

# TERTIARY EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP TRUST (TEST) FOR UGANDA



## ANNUAL REPORT, 2025

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## GENERAL INFORMATION

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

|                        |           |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Prof. Fred Babweteera  | Chairman  |
| Eng. Ronald Twesigye   | Secretary |
| Prof. Patrick Mangheni | Trustee   |
| Dr. Gabriel Tumwiine   | Trustee   |

### VOLUNTEERS

|                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Mr. Cosmus Kule     | Alumnus |
| Mr. Godfrey Barongo | Alumnus |

### BANKERS

ABSA Bank (U) Ltd  
Rwenzori Courts Branch  
Nakasero Road,  
P.O. Box 7101 Kampala  
Uganda

### SUPPORTERS AND DONORS

Tertiary Education Scholarship Trust for Africa  
3 Allingham Mews  
London N1 8AH  
United Kingdom

### AUDITORS

Team and Co.  
Wood House  
Plot 446 Kabaka'njagala Road  
P.O. Box 8128  
Kampala, UGANDA

### LEGAL ADVISORS

M/s Ampeire & Co. Advocates  
Murtala Courts,  
Plot 33 Lumumba Avenue  
P. O. Box 34633  
Kampala, UGANDA

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The 2024/2025 academic year is yet another year of changing lives of academically excellent but financially challenged Ugandan students. Our collective commitment to

supporting education, the impact of the generosity of the funders and the trust in our mission is reflected yet again in this year's achievements. TEST for Uganda (T4U) continues to grow in numbers, resilience and most importantly in renewed hope. This has been made possible through the support of our partners, donors and well-wishers. New doors of opportunities for academically prudent and deserving students continue to be opened. These students might have otherwise been unable to pursue their tertiary education. We have witnessed inspiring stories of determination, academic excellence and leadership among our beneficiaries, a testament to our belief that investing in education transforms lives, communities and livelihoods. As such, T4U remains steadfast in ensuring value for the awarded scholarships, transparency, accountability, and effective stewardship of the resources entrusted to us.

Our commitment spills over to expanding the reach of the TEST scholarship through our current drive among the alumni. Through a drive dubbed "Freely we received, freely we give", T4U Alumni Association has embarked on a drive to raise funds towards T4U scholarships. The drive targets a minimum of five scholarships per year by 2027. In addition, the alumni have been instrumental in providing mentorship support to continuing students. This is a critical contribution to ensure holistic support to T4U Scholars.

TEST for Uganda however, remains overwhelmed by the number of highly deserving applicants amidst a meagre resource envelope. This challenge has been compounded by the increasing cost of living that has caused many scholars to struggle to meet their additional expenses. As such, the T4U board is committed to ensuring that the current scholars are adequately supported to complete their studies while limiting the enrolment of new scholars. T4U Trustees continue to prioritize STEM academic program. The scheme had a total of 19 scholars graduate in the last academic year from the five (5) universities we are operating in during the 2024/2025 academic year.

On behalf of T4U Trustees and scholars, I extend my gratitude to our sponsors, institutional partners, alumni association and all those who continue to walk with us through this amazing journey. A key enabling factor for all this has been the generous annual support from our parent body, TEST for Africa. We are greatly

indebted to the TEST for Africa Trustees who relentlessly support our initiatives. Together, we are shaping a brighter future for the next generation.

Prof. Fred Babweteera

***Chairman***

## AWARDS AND RENEWALS FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 2024/2025

During the 2024/2025 academic year, TEST for Uganda did not run a call for new scholarship awards. This follows resource constraints to sustainably support the existing numbers of continuing scholars and the new scholars. Continuing T4U scholars grapple with financial challenges that have made it difficult to cover their partial tuition fees requirements (for scholars who are awarded partial scholarships) and living expenses. A deliberate effort to revise their awards is being made to cater for at least full cost of tuition fees (including functional fees). TEST for Uganda renewed financial support for a total of forty (40) scholars. The average value of the awards was GBP 445 per student. Among the scholars were three TEST for Uganda-MADRINHA scholars namely one studying Bachelor of Laws, one Water and irrigation engineering, and one Petroleum engineering and environmental management, Year IV).

Makerere University and Mbarara University of Science and Technology dominated the awards for the continuing scholars' awards. Most importantly, we have maintained a slightly higher proportion of female scholars (53%) compared to their male counterparts during the 2024/2025 academic year.

