



## PRESS RELEASE

### 73 SCHOLARS UNDER THE EQUITY LEADERS PROGRAM JOIN TOP GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES

- **73 scholars under the Equity Leaders Program (ELP) have been admitted to 48 global universities across four continents**
- **This is the first time scholars from Equity Bank Rwanda are part of the global scholarships**
- **20 scholars received admission to Ivy League Universities in the US**
- **The scholars have been urged to work hard and support the recovery and resilience of Africa**

**NAIROBI, 31<sup>st</sup> August 2022:** Equity Group Foundation Executive Chairman Dr. James Mwangi has commissioned the airlift of 73 students who will be joining 48 global universities through scholarships under EGF's Education and Leadership Development pillar.

Notably, 7 of the scholars are part of Equity Bank Rwanda's inaugural ELP class which was officially launched in November 2021 with the primary goal of expanding Equity Group's social impact across the region.

The 2022 global airlift cohort will benefit from scholarships valued at Ksh 2.1 billion (USD 16,867,676) for the 4-year duration they will be pursuing their undergraduate studies. Additionally, the scholars will receive an airlift stipend to support their transition preparations. The scholars are on full scholarships and have benefited from a week-long boot camp, where they were coached and mentored on the transition journey as global scholars.

Speaking to the scholars, Dr. Mwangi applauded and urged them to maintain commitment and focus that would see them achieve their goals. "Today marks the beginning of a new journey for all of you. Your hard work and determination has seen you break boundaries to join global institutions of higher learning in pursuit of knowledge. We are extremely proud of you and urge you to remain focused and to keep your eye on the prize. Four years from today, I am sure that each of you will be on course to make great impact in society by applying what you have learnt to solve some of the challenges that face our African continent."

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 Germany among others.

Elaborating on education as an anchor for socio-economic growth, Dr. Mwangi said, "Equity Group has rolled out a 6-pillar *Africa Recovery and Resilience Plan* which will champion and accelerate the post COVID-19 recovery of the continent through actively investing in the empowerment of the African people." He encouraged the scholars to excel in their various fields of study, urging them to consider themselves as leaders who will catalyse the change that they want in order to elevate our region to greater heights.

"This plan is to be implemented by all of us so that we can secure the future of coming generations. Harness all the knowledge that you can and tap into the existing systems and infrastructure to champion socio-economic growth through entrepreneurship, formulation of policies and becoming top public and corporate leaders with influence." added Dr. Mwangi.

With this year's admissions, a total of 761 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 20 students who will be joining Ivy League Universities including University of Pennsylvania (5), Yale (3), Harvard University (3), Princeton University (2), Dartmouth College (2), Cornell University (2), Brown University (2) 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...**



**EQUITY LEADERS PROGRAM  
2022 GLOBAL SCHOLARS' SUMMARIES**

**DISTRIBUTION BY REGION AND COUNTRY**

	REGION	COUNTRY	COUNT
1	Africa	Ghana	3
2		Rwanda	5
3		Kenya	1
4	Asia & Middle East	China	2
5		India	3
6		UAE	5
7		Japan	1
8	Europe	Germany	1
9		Hungary	4
10		Romania	1
11		UK	1
12		Turkey	2
13	North America	Canada	1
14		USA	43
		<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>73</b>

**DISTRIBUTION BY INSTITUTION**

No	Scholar Name	High School	Institution	Country	Course
1	Omondi Felix	Agoro Sare High School	Vassar College	USA	Biomedical Engineering
2	Miriti Glory Kendi	Alliance Girls High School	Duke Kunshan University	China	Computer Science
3	Kahuria Linet Wanjiru	Alliance Girls High School	California Institute of Technology (Caltech)	USA	Civil Engineering
4	Mary Atieno Audi	Alliance Girls High School	Kentucky University	USA	Civil Engineering
5	Orina Nilla Moige	Alliance Girls High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA	Computer Science & Mathematics
6	Pauline Obonyo Nyandusi	Alliance Girls High School	Dartmouth College	USA	Biomedical Engineering
7	Mutanu Derrick Mwanzia	Alliance High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda	Computer Science



