

BY TITUS KAKEMBO

The Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) has opened applications for its prestigious scholarship programme for the 2026-2027 academic year, presenting a major opportunity for students, researchers and professionals from eligible countries that include Uganda to pursue higher education and advanced research through fully funded support.

It targets undergraduate, master's, PhD and post-doctoral studies in development-related fields, with a strong emphasis on sustainability science. By investing in education and research, IsDB aims to build highly skilled human capital capable of addressing pressing development challenges while accelerating progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.

The scholarships are open to citizens of IsDB member states and selected categories of applicants from non-member countries.

Applications are submitted entirely online and free of charge, with the bank warning applicants to beware of fraudsters, stressing that it does not charge any fees at any stage of application, selection or placement.

The IsDB Scholarship Programme is fully funded, allowing beneficiaries to focus on their studies without financial burden.

The award covers full tuition fees, paid directly to the host institution, as well as a monthly living stipend calibrated to the cost of living in the country of study. Beneficiaries also receive medical

ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK ROLLS OUT FULLY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS



Graduants celebrating during a graduation ceremony at IUIU in February 2009. IsDB aims to build highly skilled human capital capable of addressing pressing development challenges

insurance under the university health scheme.

For postgraduate scholars – master's, PhD and postdoctoral fellows – the scholarship includes additional allowances for thesis preparation, scientific publications and participation in academic

conferences, strengthening research quality and global academic exposure. Students selected to study abroad are supported with return economy-class air tickets at the beginning and end of their studies, plus an installation allowance to help them settle.

Bachelor's students under selected programmes also receive an annual books and clothing allowance. The master of science scholarship programme targets citizens of 20 least developed member countries, including Uganda. Tenable for two years,

it aims to strengthen national capacity in science, engineering, technology and medical sciences.

The Merit Scholarship Programme for High Technology, launched in 1992, supports advanced studies and research in high-impact scientific and technological fields critical to national development.

The IsDB-Islamic Solidarity Fund for Development scholarship programme, introduced in 2019, focuses on poverty reduction in least developed member countries. It supports bachelor's degrees and technical diplomas in fields such as medicine, engineering, agriculture, business, ICT, tourism and industrial technologies, mainly at public institutions in applicants' home countries.

Applications for the 2026/27 academic year are now open. All applications must be submitted through the official IsDB scholarship portal on the Islamic Development Bank.

With an application deadline of January 31, 2026, applicants are required to create an online account, complete the application form and upload all supporting documents through the portal. Applications sent by email or in hard copy are not accepted. More details are on <https://www.isdb.org/scholarships>