



## COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

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### **Press Release**

## **Uganda National NGO Forum offers 50 internship places to Social Sciences students**

The Uganda National NGO Forum has offered eight research fellowships to Masters students in the School of Social Sciences, College of Humanities and Social Sciences undertaking research on NGO/Civil Society. The organization has also offered 50 internship places to undergraduate students starting this year.

The grants are a result of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Uganda National NGO Forum and the School of Social Sciences at Makerere University. The MoU is aimed at setting up a formal collaboration and cooperation mechanism to among other factors increase the level of understanding and appreciation amongst students on the work and contribution of civil society to Uganda's development.

According to Dr S.K Simba, Chair, Department of Political Science in the School of Social Sciences, the grants will reduce the burden for students searching for internship placement. "We encourage students to embrace the grant by applying for the positions as soon as possible. Applications can be delivered to my office which will work with officials from the NGO Forum to select students for internship," he said after receiving the news of the grant. The Department of Political Science and Public Administration is the focal department for the programme at Makerere University.

The MoU between the School of Social Sciences and the NGO Forum which resulted into the Civil Society – Academia Cooperation Programme was conceived out of the understanding that enhanced collaboration between civil society and the academia is valuable for development.

It was also developed against the backdrop that civil Society in Uganda, unlike other professional disciplines is not deliberately ‘fed’ by a conscious academic programme for its development programming and continuous nourishment. “There isn’t any programme specifically tailored towards building a cadre of leadership for the non profit sector in Uganda and many individuals who end up working for civil society do so, not because of a carefully thought process about the values and ethical underpinnings of the sector, but rather because of an opportunity for a job,” reads a statement by the two partners on the need for collaboration.

The programme/collaboration will contribute to developing a University curriculum that increases opportunities for students to search appropriate solutions to challenges facing Uganda’s Society. It will also create a virtual and physical platform for sharing and joint action between Civil Society and Academic Community.

Tenets for the programme include a Civil Society Fellowship Programme aimed at enhancing knowledge in Uganda through a Masters Research Support Grant for students who identify research topics on themes related to civil society in Uganda; an Internship Programme for students at either Bachelors or Masters Levels interested in practical exposure in civil society organizations across the country and seminars, and debates on selected governance and development issues to invoke critical thinking.

Meanwhile, Makerere University will soon start offering a Masters of Arts Degree in Defense and Security Studies and a Diploma in Defense and Security Studies to students at the Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka.

The programmes for the award of the MA and Diploma in Defense and Security Studies are still being reviewed by various units at the University to ascertain their relevance.

The affiliation of the Senior Command and Staff College, Kimaka to the School of Social Sciences at Makerere University was approved by the University Council in 2011.

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