No	Scholar Name	High School	Institution	Country	Course
8	Joe Murigu Githui	Alliance High School	University of Pecs	Hungary	Computer Science
9	Enoch Mecheo	Alliance High School	New York University - Abu Dhabi	UAE	Computer Science
10	Maiywa Kipkirui Bedan	Alliance High School	New York University - Abu Dhabi	UAE	Mechanical Engineering
11	Ahona John Yoshi	Alliance High School	Princeton University	USA	Electrical & Computer Engineering
12	Boit Brandon Kipkorir	Alliance High School	Cornell University	USA	Environment & Sustainability
13	David Isinta Nyakawa	Alliance High School	Yale University	USA	Electrical Engineering with Computer Science
14	Gitau Reuben Rex Njoroje	Alliance High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA	Business & International Studies with French
15	Kipkoech Mark Kogo	Alliance High School	Harvard University	USA	Environmental Engineering & Economics
16	Moriasi Bob Bryson Ongare	Alliance High School	Dartmouth College	USA	Neuroscience
17	Ndichu Stanley Muigai	Alliance High School	Brown University	USA	Electrical Engineering
18	Pareyio Pion	Alliance High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA	Neuroscience and Finance
19	Shakira Kamikazi Nsimbi	Cornerstone Leadership Academy	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda	Computer Science
20	Dushimirimana Prince Yvon	Ecole des sciences Byimana	California Lutheran University	USA	Computer Science
21	Gatwaza Kubwimana Jean Yves	Ecole des sciences Byimana	Harvard University	USA	Computer Science & Psychology
22	Nicole Umuhire Irakoze	Fawe Girls School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda	Software Engineering
23	Umuhuza Kellia	Gashora Girls Academy of Science and Technology	Princeton University	USA	Mechanical Engineering
24	Nishimwe Aurélie	Grope Scolaire Officiel de Butare (Indatwa n' Inkesha)	Bowdoin College	USA	Economics / Pre-law
25	Kevin Brian .O. Ochieng	Homa Bay High School	New York University - Abu Dhabi	UAE	Electrical Engineering with Biology



No	Scholar Name	High School	Institution	Country	Course
26	Kelvin Mungai Murira	Kamusinga Boys	New York University - Abu Dhabi	UAE	Political Science & Social & Public Research
27	Duncun Sundys Oruko	Kanga High School	Albany College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences	USA	Pharmaceutical Science
28	Esther Njeri Wanjiru	Kangubiri Girls High School	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda	Software Engineering
29	Ron George Pile	Kapsabet Boys	Yale University	USA	Computer Science
30	Frankline Oyolo Misango	Kapsabet Boys High School	University of Hong Kong	China	Data Engineering
31	Aron Kipkoach Ngetich	Kapsabet Boys High School	Kurukshetra University	India	Computer Science Engineering
32	Benjamin Karanja	Kapsabet Boys High School	Cornell University	USA	Computer Science
33	Otieno Maurice Baraza	Kapsabet Boys High School	Lafayette College	USA	Electrical & Computer Engineering
34	Simbiri Ray Isaac	Kapsabet Boys High School	University of Chicago	USA	Computer Science
35	Victor Simwa Kogo	Kapsabet Boys High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA	Finance
36	Beth Nyanchera Magembe	Kenya High School	Vanderbilt University	USA	Medicine, Health & Society
37	Buluma Daizy Nerima	Kenya High School	Amherst College	USA	Economics & Pre-Medicine
38	Lesley Loise Wanjiku	Kenya High School	Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	USA	Computer Science
39	Venessa Fridah Ochieng	Kenya High School	Wesleyan University	USA	Molecular Biology & Biochemistry
40	Muuu Katenge	Lenana Boys	Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology	India	Computer Science
41	Davies Kagiri Waiharo	Light Academy	Óbudai Egyetem University	Hungary	Mechatronic Engineering
42	Joshua Johnson Katana Supaki	Light Academy	Concordia College	USA	Psychology
43	Charity Chelimo Nyokyi	Lugulu Girls High School	Marwadi University	India	Bachelor of Pharmacy
44	Brenda Mutai Jerotich	Lugulu Girls High School	Northwestern University	USA	Biomedical Engineering with Psychology