### **Distribution of awards for T4U scholarships by university**

In terms of scholarship awards by university, Makerere University remains the dominant institution with over 40% of the scholars studying at this university. Mbarara University of Science and Technology takes the second place with slightly more than 23% of scholars. Busitema University takes the least number of students while Kyambogo and Gulu Universities had equal proportions (See figure 1 for details).

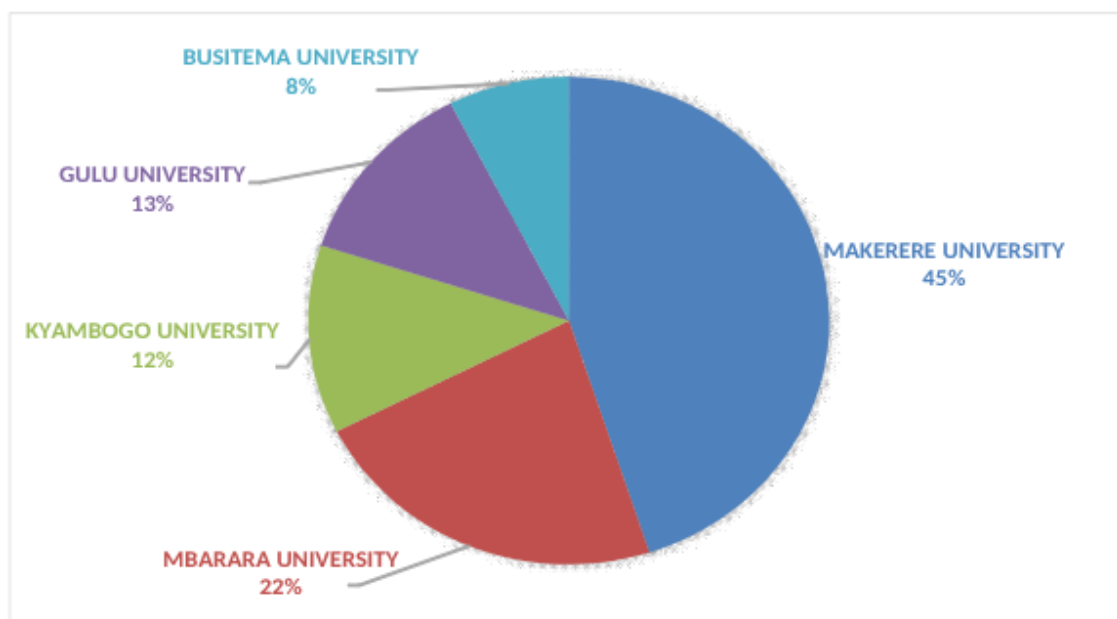


Figure 1: Distribution of 2024/2025 T4U scholarships award by university

#### Distribution of awards for T4U scholarships by region 2024/2025

Region distribution of awards presents the western region with the highest awards in the 2024/2025 academic year. In excess of 40% of the awards come from the western region of the country. This was followed by the eastern region of the country with about 25% of the awards. The mid-western and northern regions of the country are the least represented regions. This was attributed to the quality of the applications submitted by scholars from these regions. Details of the award distribution by regions are presented in figure 2.

