



The Scottish Government and Edinburgh Business School Scholarship for Women in Zambia



**The Scottish
Government**
Riaghaltas na h-Alba

Overview

In 2019 Heriot-Watt University and the Scottish Government established a partnership that was committed to addressing the gender gap in MBA learning by providing an exceptional educational opportunity to women in Zambia through a scholarship initiative. The initiative received over 230 applications and in December 2019/20 fully funded online learning places were awarded for Edinburgh Business School's Master of Business Administration (MBA) programme.

Heriot-Watt University and Edinburgh Business School are very happy to inform the Scottish Government that 20 scholars of this wonderful scholarship started their studies in January 2020. The cohort have begun the MBA's first course, People, Work and Organisations; they are making great progress and are enjoying the learning experience which comes from the online delivery of the programme. The examination for People, Work and Organisations was due to take place in June but this has now been delayed until August due to COVID-19.

In accordance with practice across the University and the wider UK Higher Education sector, all examinations in August will be delivered in an online 'take home' format. This means the scholars will not need to travel to or attend an examination centre in person this August and will be able to complete their examination at home.

The scholars have been given access to their second course, Economics for Business, and will sit that examination in December.

Revised Examination Schedule

August 2020 People Work & Organisations

December 2020 Economics for Business

March 2021 Financial Decision Making

June 2021 Elective Course

August 2021 Delivering Successful Projects

December 2021 Strategic Marketing

March 2022 Leadership Theory & Practice

June 2022 Elective Course

August 2022 Developing & Executing Strategy

Passes in 3 courses: Eligibility for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate in Business Administration

Passes in 6 courses: Eligibility for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma in Business Administration

Budget Allocation 01/01/2020 – 01/05/2020

People Work and Organisations course: £600 x 20 students = **£12,000**

Economics for Business course: £600 x 20 students = **£12,000**

Exam costs for both course: £160 x 20 students = **£6,400**

Total allocated = **£30,400**

Supporting our Scholars

A key priority of the programme has been to provide as much support to our distance learning students as possible. We have been grateful to utilise our strong links with the Watt Club in Zambia that consists of over 800 alumni. The Heriot-Watt University's alumni relations office has established close networks of global alumni groups, the Watt Club in Zambia has been a group that is particularly active. We are actively working with the Watt Club in Zambia to connect our members with our scholars and to ensure that offers of mentoring, networking and career advice are utilised.

As much as possible we would like the students to progress through the programme as a cohort, this allows them to better support one another during their studies. Each student is receiving bespoke mentoring throughout with the aim of keeping them on track, motivated and where appropriate to do so, personalising their study plan so that it fits with their work and family commitments. Social media groups have been set up so that they can form virtual study groups and when lockdown comes to an end in Zambia, we hope to find a suitable venue for them to meet on a Saturday morning.

The Impact of Covid-19

Heriot-Watt University stands committed in our determination to support all our students across the globe facing this global emergency. We have communicated our support to the scholars and are prepared to support them where possible.

Across our five campuses and worldwide the people of Heriot-Watt University are working together to minimise the spread of the virus and to support each other, especially our most vulnerable students. We have moved all our activities online, enabling students and staff to stay home. We have paused all but the most critical research. We are keeping campuses open for essential student services and providing food packages for those who need to stay.

Over the last months, we have seen many heart-warming and ingenious ways where students and staff have rallied to support each other – from WhatsApp Groups where students self-organise to help each other in case one falls ill, to virtual coffee clubs and pubs and staff using the skills learned at Heriot-Watt University to manufacture PPE for healthcare workers.

Nonetheless, we have heard harrowing stories from students at risk as a result of the virus, including students at risk of eviction, staying in unsafe living environments, facing financial problems, and those isolated from friends, often far from home. As a result, we have established a Student Emergency Support Fund to assist our students through an extremely challenging time, alongside the ongoing support we provide through our wellbeing team, students' union, and hardship funds.

Due to the online delivery of the MBA programme we do not anticipate any further disruption and stand ready to provide support when we can.

Case Studies

We have heard many inspiring and heart-warming stories and comments from our scholars, for many of whom this opportunity has been life changing. Feedback has shown how extremely grateful they are to the Scottish Government for this opportunity and how excited they are to be pursuing the MBA. Below we have included some examples of the scholars and what they feel the MBA will help them to achieve.

Mulangu Mulikita - Mulangu views the MBA as being pivotal in the success of her small business adventure, 'Afrikan Kween' which sells affordable beauty products in Zambia. Mulangu currently works as a Digital Marketing specialist where she also mentors two female members of staff and is teaching them the basics of running a Facebook business page.

Cassandra Lundu - Cassandra is a natural resources and wildlife specialist, certified Market Analysis and Development (MA&D) trainer and facilitates the establishment of small businesses and other income generating activities. Cassandra also runs her own small business that is selling groceries and medicines in Zambia. Cassandra feels that the MBA will give her the necessary skills and experience to help her grow her business and develop as an entrepreneur. Cassandra thinks that the scholarship will help to facilitate the creation of employment and help the local communities in Zambia and improve livelihoods for future generations.

Bwalya Kufika - Bwalya is thoroughly enjoying her studies and currently runs her own wig and hair product manufacturing company which initially started out as a hobby when she taught herself how to make and style wigs from watching online videos. Bwalya sees herself using the knowledge gained from the MBA programme to help set up a skills development centre to encourage young people to discover and develop hidden talents and earn an income for themselves.

Alice S Chirwa - Alice is grateful for the opportunity to develop as an entrepreneur, she is currently the Relationship Manager at Zambia National Commercial Bank. Alice is very interested in crowdfunding and even initiated an incentive at a local school for the community to donate food and money to paid tuition fees for one student for a year. From this experience she really appreciates the value of philanthropy to provide educational opportunities. Alice thinks that the MBA will help her to develop her business skills and enable her to expand her existing project.

Press Summary

31/08/2019

- Advertorial in the Daily Mail, Zambia

01/09/2019

- Front page, the Sunday Times (Times of Zambia)
- Phoenix FM lunch hour news
- News item on the weekend program "Line up" broadcasted by the national broadcasting network (ZNBC)
- News item on Muvi TV Zambia
- Hot FM posted information about the scholarship on their Facebook page

10/10/2019

- News story from the Independent Observer (Zambia)