

United States Student Achievers Program

2011/2012 Application Form



There are many talented, economically-disadvantaged students in Uganda who lack only financial resources and access to information to better their educational futures. The United States Mission seeks to identify highly academically qualified and motivated, low-income, Senior Six "A" level students in Uganda to join the United States Student Achievers Program (USAP). USAP works with students through regularly scheduled meetings and seminars to assist them throughout the application process to secure admission and scholarships for colleges and universities in the United States. USAP finances the costs of the application process, including registration fees for required standardized examinations and provides free membership to the US Educational Advising Center for its participants.

Although we do not limit the program geographically, students **MUST** have the ability to reach our offices in Kampala on a regular basis during the school year, throughout the school holidays, and after "A" level exams, for full participation at their own cost. The selected students will work with our educational advising staff and USAP coordinator to secure places and financial assistance to begin study in the USA in August of 2012. Please note: **ENTRANCE INTO THIS PROGRAM DOES NOT GUARANTEE A SCHOLARSHIP OR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES.**

To apply to be a USAP student, one must meet the following requirements:

1. Be a highly determined, hard working, and independent individual.
2. You must be a senior six student and **below 20 years of age**.
3. Take your "A" level examinations in 2011.
4. Have a strong and highly competitive academic record.
5. Be a strong writer and have command of the English Language.
6. Participate in co-curricular activities such as clubs and sports.
7. Volunteer and give service to others.
8. Your family must demonstrate financial need.

Please complete this application form and return it together with the required documents listed above. **We must have the form returned to our office by Wednesday, June 1, 2011.**

Mailing Address:

USAP Coordinator/ Alexis Robertson
U.S. Embassy Public Affairs Section
P.O. Box 7007
Kampala Uganda

Physical Address:

U.S. Embassy
USAP Coordinator/ Alexis Robertson
Plot 1577 Ggaba Road
Nsambya, Kampala
Tel: 256-414-306-098

*****Please note: To be considered, the application must be completed fully. Please provide as much information about yourself, ambitions, goals, family background, and activities you are involved in.***

*****If you are a finalist, you will be notified for an interview by July 8, 2011.***

Please read this document carefully, failure to attach required material will cause your application to be dismissed and you will not be considered as a candidate for the USAP program.

Attach the following documents to your application:

1. An official copy of your “O” level certificates **and** your “O” level results. They **MUST** be stamped by your current school.
2. Three letters of recommendation from teachers, coaches, etc... that will describe your character, academic qualifications, skills, and special talents. Please make sure that the letter is sealed in an envelope with the recommender’s signature over the closed seal on the back of the envelope.
3. An official copy of your transcripts stamped (it must include the following):
 - a) End of year report for Senior Five
 - b) “O” level reports from Senior Three
4. Write two essays on the topics given below. Choose one topic from each group. Each essay must be between 500 to 1,000 words. A few guidelines to follow in your writing.
 - a) Be genuine in your writing.
 - b) Demonstrate your writing skills by having organized and coherent thoughts.
 - c) Your essay should have a logical structure and be concise (not wordy).
 - d) Make sure to spell check and edit it for grammar.
 - e) Each essay should be typed and single spaced.

Group A topics: personal essays describing your ideas, goals, dreams, and life experience.

1. Describe the most difficult time in your life. How did you overcome the hardships?
2. Have you ever failed at something? How did you struggle to deal with those feelings?
3. What is your philosophy on learning? Describe your learning style and what education means to you.

Group B topics: show research skills, persuasive/argumentative writing skills, and ability to get your point across in a profound way. Each essay should have an introduction, researched points, and conclusion. Make sure to properly cite your references used.

1. Write a speech on a controversial topic. Choose one side and give three specific examples to defend your views in the speech.
2. Write an article on the argumentative topic: “Education is an invisible thread that determines the prosperity of a nation. Therefore, the more educated a nation is, the more economic success it will have.” Research and give three specific reasons as to whether this statement is true or false in your opinion.

USAP Application Form 2011/2012



Name: _____

Home address where you reside when not at school:

Telephone #:	Email:
Date of Birth:	Gender:
Mother's current occupation and workplace:	Father's current occupation and workplace:
If parents are deceased, state name, relationship, and occupation of your legal guardian:	Number of sibling you have and their ages:
Total number of dependent people living in your family home (cousins, aunts, uncles, etc...):	Amount of your "A" level school fees (inclusive of boarding fees, if applicable) paid per term:
Who currently pays for your school fees? Are you on bursary?	If you live outside of Kampala, list the name and address of someone that you can stay with in Kampala when visiting the embassy for USAP programs:

Name: _____

Academic Information

"A" level school name and mailing address (P.O. Box #):	"A" level school telephone number:
Headmaster/Headmistress' Name:	Headmaster/Headmistress' telephone number:

"A" level subjects you are taking. Please **circle** your strongest subject:

List below all schools you have attended and which grades/forms you did at each school:

School	Location	Grades/ Forms Completed
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List all extra-curricular clubs, sports, and activities that you have participated in. List all volunteer/ service you have given to others. List any leadership opportunities you have had.

In the space below, please describe which one of these activities has the most meaning for you and why.

Name: _____

Short Answer Questions: (use full sentences when applicable)

1. What would you like to “major in” at the university level? What is your career aspiration?
2. List all awards, honors, prizes, and distinctions you have won during your secondary school career.
3. What makes you unique?
4. Upon returning back to Uganda after your studies, how do you plan on using your newly acquired knowledge?
5. Tell us about your family and financial condition. Give specific details and examples that will help us know your financial background/ situation. (You may continue on the back if needed)