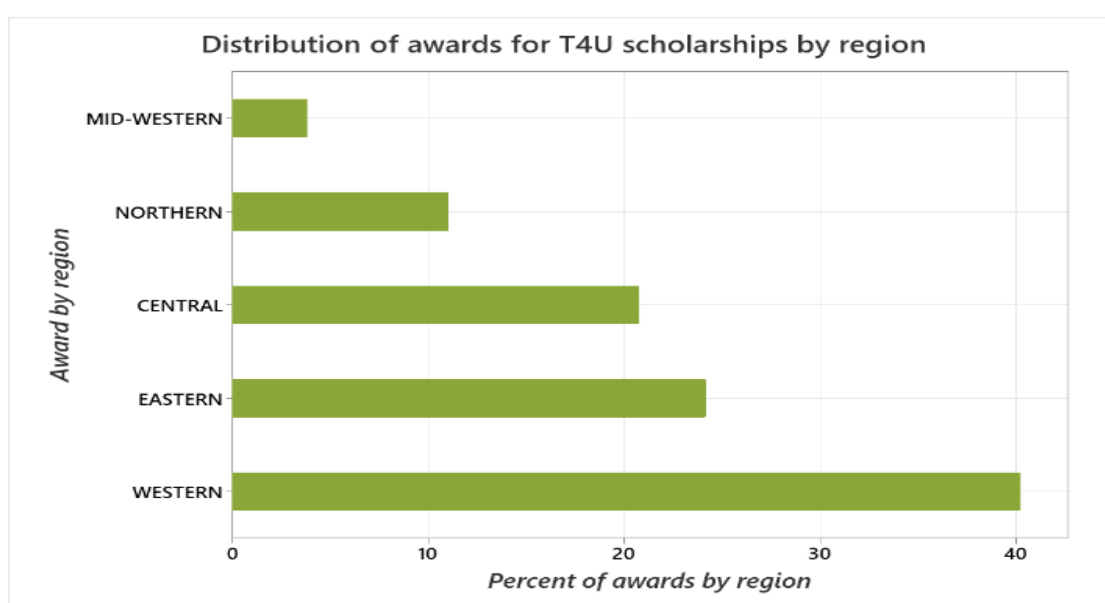


Figure 2: Distribution of 2024/2025 T4U scholarships awards by region

**Distribution of awards for T4U scholarships by discipline 2024/2025**

Engineering (31%) and medical sciences (15%) were the top two disciplines that T4U continues to prioritize as critical for socio-economic transformation of Uganda. Other critical disciplines include agricultural and environmental sciences, business and economics, education, and social sciences (details in figure 3).

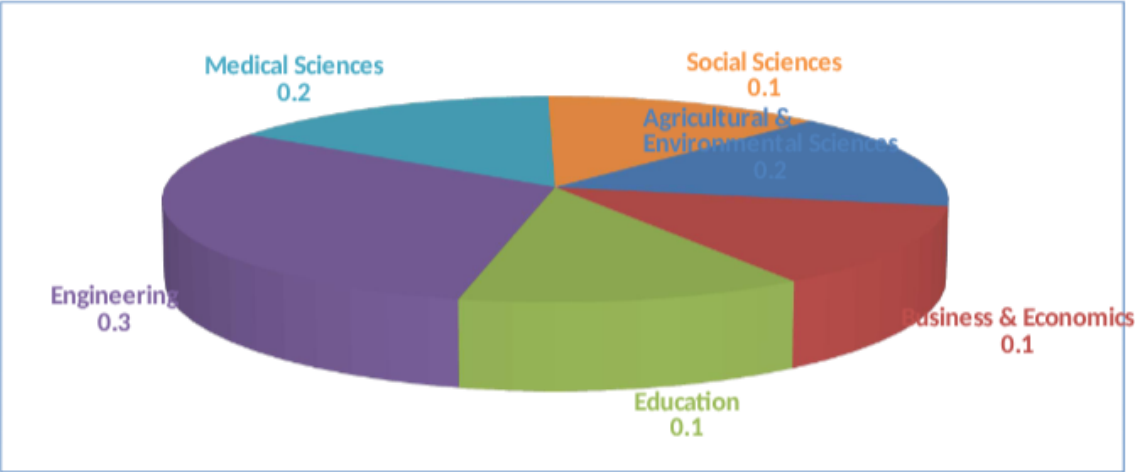


Figure 3: Distribution of awards for T4U scholarships by discipline 2024/2025

**T4U SCHOLAR 1 2024/2025; BSc. Electrical Engineering, Busitema University:** Lost After losing his parents, his aunt of very modest means took on the responsibility of supporting him through his secondary education. Tertiary education however came with financial challenges making him miss a year while making attempts to raise money to join university. What was even frustrating was the failure to secure the national loan scheme sponsorship a year later. His hope was restored when he heard about the Tertiary Education Scholarship Trust (TEST) for Uganda through a friend. He applied and was successfully awarded the TEST for Uganda scholarship. This was a game changer for him who has since had a smooth sailing of his academic journey. He aspires to be a certified electrical engineer and inspire generations of less privileged young people in Uganda.

