



## **Guideline for awarding Study Access Alliance scholarships to candidates**

The eligibility criteria for candidates for Study Access Alliance scholarships must be applied by all partners who select candidates for scholarships on behalf of the Study Access Alliance (SAA). The criteria are the following:

- (1) Applicants must meet the **general admission requirements for the selected Bachelor or Master degree at one of the partner universities** offering their programs within the SAA. The SAA will provide these criteria to the Partner at its best knowledge;
- (2) Applicants must have the **citizenship of an African country**;
- (3) Applicants must **live in an African country at the time of application and plan to complete their studies in an African country**;
- (4) Applicants must sign a **self-declaration stating their financial need for a scholarship**. The SAA will provide the template form to the applicant for their signature;
- (5) Applicants must **agree to that a study progress report will be sent from the partner university to the SAA** (which itself may share it with its partners) in regular intervals (every 12 months). The study progress report will not detail any information about grades and has the sole purpose of ensuring that the student is progressing with their studies so the SAA may continue to pay the student's tuition fees to the university. The consent will be asked for in the scholarship contract between the candidate and the Study Access Alliance.

Partner organizations selecting candidates for scholarships on behalf of SAA **may apply additional criteria** for awarding scholarships according to their organizational purpose, keeping in mind that the SAA has deliberately set a low threshold for receiving scholarships in order to make the program accessible for a broad group of people. In order to keep this intention, all additional criteria by partners need to be aligned with and confirmed by the SAA.

In the selection process, the Partner takes into account the aim of the SAA to have a **gender balance among the recipients of a scholarship**. In case the gender balance is not given in the Partner's candidate selection, the Partner and the SAA will discuss how to proceed individually.

**In case there are more applications for scholarships that meet the eligibility criteria above than scholarships available**, the partner organization selecting students for a scholarship may apply the following guidelines:

- (1) **Take the motivation of the applicant to start university degree studies into account:** A Bachelor takes 3 years (full-time) and a Master 1 or 2 years (full time, depending on degree) to complete – students should be willing and able to finish their chosen study program;
- (2) **Draw by lot among candidates who meet all of the above eligibility criteria:** This ensures a fair, transparent process of awarding scholarships.

The Study Access Alliance requires the partner organization selecting the candidates for a scholarship on behalf of SAA for **documentation of the selection process**. The Study Access Alliance must be able to check whether all eligibility criteria are met and whether the entire process has been executed in a fair and transparent manner. The mode of documentation can be proposed by the partner organization and must be aligned with the Study Access Alliance before the selection process starts.