disbursement policies

- a. In public universities, the Board gives eligible students loans for either tuition only or upkeep only or both tuition and upkeep.
- b. At the moment, the resources available allow the Board to provide upkeep loans of MK200,000 per student per academic year
- c. In private universities, the Board pays only tuition fees. The Board pays 50% of the tuition fees (second semester). From the 2022/23 academic year, the Board has resolved to cap the amount to not more than the highest tuition fees obtainable in a public university.

7.0. Inadequacy of upkeep loans

- a. The Board is aware of the complaints raised by students through their representatives that the amount of upkeep loan is inadequate to cover the cost of accommodation, food and other essential expenses for their studies. The students have proposed that the upkeep loan be raised to MK480, 000 per academic year.
- b. The Board is discussing the matter with relevant Government Authorities. The process is underway to benchmark student costs in public universities and to look for additional resources to the Student Loan and Grant Fund that can cover any increase in the amount of upkeep loan.

NB: The provisional approval that we are announcing today is based on the

upkeep loan of MK200, 000 per academic year.

8.0. Provisionally Approved Beneficiaries for the year 2021/22

- a. HESLGB received a total of **21,997 (14,353 Male, 7,644 Female)** loan applications both from public and private higher education institutions across Malawi. The number of applicants represents an **8.2 percent** increase from the 2020/2021 loan applications.
- b. Upon rigorous assessment of the loan applications, **20,786 (13,698 Male and 7,088 Female)** applicants met the eligibility criteria. This represents **94.2 percent** of the loan applicants and it is a **6.92 percent** increase from the number of students that were given students' loans in 2020/2021 academic year.
- c. The table below shows the total number of applicants against the total number of provisionally approved beneficiaries per institution (arranged alphabetically), segregated by gender:

Name of College/University	Number of Students Applied			Number of Students Recommended			Recommended Percentage
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Femal	Total	
African Bible College	31	33	64	19	24	43	67%
Blantyre International University	13	22	35	12	13	25	71%
Blantyre Synod University	7	4	11	5	3	8	73%
Catholic University	263	227	490	208	167	375	77%
Daeyang University	82	68	150	62	55	117	78%
DMI - St. John of God the Baptist	113	91	204	81	50	131	64%
Domasi College of Education	402	335	737	390	322	712	97%
Exploits University	26	24	50	21	6	27	54%
Jubilee University	33	26	59	29	22	51	86%
Kamuzu University of Health Sciences	837	997	1834	818	954	1769	96%
Lake Malawi Anglican University	1		1	1		1	100%
Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Na	2191	695	2886	2160	683	2843	99%
Malawi Adventist University	103	62	165	91	48	139	84%
Malawi Assemblies of God University	56	68	124	44	51	95	77%
Malawi College of Accountancy	165	60	225	55	12	67	30%
Malawi Institute of Management	17	13	30	15	10	25	83%
Malawi University of Business and Applic	2782	1448	4230	2747	1415	4162	98%
Malawi University of Science and Techno	1332	346	1678	1305	330	1635	97%
Millenium University	207	84	291	179	66	245	84%
Mzuzu University	2202	1120	3322	2032	1038	3070	92%
Nalikule College of Education	203	165	368	194	160	354	96%
Nkhoma University	49	44	93	44	32	76	82%
Pentecostal Life University	24	29	53	15	12	27	51%
Skyway University	2	2	4	2	1	3	75%
University of Lilongwe	5	2	7	1		1	14%
University of Livingstonia	299	238	537	252	181	433	81%
University of Malawi	2940	1466	4406	2916	1436	4352	99%
Central Christian University	1		1			0	0.00%
Ekwendeni College		1	1			0	0.00%
Malawi College of Health Sciences		1	1			0	0.00%
Malawi Institute Of Journalism		1	1			0	0.00%
Malawi Marine Training College	1		1			0	0.00%
Mulanje Mission College Of Nursing & M	1		1			0	0.00%
Mwimba College Of Agriculture	5	6	11			0	0.00%
Mzimba Dapp Teachers College			0			0	
National College of Information Technolog	1		1			0	0.00%
Royal Christian Business College	1		1			0	0.00%
St Luke College	1		1			0	0.00%
St. Johns of God		2	2			0	0.00%
Grand Total	14396	7680	22076	13698	7091	20786	94.16%

9.0. Provisional budget outlay

Based on the outcomes of the assessment so far, the Board has made a provisional approval of student loans amounting to **MK11, 058,893,500.00**.