**T4U SCHOLAR 2 2024/2025; BSc. Industrial Engineering and Management, Kyambogo University:** He was born and raised in a large family that had limited regard for education. He has walked his academic journey with the support of bursaries and sponsorships, thanks to his academic excellence. He lost his father in 2023 during his first year at university which caused additional financial strain but also had a toll on his academic performance. He opted to get a casual job and worked to secure some funds to take him through university and also had support from his mother and brother but still faced a significant shortfall. He got to know about TEST for Uganda from an advert that was circulating on social media. His dire need for tuition support prompted him to apply to the TEST for Uganda scholarship. To him, TEST for Uganda filled this gap with a golden opportunity of the scholarship that lifted a burden of tuition fees. With industrial engineering education, he envisages a transformed life that inspires his extended family and the community at large.

**T4U SCHOLAR 3 2024/2025; BSc. Water Resources Engineering, Busitema University:** He is the first born in a family of six children. His parents had insufficient income to support education for all the children, despite his father selling half of the family land to support him and his siblings. With no funds for university, he only applied to Buistema university in 2022 four years after leaving school, with hopes of working as a gardener to raise tuition. He could not pay up tuition consequently missing some semester examinations. It was not until TEST for Uganda awarded him a deserving scholarship that his hopes have drastically increased. He now plans to champion the drive for adequate and safe water schemes in Northern Uganda.

**T4U SCHOLAR 4 2024/2025; BSc. Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, Mbarara University of Science and Technology:** She was raised in a family of six children. Her education journey was smooth until 2022 when a major change in family circumstances meant that her family were no longer able to support her.

She was determined to complete her academic journey and felt blessed to see the TEST for Uganda advert. She believes there are so many young women out there who are going through similar situations without any hope and she believes that after her studies she will focus on empowering young people, especially girls, to fight for their rights.

**T4U SCHOLAR 5 2024/2025; BSc. Software Engineering, Makerere University:** Born in a family of four siblings, her academic journey was initially more or less a smooth sailing. Challenges to her academic journey started when her father was severely injured and, being unable to work, could no longer fund her education. Upon learning about TEST for Uganda Scholarships through a friend, she applied to join Makerere University and successfully received a scholarship award. Her hopes were restored by the TEST for Uganda scholarship. She plans to use the acquired software engineering skills to become a cyber-security expert and ensure safe e-spaces for all.

**T4U SCHOLAR 6 2024/2025; BSc. Pharmacy, Mbarara University of Science and Technology:** He applied for a Bachelor of Pharmacy and was admitted to the same at Mbarara University of Science and Technology during the 2021–2022 academic year. He registered but could not afford the tuition. He therefore applied for a dead year and started looking for a job to raise tuition. He started working as a waiter during the day and a hotel receptionist during the night shift, but that proved unsustainable. He was awarded the TEST scholarship to pursue his bachelor of pharmacy. He believes that with knowledge in pharmacology, he will join pharmaceutical research to help transform the health sector. He also hopes that he will inspire other young people facing similar situations.

**T4U SCHOLAR 7 2024/2025; BSc. Software Engineering, Mbarara University of Science and Technology:** Born in a family of eight siblings who lost their father in 2022 and had limited financial resources to support her education. She studied on bursaries in secondary school which she could complement with working for the school during holidays. This went on up to her completion of her secondary school. Fortunately, she got to know about TEST for Uganda Scholarships from an Alumnus. She applied and was successfully awarded a scholarship to pursue a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering at Mbarara University of Science and Technology.

**T4U SCHOLAR 8 2024/2025; Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Mbarara University of Science and Technology:** A brilliant and ambitious young man born in a family of seven, he has seen his education majorly funded by school academic bursaries at Budo Secondary School. His parents who farm for subsistence could not support him beyond secondary school. With hopes that one day he will study and become a medical doctor, he applied for self-sponsorship at Mbarara University of Science and Technology. A bigger part of his first year was supported by his classmates who contributed funds towards his tuition fees upon realizing that he was about to miss examinations. Of course, this was not a sustainable way of raising tuition fees and a TEST scholar tipped him off of the TEST for Uganda Scholarship. He subsequently applied for TEST for Uganda scholarship in his second academic year. He was successfully selected for the scholarship and has subsequently improved not only his financial stance but his academic brilliance since he has more time to concentrate on studying. He intends to transform Uganda's health sector through providing pediatric care.