No	Scholar Name	High School	Institution	Country	Course
45	Kiplagat Ronaldo Kipngetch	Mangu High School	Jacobs University	German	Robotics & Intelligence Systems
46	Brian Mutie Katumbi	Mangu High School	University of Debrecen	Hungary	Medicine
47	Victor Kananda Mureithi	Mangu High School	University of Debrecen	Hungary	Professional Piloting
48	Patrick Waithaka Kariuki	Mangu High School	Johns Hopkins University	USA	Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering
49	Miruka Stacy Moraa	Mary Mount Secondary School	Davidson College	USA	Pre-Medicine & Psychology, Literature
50	Mellen Nyarwaba Masea	Maryhill Girls High School	Harvard University	USA	Civil Engineering with Economics
51	Ogola Basil Otieno	Maseno School	New York University - Abu Dhabi	UAE	Electrical Engineering
52	Jerry Rawlings Onyango	Mbita High School	Pomona College	USA	Computer Science, Biology & Maths
53	Omondi Stanley Oduor	Mbita High School	Columbia University	USA	Computer Science & Chemistry
54	John Kitaa	Moi Forces Academy, Nairobi	University Politehnica of Bucharest	Romania	Industrial Engineering & Robotics
55	Fridah Cheruto Cheboi	Moi Forces, Lanet	Ashesi University	Ghana	Computer Science
56	Biketi Varleen Neema	Moi Girls High School Eldoret	Tufts University	USA	Computer Science
57	Tracy Atieno Achieng	Moi Girls School, Nairobi	Ashesi University	Ghana	Electrical & Electronic Engineering
58	Sharon Tuwei Cherotich	Moi High School Kabarak	Leeds University	UK	Computer Science
59	Karen Gacheri Mukiiri	Moi High School Kabarak	University of British Columbia	Canada	Economics
60	Leah Akol Jakaiti	Moi High School Kabarak	Brown University	USA	Chemical Engineering with Biotechnology
61	Maritim Faith Cherotich	Moi High School Kabarak	Yale University	USA	Global Affairs and Economics
62	Ayieko Rosemina Adoyo	Mt Laverna Girls' Secondary School	University of Connecticut	USA	Biomedical Engineering



No	Scholar Name	High School	Institution	Country	Course
63	Mathew Ltisinywa Letua	Muranga High School	Tufts University	USA	Economics & Statistics, Public Health
64	Mercy Ndinda Kiminza	Muthale Girls Secondary	Strathmore University	Kenya	Engineering
65	Thomas Nyarige Ogechi	Nyambaria Boys High School	University of Pennsylvania	USA	BS Biochemistry
66	Ruto Faith Jepkoge	Pangani Girls	Ashesi University	Ghana	Computer Science
67	Tom Eva Moraa	Pangani Girls	Stanford University	USA	Economics & Computer Science
68	Austin Omondi Otieno	Starehe Boys Centre & School	Northwestern University	Kenya	Computer Science
69	Rosemary Wangui Nyambura	Starehe Girls Centre	Beijing Institute of Technology	China	Computer Science & Technology
70	Emily Lokamar Napao	Turkana Girls	Middlebury College	USA	Neuroscience
71	Faith Mwikali	Chogoria Girls	African Leadership University (ALU)	Rwanda	Computer Science
72	Brian Oweke Otieno	Homa Bay High School	Selcuk University	Turkey	Medicine
73	Leah Mujawimana	Inyange Girls' School of Sciences	Kirikkale University	Turkey	Computer Engineering

#### IVY LEAGUE INSTITUTIONS

	University	2020/2021 Admission
1	Brown University	2
2	Columbia University	1
3	Cornell University	2
4	Dartmouth College	2
5	Harvard University	3
6	Princeton University	2
7	University of Pennsylvania	5
8	Yale University	3
	<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>

#### About the Equity Leaders Program

The Equity Leaders Program was founded in 1998 and has scaled up over time to benefit 17,822 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 100m 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/>