[**Educational Communities Worldwide**](https://educom.world/)

**Executive Summary**

Educational Communities Worldwide (EduCom in short) is a nonprofit organization on a mission to unlock potential for under-resourced students to become impactful global leaders, through access to holistic educational opportunities, resources, and community development.

Our scholarship program provides full-ride college scholarships to high school graduates in Ghana, teaching them the skills necessary for employment and entrepreneurship.The program selects 32 brilliant but needy first-year brilliant but needy students and funds their entire college education, hostel accommodation and grants each student a laptop. We also mentor and provide internships to our scholarship recipients during their college studies.

Only 17% of high school graduates enroll in a university in Ghana because of the prohibitive cost of college education. Most of the students who enroll do manual labor to pay their way through college. The most disadvantaged are children from rural Ghana and girls. Many families do not prioritize their daughters’ education.

By receiving a scholarship, students can focus solely on their studies and prepare to join the global workforce, breaking the cycle of poverty. By selecting 2 students from each of the 16 regions of Ghana each year, and giving equal opportunities to girls, we hope to make a consistent dent in the rural-urban divide and gender gap in college enrolment and graduation.

We take a holistic approach to education and life beyond it. Our scholarship program includes internships and mentoring to ensure our scholarship recipients are ready to be productive adults in their communities by the time they graduate.

The expected cost of the program is between $15,146.85 - $107,268.02 annually depending on the number of students funded (you can find the details in the budget section of this proposal). The average cost of a 4/6-year college degree in Ghana is $3,000, including accommodation fees and the cost of one laptop. We seek to give scholarships to 32 students each year.

**Statement of need**

Our scholarship program addresses Ghana’s extremely low university enrolment rate. Though 78% of Ghana’s children attend high school, only 17% of high school graduates enter universities because of the high cost of tertiary education.

43% of Ghana's population lives in underdeveloped rural areas, making their living from farming, livestock, and petty trade. Falling agricultural output, unemployment, and reliance on unstable daily wages multiply these families’ struggle to meet daily basic needs. About 37% of the rural population lives in extreme poverty. The situation is the same for urban poor.

In such circumstances, high school students join their parents in the unorganized sector, working as laborers, petty traders or bus conductors to support their families, and many choose not to continue their education, a decision supported by their families. Girls are usually the first to drop out.

Gifted students who join university continue to do manual work to support their families and pay for their college and accommodation costs, which affects their attendance and performance in school.

**Program description**

The scholarship is open to first-year students in public universities who have applied for financial aid. Selection is based on students’ high school scores (WASSCE) and the essay they submit.

To ensure fair distribution of scholarships, we will pick 2 students from each of the 16 regions of Ghana, with an equal selection of boys and girls.

The scholarship will pay for their entire college tuition (four to six years), hostel fees, and also provide each student with a laptop.

Each student will receive an internship and mentorship opportunity with our partner,  [The Force for Health Network](https://theforceforhealth.com/). The Force for Health® Network runs a virtual health academy and equips members with apps that gamify fitness decisions. It also provides collaborative health solutions for well-being projects undertaken by schools and community organizations.

**Eligibility criteria and requirements**

Students applying for the scholarship should satisfy the following criteria:

* They should be a first-year student in a public university
* The student should have applied for financial aid in their university.
* Household family income should be less than $150 per month.
* A student should get a maximum number of A’s in their standardized West Africa Senior Secondary Certificate Examination (WASSCE) in English, Math, Science, and Social Studies.
* The student should submit a 500-word essay detailing why they should be selected for the scholarship program. They will be expected to display a remarkable command of the English language, as they express what the scholarship would mean to them and how they want to contribute to their community with their education.
* Students can also share any volunteering activities they have been involved in and how that has shaped their experience and outlook on life.

**Goals and objectives**

The goal of the scholarship program is to help gifted but disadvantaged students graduate college, breaking out of a life of poverty and unemployment or reliance on unskilled labor for daily living.

The primary objectives include:

* To provide an equal opportunity each year to 32 exceptional boys and girls from rural Ghana to graduate.
* To have the students educate their communities about health and fitness.
* To provide internship opportunities that help students gain technical experience.
* To ease students' academic journey through mentorship, and train them to become mentors to future students.

**Evaluation**

The student is expected to maintain good grades throughout their education. At the end of the academic term, our scholars will complete an end of term survey. These surveys will help us understand each scholar’s persistence through academic terms and to graduation. Also, it will offer us greater insights into their academic, personal, and professional achievements (as well as any issues they are facing). We will ask questions such as:

* What is your updated GPA?
* Do you intend to continue at your current college/university next academic term?
* Are you on track to graduate?
* Share a highlight of your past term.
* What are you most looking forward to next term?

At the end of award periods, we will ask each scholar to complete a post-award survey. This will typically take place twice annually, once after ‌the fall academic term and once after ‌the spring term, and include questions such as:

* Did this scholarship help you meet your educational goals? If so, how?
* Are there any ways we could improve our service to scholars like you?
* How was your experience working with EduCom staff and the organization‌?
* Do you feel EduCom contributed to your success? What would you give EduCom credit for?

Scholars are also expected to take part in community health education, and mentor incoming first year scholarship students.

**Budget**

Our budget covers 4 options depending on the number of students your organization funds. Please review the summary budget below. Our Chief Finance Officer will be on standby if you need help to review the budget or if you have additional questions.

**Option 1 - Cost per year**

Number of students                                Four (4)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $12,247.93

Administrative cost         $2,898.92

Total estimated annual cost                    $15,146.85

**Option 2 - Cost per year**

Number of students                                Eight (8)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $24,165.70

Administrative cost         $5,797.84

Total estimated annual cost         $29,963.54

**Option 3 - Cost per year**

Number of students                               Sixteen (16)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $48,001.25

Administrative cost         $11,596.92

Total estimated annual cost         $59,596.92

**Option 4 - Cost per year**

Number of students                               Thirty two (32)

Duration of course         Six (6) years

School fees         $95,672.35

Administrative cost         $11,596.92

Total estimated annual cost         $107,268.02

***Details of these estimated amounts are available upon request.***