

# Uganda

## National Higher Education Equity Policy

### Governance

The Ministry of Education and Sports, through its Higher Education department, is responsible for defining national policies in higher education (<http://www.education.go.ug/data/smenu/13/HigherEducation.html>). It relies on a buffer body, the Uganda National Council for Higher Education to ensure the quality and relevance of higher education and to guide the creation of higher education institutions (<http://www.unche.or.ug/>)

### Higher Education Policy Documents

What are the current official documents defining the national higher education strategy / policies?

- Higher Education Law: The Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act, 2001
- Gender in Education Sector Policy, 2016
- Second National Development Plan 2015/16-2019/20 (June 2015)

### Equity Policy Documents

What broad and specific equity objectives do the policy documents identify?

- “Increase the number of scholarships for disadvantaged areas to enroll in higher education” (Second National Development Plan)
- “The Admission Committee of a Public University shall take into consideration affirmative action in favor of marginalized groups on the basis of gender, disability, and marginalized schools.” (The Universities and Other Tertiary Institutions Act)
- “Achieve gender equitable and quality higher education on in Uganda. b. Prioritize gender responsive teaching and learning of science-based disciplines and subjects which are critical for national development; especially for girls and women.” (Gender in Education Sector Policy, p16)

Which equity target groups are identified in the policy documents?

- Low-income students
- Gender groups
- Students with disability

Does the country have concrete targets for the participation of specific equity groups?

- Uganda is planning to achieve gender parity by 2030 (Gender in Education Sector Policy).

Uganda does not have a standalone policy document dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

Are there specific anti-discrimination provisions?

Yes: Article 21 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uganda prohibits all forms of discrimination. The 2010 Equal Opportunity Act reinforces this principle.

What specific interventions and/or instruments of equity promotion are included in the official strategy and policy documents (monetary and non-monetary)?

### ***Monetary Policy Instruments***

- The government sponsors 4,000 outstanding students based on their class performance. These are generally students who can access the best schools (which also creates a regional imbalance). Students who did not get the required admission scores can enroll in fee-paying programs.
- Student loans

### ***Non-Monetary Policy Instruments***

- Ugandan public universities practice affirmative action for persons with disabilities.
- The District Quota System was introduced in 2005/2006 and benefits the best students from each district, allocating a certain number of slots in public universities.
- Uganda has put in place many initiatives to achieve gender parity, including affirmative action, awareness-building, bridging programs, gender mainstreaming, reformed admissions, etc... (see Gender in Education Sector Policy, pp.16-17)

### **Financial Resources**

What financial resources does the country devote to equity promotion measures?

- Not available

## **Quality Assurance**

The quality assurance criteria do not take equity elements into consideration.

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- Who is responsible for monitoring the impact of equity promotion measures?

The Higher Education Department within the Ministry of Education and Sports is responsible for monitoring the implementation of Government policies at higher education institutions of learning.

## **Dedicated Equity Promotion Agency**

Uganda does not have an agency dedicated to equity promotion in higher education.

## **Sources**

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<http://www.hesfb.go.ug/sites/default/files/Publications/HESFB%20Policy%20Document.pdf>