



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION  
STATE DEPARTMENT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION  
OFFICE OF THE PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**

Telephone: 254-20-3318581  
Direct Line: 254-20-2228617  
E-mail: [psecretaryher@education.go.ke](mailto:psecretaryher@education.go.ke)  
Website: [www.education.go.ke](http://www.education.go.ke)  
When replying please quote

Jogoo House 'B'  
Harambee Avenue  
P.O. Box 9583-00200  
**NAIROBI**

**Ref:** MOE/SDHE/CON/2/34 (1)

**2<sup>nd</sup> February, 2026**

**All Vice Chancellors of Public Universities  
All Principals of University Constituent Colleges**

Dear *Ahh,*

**RE: HERIOT-WATT UNIVERSITY'S HOOGENBOOM SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAMME**

Reference is made to the above captioned subject.

The State Department for Higher Education hereby notifies you that on **19<sup>th</sup> January 2026**, Heriot-Watt University is launching the Hoogenboom Scholarship Programme, a €1.5 million international programme funded through a philanthropic partnership with the Orchard Foundation. Building on Heriot-Watt University's strong tradition of widening access to education, this scholarship will empower 30 exceptionally talented women leaders from selected countries in Sub-Saharan Africa to shape our world within the subject area of environmental sustainability and planetary health.

Heriot-Watt University is seeking your assistance to reach outstanding students. The University is renowned for its global reach and values, with campuses across three continents and a strong alumni network of over 173,000 graduates in over 190 countries. The University has a long-standing commitment to transforming lives through education, including a strong track record of widening access in Africa through alumni networks and scholarship programmes. An existing scholarship programme for women in Zambia reflects this commitment – offering fully funded places on its MBA programme in partnership with the Scottish Government. Additional information on the scholarship programme is attached.

The purpose of this letter therefore is to share this information with your institution for the attention of prospective students.

Yours *Sincerely,*

Dr. Beatrice Muganda Inyangala, CBS  
**PRINCIPAL SECRETARY**



## **HOOGENBOOM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME**

### **Scholarship overview**

The Hoogenboom Scholarship Programme is five-year programme which will provide fully funded places for women from Kenya, Zambia, South Africa, Botswana, and Malawi – countries which were selected for their strategic importance, regional diversity, and alignment with Scotland's international development priorities.

The scholarship opened to applicants on 19 January 2026 with the first cohort due to begin in September 2026 with the initiative running until January 2030. The programme will support 30 (6 per year for 5 years) students to gain access to cutting-edge research and teaching in geosciences, marine systems, and environmental policy. Those applying will have the option to enrol on either the MSc in Global Environmental Change and Policy or a MSc in International Marine Science or the MSc in Sustainable Energy. Women who completed their undergraduate studies at a member institution of the Association of Commonwealth Universities will be given priority to ensure academic excellence and institutional alignment.

The programme will be delivered at the internationally renowned Lyell Centre, based at Heriot-Watt's campus in Edinburgh. The Centre plays a key role in strengthening Scotland's research base and supporting national and global priorities in sustainability, climate resilience and environmental protection. It brings together world-leading academics, industry and international partners to tackle challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss and marine conservation, offering students access to specialist facilities and applied learning with real-world impact.

### **Strategic vision**

The initiative will strengthen communities and support long-term economic stability across Africa's most promising regions by empowering women to address pressing environmental challenges, building capacity in key sustainability sectors, and delivering lasting global impact through education. By focusing on women, the programme will deliver transformational education for women: addressing gender disparities in STEM (Science Technology Engineering Mathematics) subjects in higher education and equipping future leaders with the knowledge and tools to drive change in their communities and beyond. This will strengthen communities and economies. Educated women are proven catalysts for development – acting as skilled leaders, role models, and innovators who are urgently needed especially in youthful African economies.

By supporting research-focused master's degrees at the Lyell Centre, the programme will also contribute to solving urgent environmental challenges such as biodiversity loss and degradation of living systems, climate resilience, and sustainable energy. Scholars will engage in fieldwork and community-based projects, generating locally relevant solutions with global impact and strengthening the research ecosystem between Africa and the UK.

### **Funding structure**

The programme was made possible by the philanthropic Orchard Foundation, associated with Stitching De Boomgaard, co-founded by Dr Annemiek Hoogenboom, who designed and launched the innovative People's Postcode Lottery across the UK.

This investment will cover tuition fees, but crucially also help students with living costs, including accommodation, visas and health insurance, as well as provide access to mentorship, industry placements and leadership development. Heriot-Watt University is contributing up to 60 per cent of the total scholarship programme worth €1.5 million, alongside support for fieldwork and research travel.

**Further information**

To learn more about the programme, please visit:

<https://www.hw.ac.uk/news/2026/heriot-watt-university-launches-new-global-scholarship-programme>

To learn more about the Orchard Foundation, please visit:

<https://www.stichtingdeboomgaard.nl/>

Alternatively, please contact Craig Philip, Public Affairs and Communications Manager at Heriot-Watt University, via [C.Philip@hw.ac.uk](mailto:C.Philip@hw.ac.uk).