**T4U SCHOLAR 9 2024/2025; BSc. Education, Makerere University:** His education has mainly been supported by sponsorships including the Kabaka's Education Fund, a local

education fund given to secondary school students by the Buganda Kingdom in central Uganda and later a full scholarship by St. Andrew Kaggwa Gombe High School, Kawaala. However, upon successful completion of secondary school, having scored 17 out of 20 points, he did not secure a government scholarship. His mother, who is a petty trader, could not raise funds to cover his university tuition. Fortunately, he came across the TEST for Uganda scholarship advert on social media. He applied to a bachelor of science with education and was successfully awarded a TEST scholarship. Being excellent at mathematics, he intends to change his community through training as many mathematicians to bring the reality of mathematical modeling to life.

**T4U SCHOLAR 10 2024/2025; Bachelor of Laws, Gulu University:** She lost her father in 2022 while she was attending her high school. She completed her secondary education using part of the condolence contributions raised during the sendoff of her late father. However, as she completed high school she had no hope of joining university as her single mother did not have funds to support her. She was however identified and recommended by a continuing TEST scholar in Gulu University. She wasted no time to apply for the TEST scholarship with renewed hope and purpose of becoming a legal practitioner. She was successfully awarded a scholarship to pursue her dream at Gulu University. Her desire is to support the less privileged in her community to access legal redress and protect their rights through her pledged pro bono legal services.

**T4U SCHOLAR 11 2024/2025; Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Busitema University:** She has lived with a dream of becoming a surgeon and wakes up every day to work towards her dream. She has constantly maintained strong grades throughout her academic journey to achieve her dream. However, her dream seemed to be growing on financially brittle grounds, being raised by a single mother. Her mother, a primary school teacher, can hardly sustain her dream with her meagre resources. She braved through applying for university education with hopes of completion hanging by a thread. It was not until she learnt of the TEST for Uganda scholarship advert that her hopes were fully restored. She considers the TEST scholarship as not only an investment into her education but also as a tool for socio-economic transformation of her country, Uganda. Her passion for academic excellence positions her to become a specialist who will guide national policy on public health issues within Uganda.

**T4U SCHOLAR 12 2024/2025; Bachelor of Laws, Gulu University:** She was on the verge of dropping out of school having finished her secondary education in 2018 but stayed at home for three years after failing to raise tuition fees. She was brought up in a family of 10 siblings. Upon completion of her secondary school education, securing tuition to join university was a very big challenge despite having excelled academically. As such, she stayed home for three years and started losing hope in tertiary education. During this period, she tried saving tuition to support her tertiary education but all in vain. The money she saved between jobs was supplemented by a loan acquired by her father and started her off with a Bachelor of Laws at Gulu University. This loan however, was soon finished before she finished studying owing to the fact that it was shared among the siblings who were still studying. She often sat a few examination papers due to unpaid tuition balances at Gulu University. Her hope to complete university education was restored and she plans to fight early marriages, and domestic violence in her community.



## RENEWALS 2024/2025

A summary of renewals made during the 2024/2025 academic year is provided in table 1.

