



25th Feb 2026

PRESS RELEASE

STATEMENT BY NUGS UK ON IELTS REQUIREMENTS AND THE PLIGHT OF GHANAIAN SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The National Union of Ghana Students –United Kingdom (NUGS UK) wishes to address two urgent matters affecting Ghanaian students currently studying and seeking to study in the United Kingdom.

1. IELTS REQUIREMENTS FOR GHANAIAN STUDENTS

NUGS UK reiterates its earlier position supporting ongoing diplomatic engagements toward securing exemptions or recognised alternatives to the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) requirement for Ghanaian students educated entirely in English.

Ghana remains an English-speaking country, with English serving as the official language and medium of instruction from basic through tertiary education. The continued requirement for additional English proficiency testing imposes financial and administrative burdens on Ghanaian students and professionals.

We therefore renew our call for sustained bilateral dialogue between:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
- The Ministry of Education
- The Ghana High Commission in the United Kingdom
- Relevant UK education and migration authorities to achieve a fair and practical resolution.

2. GHANAIAN SCHOLARSHIP STUDENTS FACING FINANCIAL DISTRESS

NUGS UK has received multiple reports from Ghanaian students in UK universities including affected students at Loughborough University who are beneficiaries of Ghana Government scholarships administered through the Ghana Scholarships Secretariat and GETFund.

We are deeply concerned that delays in the disbursement of scholarship funds have resulted in:

- Outstanding tuition fee balances owed to universities
- Restrictions on academic progression
- Delays or refusals in approving Post-Study Work pathways
- Heightened risk of visa expiration
- Severe emotional and psychological distress

It is unacceptable that Ghanaian students, officially sponsored by the Government of Ghana, are placed in precarious immigration and academic positions due to administrative delays beyond their control.

These students have upheld their academic responsibilities. The same commitment must be demonstrated by the responsible institutions.

EDUCATION, A RIGHT NOT A PRIVILEGE



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NUGS UK respectfully but firmly calls on:

- The Ghana Scholarships Secretariat
- GETFund
- The Ministry of Education
- The Ministry of Finance

to urgently:

1. Settle all outstanding tuition obligations owed to UK institutions.
2. Establish a clear payment timeline communicated directly to affected universities.
3. Provide formal assurance letters to institutions where payments are pending.
4. Engage NUGS UK in structured dialogue to prevent recurrence of such situations.

We further call on the Ghana High Commission in the United Kingdom to intervene diplomatically with affected institutions to safeguard the academic and immigration status of Ghanaian students.

PROTECTING GHANA'S INTERNATIONAL REPUTATION

The reputation of Ghana as a credible sponsor of international scholars must be protected. Failure to honour scholarship obligations risks:

- Reputational damage to Ghana
- Reduced trust from international institutions
- Future barriers for Ghanaian students
- Diplomatic embarrassment

Education remains a strategic national investment. Our scholars abroad represent Ghana's future leadership and global influence.

NUGS UK stands in solidarity with all affected students. We are actively engaging stakeholders and will continue to advocate until concrete resolutions are achieved.

We urge swift, coordinated action to ensure that no Ghanaian student in the United Kingdom is left academically stranded, financially distressed, or immigration-vulnerable due to systemic delays.

To all media houses...

Obiri Yeboah Samuel

President

Gifty Abbam Tawiah

General Secretary

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