- a. **MK10, 099,470,000.00** representing **91.3 percent** of the total loan amount for students in **10** public universities/colleges, covering tuition fees and upkeep. The tentative breakdown is as follows:

	Name of College/University	No. of Recommended Applicants	Total Loans (MK)
1	Domasi College of Education	711	253,650,000.00
2	Kamuzu University of Health Sciences	1750	1,091,150,000.00
3	Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources	2777	1,586,720,000.00
4	Malawi College of Accountancy	67	67,000,000.00
5	Malawi Institute of Management	25	20,000,000.00
6	Malawi University of Business and Applied Sciences	4099	2,296,400,000.00
7	Malawi University of Science and Technology	1625	962,050,000.00
8	Mzuzu University	2995	1,651,800,000.00
9	Nalikule College of Education	354	88,500,000.00
10	University of Malawi	4266	2,082,200,000.00
		18,669	10,099,470,000

- b. **MK959, 423, 500.00** representing **8.7 percent** of the total amount for students in **17** private universities/colleges. The tentative breakdown is as follows:

1	African Bible College	43	23,413,500.00
3	Blantyre Synod University	25	2,800,000.00
2	Blntyre International University	8	10,500,000.00
4	Catholic University	375	175,765,000.00
5	Daeyang University	117	60,480,000.00

6	DMI - St. John of God the Baptist	131	65,679,000.00
7	Exploits University	27	9,450,000.00
8	Jubilee University	51	14,850,000.00
9	Lake Malawi Anglican University	1	700,000.00
11	Malawi Adventist University	139	78,775,000.00
10	Malawi Assemblies of God University	95	58,900,000.00
12	Millennium University	245	196,000,000.00
13	Nkhoma University	76	31,160,000.00
14	Pentecostal Life University	27	10,800,000.00
15	Skyway University	3	1,200,000.00
16	University of Lilongwe	1	785,000.00
17	University of Livingstonia	432	218,160,000.00
		1,796	959,417,500

- c. The Board would like to advise all stakeholders that the provisionally approved beneficiaries will undergo **vetting and bonding** process as explained earlier. That process may result in slight changes in the figures presented.
- d. The Board appreciates the continued commitment and funding from the Government in efforts to bridge the gap between the poor and the rich in accessing higher education in Malawi.
- e. Furthermore, the Board would like to express gratitude to Press Trust for complementing government's efforts by donating to the loan fund MK200,000,000 in tranches of MK50,000,000 per year which has enabled the Board to support 83 needy and deserving students in public universities for their four year study programs.

11.0. Access to Provisionally Approved Lists

Names of all provisionally approved beneficiaries can be accessed from **21st December, 2021** through the offices of Registrars or Deans of Students in the respective higher education institutions and on the HESLGB website (www.heslgb.mw). College Administrators are encouraged to paste on the notice boards in their respective institutions the provisionally approved list for the students and the public to access.

5.0. Special Appeal for Minimizing Errors of Inclusion

The Board would like to make a special appeal to all its stakeholders and the general public to provide feedback on the provisionally approved names directly to the Secretariat of the Board or through the offices of Registrars or Deans of Students of each respective higher education institution, in case there are individual students who are on the provisionally approved list but are not needy. This information will help in effective targeting of really needy and deserving students and contribute to reducing the error of including non-needy and undeserving students on the list of beneficiaries.



Sam. Kakhobwe

Chairperson-Higher Education Students Loans and Grants Board

20th December, 2021.

