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# PRESS RELEASE

## HIGHER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE PROGRAMME

Kabale University will offer the **Higher Education Certificate Programme (HEC),** effective from the 2020/2021 Academic Year. The programme name may differ from University to University. In some Universities the programme is referred to as Pre-university or Bridging Programme to University education. In Uganda, the National Council for Higher Education has provided the Minimum Standards for the Higher Education Certificate Programme and Universities are encouraged to offer the programme to enable deserving students doing sciences to access higher education.

Some Universities in Uganda are already running the certificate programme. When Kabale University published an advertisement for the programme, comments from some people indicated that the University was attracting failures. **This is NOT the case**. The purpose of this press release is to provide information so that people may understand what the programme is about and the noble purpose it is expected to serve.

### What is the Higher Education Certificate Programme?

The Higher Education Certificate Programme is an intensive programme intended for students who have successfully completed the Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) or its equivalent science subjects, but who may not have attained sufficient grades to enroll for Diplomas or Degree programmes, in the higher education sector.

### Programme Rationale

The current admission requirements to any higher education programme require at least two principal passes for degree programmes and one principal pass and two subsidiaries for a diploma programme.

Unfortunately, there is no remedial programme for candidates who qualify for UACE award, but have not scored sufficiently good grades to enroll for degree or diploma programmes. The only available option is for them to repeat Senior Six or enroll for Certificate

programmes in tertiary institutions, using the Uganda Certificate of Education (O-Level). **The Higher Education Certificate Programme,** therefore, is intended to provide the very needed alternative route to join higher education. It is an equalizing/equity strategy, because many such citizens would have not been able to benefit from similar training facilities enjoyed by their contemporaries. In addition, this programme is a response to the call by the Government of Uganda for training institutions to promote science education.

Kabale University is pleased to be able to contribute to filling such existing gaps through this offer.

**Minimum Admission Requirements to HEC**

a) Uganda Certificate of Education or its equivalent
b) Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education with at least two subsidiary passes, obtained in principal subjects or its equivalent.
c) Vocational Qualifications at level 2 or level 3 of the Uganda Vocational Qualifications Framework.
d) Qualifications equivalent to Uganda Advanced Certificate of Education (UACE) as shall be determined by the National Council for Higher Education in consultation with the Uganda National Examinations Board

**Duration**

The minimum duration of the HEC programme shall be one academic year (structured as a two-semester programme) lasting no less than 34 weeks in total, including examinations period.

**Conclusion**

I hope the above information will help all the concerned people to understand the purpose of the programme and to encourage students who meet the minimum requirements to take up the available opportunity at Kabale University. Please note that this programme is intended for those pursuing science based programmes.

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