Table 1. Summary of T4U renewals during the 2024/2025 academic year

| S/n | NAME           | SEX    | UNIVERSITY | PROGRAMME (Year of Study)                      |
|-----|----------------|--------|------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1.  | T4U SCHOLAR 1  | MALE   | KYAMBOGO   | EDUCATION (3)                                  |
| 2.  | T4U SCHOLAR 2  | MALE   | MAKERERE   | FORESTRY (2)                                   |
| 3.  | T4U SCHOLAR 3  | FEMALE | MBARARA    | MECHANICAL & INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING (2)        |
| 4.  | T4U SCHOLAR 4  | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | LAW (4)                                        |
| 5.  | T4U SCHOLAR 5  | FEMALE | GULU       | LAW (2)                                        |
| 6.  | T4U SCHOLAR 6  | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | TATISTICS (2)                                  |
| 7.  | T4U SCHOLAR 7  | MALE   | MAKERERE   | EDUCATION (2)                                  |
| 8.  | T4U SCHOLAR 8  | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (2)                       |
| 9.  | T4U SCHOLAR 9  | MALE   | MBARARA    | MEDICINE AND SURGERY (3)                       |
| 10. | T4U SCHOLAR 10 | MALE   | BUSITEMA   | WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING (3)                |
| 11. | T4U SCHOLAR 11 | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | WATER AND IRRIGATION ENGINEERING (4)           |
| 12. | T4U SCHOLAR 12 | FEMALE | KYAMBOGO   | BUILDING ECONOMICS (2)                         |
| 13. | T4U SCHOLAR 13 | MALE   | MAKERERE   | SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (2)                       |
| 14. | T4U SCHOLAR 14 | MALE   | MAKERERE   | QUANTITATIVE ECONOMICS (2)                     |
| 15. | T4U SCHOLAR 15 | FEMALE | MBARARA    | SOFTWARE ENGINEERING (2)                       |
| 16. | T4U SCHOLAR 16 | FEMALE | MBARARA    | AGRICULTURAL LIVELIHOODS & FARM PRODUCTION (4) |
| 17. | T4U SCHOLAR 17 | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | COMMERCE (2)                                   |
| 18. | T4U SCHOLAR 18 | MALE   | MAKERERE   | EDUCATION (2)                                  |
| 19. | T4U SCHOLAR 19 | MALE   | GULU       | MEDICINE AND SURGERY (5)                       |
| 20. | T4U SCHOLAR 20 | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | FORESTRY (2)                                   |

| S/n | NAME           | SEX    | UNIVERSITY | PROGRAMME (Year of Study)                     |
|-----|----------------|--------|------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 21. | T4U SCHOLAR 21 | MALE   | MBARARA    | PETROLEUM ENGINEERING & ENVIRONMENTAL MGT (4) |
| 22. | T4U SCHOLAR 22 | FEMALE | GULU       | LAWS (4)                                      |
| 23. | T4U SCHOLAR 23 | MALE   | MAKERERE   | EDUCATION (2)                                 |
| 24. | T4U SCHOLAR 24 | FEMALE | BUSITEMA   | MEDICINE AND SURGERY (4)                      |
| 25. | T4U SCHOLAR 25 | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | JOURNALISM & MASS COMMUNICATION (3)           |
| 26. | T4U SCHOLAR 26 | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (2)                    |
| 27. | T4U SCHOLAR 27 | FEMALE | MBARARA    | ACCOUNTING & FINANCE (2)                      |
| 28. | T4U SCHOLAR 28 | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | AGRIBUSINESS MANAGEMENT (2)                   |
| 29. | T4U SCHOLAR 29 | FEMALE | MAKERERE   | TOURISM & HOSPITALITY MANAGEMENT (2)          |
| 30. | T4U SCHOLAR 30 | MALE   | KYAMBOGO   | INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING & MANAGEMENT (2)       |
| 31. | T4U SCHOLAR 31 | MALE   | KYAMBOGO   | ECONOMICS (2)                                 |
| 32. | T4U SCHOLAR 32 | MALE   | MBARARA    | MEDICINE AND SURGERY (3)                      |
| 33. | T4U SCHOLAR 33 | MALE   | MAKERERE   | EDUCATION (2)                                 |
| 34. | T4U SCHOLAR 34 | MALE   | MBARARA    | PHARMACY (4)                                  |
| 35. | T4U SCHOLAR 35 | FEMALE | MBARARA    | COMPUTER SCIENCE (2)                          |
| 36. | T4U SCHOLAR 36 | FEMALE | GULU       | LAW (3)                                       |
| 37. | T4U SCHOLAR 37 | MALE   | GULU       | AGRICULTURE (4)                               |
| 38. | T4U SCHOLAR 38 | FEMALE | KYAMBOGO   | CIVIL ENGINEERING (4)                         |
| 39. | T4U SCHOLAR 39 | MALE   | MAKERERE   | PHARMACY (4)                                  |
| 40. | T4U SCHOLAR 40 | MALE   | BUSITEMA   | ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING (4)                    |

### *Alumni survey 2024/2025*

In May 2025, TEST for Uganda carried out an alumni tracer survey to ascertain the progress made by the different TEST for Uganda sponsored graduates. A total of one hundred and forty nine (149) scholars responded to the survey. TEST alumni were asked to provide their responses on a number of areas. These included the university they attended, program they pursued, year they joined the TEST scholarship scheme, year of graduation, class of degree obtained, whether they had pursued graduate studies, their current employment status, length of time taken to get their first employment after graduation, and their willingness to provide support to TEST for Uganda. The results of the tracer survey are presented in the following subsections.

