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Makerere University has this academic year admitted 16,000 students, according to a provisional admissions list obtained yesterday. A total of 12,000 students were admitted to the main campus while 4,000 candidates will be absorbed by Makerere University Business School, an affiliate institution.

Schools in the central region have once again dominated Makerere University's private admission list. The list shows that the 10 schools with the highest number of admissions are within Kampala and Wakiso districts.

Top schools

Lubiri SS leads with 213 students, followed by St Mary's SS Kitende with 185. Kibibi SS got 177 slots, the fourth being Old Kampala SS with 170 while Katikamu SS Wobulenzi has 166 students.

Seeta High School and Gombe SS tied with 135 students each followed by Kyambogo College with 123, Naalya SS and Masaka SS sent 110 students each to the university. Kibuli SS and Luzira Lakeside College each has taken 103 students. Only Valley College, Bushenyi appeared among the top 10 schools sending 121 students.

According to the list, Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Architecture are the two courses with the stiffest cut-off points in the next academic year for arts and science courses respectively. However, there were several changes to the number of points required to join various courses.

Cut-off points

For example, Bachelor of Laws remains the most competitive arts course with the cut off points raised from 53.4 last year to 53.7 for the day programme, while for the evening programme, students needed 51.5 points to get admitted. Bachelor of Architecture leads in the science courses with 48.1 points followed by Electrical Engineering (45.7 points).

Bachelor of Science in Telecommunication Engineering came third requiring 46.9 points, up from 46.6 points last year. Medicine and surgery are not any different, with 42.2 up from 41.3 points last academic year. However, points for Bachelor of

Quantitative Economic were lowered from last year's 44.2 points to 39.1 points this year. Bachelor of Arts with Education was also lowered from 48.2 points to 32.4 points.

Review of admissions

A source, who preferred anonymity because they are not authorised to speak to the press, said some students had met the cut-off points but because of capacity limitations on particular courses were given their second choices.

But the source added that after yesterday's meeting, the admissions board agreed to admit more students who meet the cut-off points. BA in Arts has the highest number of entrants in the arts courses with 690 students while Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering leads with 230 for sciences.

According to the Uganda National Examinations Board, out of 96,655 candidates who sat the UACE examinations, 60,370 candidates passed with at least two principal passes, making them eligible for admission into public universities.

Every year, students eagerly await the cut-off list to find out what programme they have been admitted to, which ultimately determines the careers they will pursue. Most take what is offered to them.

Reported by Patience Ahimbisibwe, Isaac W. Khisa & Al-Mahdi Ssenkibirwa

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