



NATIONAL POLICY

STUDENT ADMISSION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION

Revised January 2025

STUDENT ADMISSION INTO HIGHER EDUCATION IN RWANDA

1. Introduction

The Article 6 of the Presidential Order N° 081/01 of 28/08/2020 Establishing Higher Education Council stipulates that the responsibilities of HEC include among others “to prepare educational standards of institutions of higher learning”.

The Article 48 of the Ministerial Order N° 001/MINEDUC/2021 of 20/10//2021 Determining Standards in Education stipulates that “Institutions of higher learning admit students in programs in compliance with specific program admission requirements established by the public organ in charge of regulation of institutions of higher learning”.

The Higher Learning Institutions (HLIs) operate their admissions policy in line with their Equality and Diversity Policies. The admissions policy applies to all programmes. No applicant will be refused admission unreasonably or on other than academic grounds or fitness for the programme.

This policy sets out the academic, medical (physical and mental), moral and language criteria for admission into higher education.

Specific and additional admission criteria will be included in the documentation submitted for the accreditation of the programme. These requirements include but not limited to *“have studied in secondary school, and passed the subjects related to the program they intend to study”*.

2. Academic Requirements

The general academic requirements for admission are set out in the General Academic Regulations.

To be admitted to the first year of an undergraduate programme:

- It is necessary to have an Advanced Certificate of Secondary Education with an average pass mark of 50% permitting entry to higher education or a qualification or other evidence of ability to study on the programme which is considered equivalent.
- Applicants must also demonstrate sufficient competence in English to study at Higher Education.
- Individual programmes shall have **specific requirements** above the minimum level.
- Higher Learning institutions shall refer to general academic regulations for admission of students transferring from another Higher Learning Institution (local or abroad).

Note: *The candidates who got the Advanced General Certificate of Secondary Education before 2024, will be admitted into higher education based on the criteria of two (2) Principal Passes for a **transition period of two (2) years.***

3. Moral Requirements

Before registration for a programme of higher education, students may be required to provide a certificate of police clearance. Criminal conviction may not preclude admission but conviction or caution for a relevant criminal offence will preclude admission for training to teach, to train as a tutor in a teacher training college or for the Police, and similar limitations may be applied by other professions such as medicine, social work or nursing, etc.

All students admitted for training as teachers, tutors or for the police force will in addition have to meet any moral requirements set out by the Ministry of Education for Registered Teachers and the Police Force for Serving Police Officers, or any equivalent requirements imposed by a potential employing Ministry.

Any such requirements will be included in the validated Programme Specification and advertised to potential students.

Any student who is found to have willfully deceived the institution as to their criminal record may be permanently excluded from the institution.

4. Medical Requirements

Before registration for any programme of study, proof of medical fitness to study from a registered medical practitioner is required.

Those registering for programmes which imply a license to practice – for example, teacher training or college tutor training, nursing, medicine, social work, policing - may additionally have to undergo a medical examination by the Institution's doctor.

The medical examination will determine the applicants' physical and mental suitability for his or her prospective profession. Students will additionally have to meet any requirements laid down by the Ministries or employing bodies with respect to medical requirements. Any such requirements will appear in the accredited Programme Specification and be advertised to prospective students.

Any student on a programme of study who after registration is found to be medically unfit to pursue that programme of study will be required to withdraw. Where appropriate, every effort possible should be made to find the student a place on an alternative programme whose medical fitness requirements they meet.

5. Other requirements

Prospective students intending to study the programmes that are regulated by different professional bodies, may be required to fulfill some specific requirements set out by the Regulatory Body. Such requirements will appear in the accredited Programme Specification and be advertised to prospective students.