#### ***University attended by TEST Alumni***

Majority (46%) of the TEST for Uganda alumni attended Makerere University. This was followed by Mbarara University of Science and Technology with 23% of the TEST alumni, Kyambogo University (16%), Makerere University Business School (7%), Gulu University (5.6%), and Busitema University (2%) as presented in the figure 4.

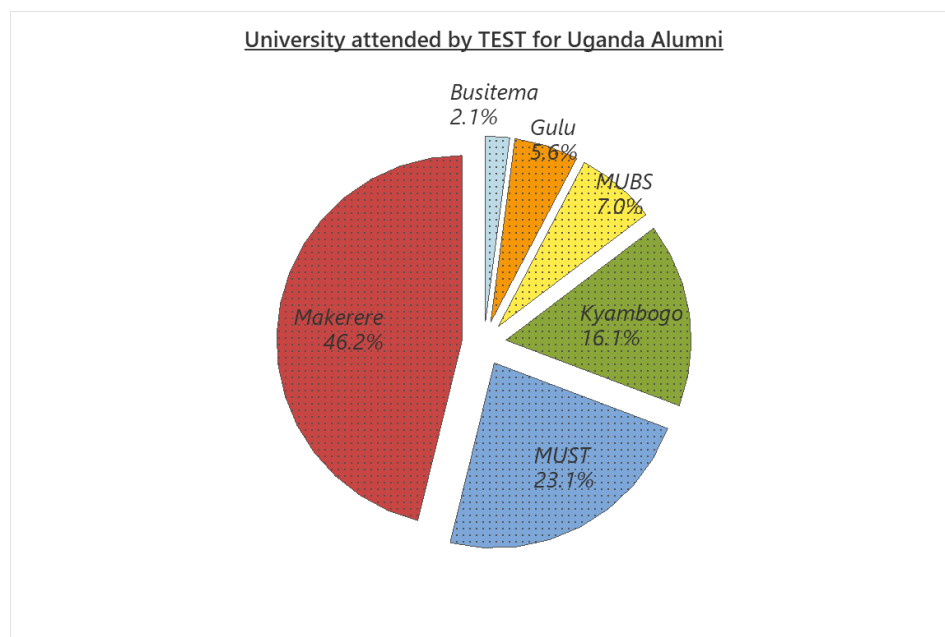


Figure 4: Percentage of TEST for Uganda Alumni by university attended

#### ***Discipline/ program pursued by TEST Alumni***

TEST for Uganda alumni were further tasked to indicate their areas of profession/ disciplines pursued during their time of training. Over 30% of the TEST alumni were trained in the business and economics discipline. This is possibly attributed to the diversity of programs taught in this particular discipline. The business and economics discipline was followed by the medical sciences discipline. This discipline includes bachelor of medicine and bachelor of surgery, Bachelor of Pharmacy, Bachelor of

Science in biomedical sciences, Optometry, Midwifery, and Medical laboratory sciences among others. Engineering disciplines closely followed the medical sciences with approximately 18% of the alumni subscribing to this category. Other disciplines included agriculture and environment, social sciences, and education as presented in the figure 5.

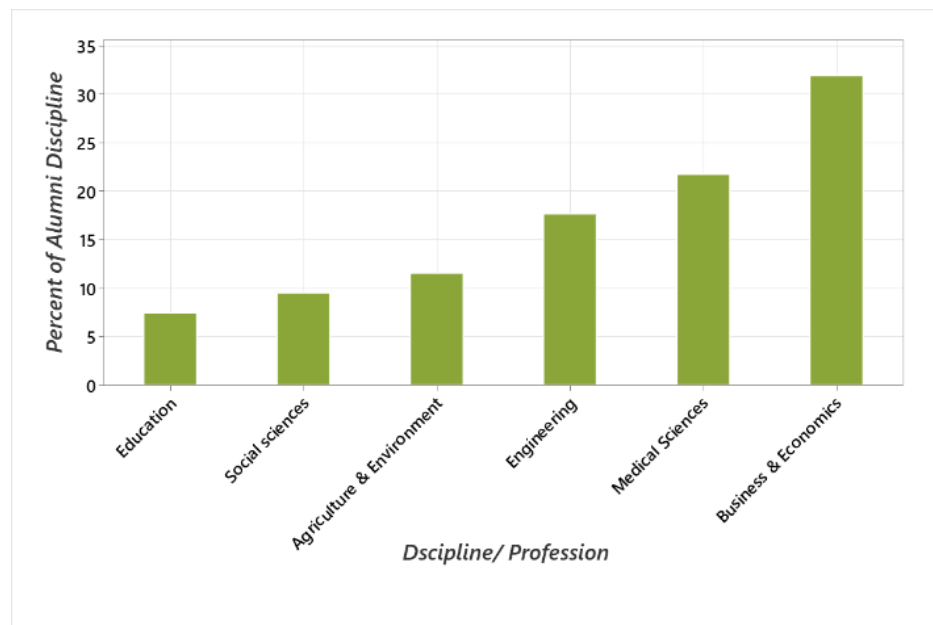


Figure 5: Disciplines/ programs of study for the TEST for Uganda alumni

### ***Graduation status of TEST alumni***

In terms of the class of degree graduated with, it is worth noting that about 7% of the TEST alumni graduated with a first-class honors degree. The biggest proportion (66%) of TEST alumni however, graduated with a second-class upper division (Table 2).

Table 2: Class of the degree obtained by TEST for Uganda alumni

| Class of degree obtained | Frequency | Percent |
|--------------------------|-----------|---------|
| First Class              | 10        | 6.8     |
| Second Upper             | 97        | 66      |
| Second Lower             | 38        | 25.9    |
| Pass                     | 2         | 1.4     |

### ***Pursued graduate studies***

Approximately 27% of the TEST for Uganda Alumni had pursued graduate training. Majority of the alumni that pursued graduate training, majored in management related disciplines (39%) and Medical sciences (22%). Other disciplines include engineering, agriculture and environment, business and economics, and social sciences (Table 3).

Table 3: Graduate studies disciplines pursued by TEST for Uganda alumni

| Graduate studies discipline | Frequency | Percent |
|-----------------------------|-----------|---------|
| Management Sciences         | 14        | 39      |
| Medical Sciences            | 8         | 22      |
| Engineering                 | 5         | 14      |
| Agriculture & Environment   | 4         | 11      |
| Business & Economics        | 3         | 8       |
| Social Sciences             | 2         | 6       |

### ***Employment status of TEST alumni***

Results of the TEST alumni survey revealed that over 74% of TEST alumni are employed. The biggest proportion (59%) of the TEST for Uganda alumni got their jobs within the first year after completion of their first degree. Over 36% of the TEST for Uganda alumni got their jobs in a period of 1 to 3 years while only 5% got employed in a period more than 3 years after completion of first degree.

### ***Support for TEST activities***

An overwhelming proportion (over 95%) of the TEST alumni indicated that they were willing to support TEST for Uganda activities in one way or the other. This support ranged from financial contributions towards scholarships, mentorships to continuing TEST for Uganda scholars, training and internships, volunteering with TEST Uganda events, workshops, or initiatives as may be organized by TEST for Uganda from time to time.

## FINANCIAL REPORT 2024/2025

For details of the financial report, kindly refer to the annual audited accounts.

| Description                                                     | INCOME (£) | EXPENDITURE (£) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| Grant for TEST for AFRICA for 2024/2025 Academic Year           | £18,000.0  |                 |
| TEST for Uganda Alumni Donation                                 | £419.2     |                 |
| Fred Babweteera Donation                                        | £2,593.0   |                 |
| Tuition for Busitema University Scholars 2024/2025              |            | £1,383.0        |
| Tuition for Gulu University Scholars 2024/2025                  |            | £2,316.6        |
| Tuition for Kyambogo University Scholars 2024/2025              |            | £1,574.5        |
| Tuition for Makerere University Scholars 2024/2025              |            | £8,324.2        |
| Tuition for Mbarara University Scholars 2024/2025               |            | £3,821.3        |
| Additional tuition to Makerere University (Struggling students) |            | £553.0          |
| Internship and living expense costs for students                |            | £1,680.0        |
| Travel and subsistence costs for volunteer                      |            | £220.0          |
| Travel, communication (MADRINHA) and coordinations costs        |            | £140.3          |