



Ministry of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology

PRESS STATEMENT

GRADE 12 SCHOOL LEAVERS CAN APPLY ONLINE ON 1ST AUGUST 2018



The Ministry for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology wishes to inform all Grade 12 students, parents, secondary schools, and the general public, of the rollout of the National Online Application System (NOAS) for Grade 12 School Leavers for 2018.

In 2017 my Ministry, through the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology (DHERST), made great strides in improving transparency, accountability, and efficiency. Most importantly, there is now an increased probability of capable and eligible school leavers being admitted to higher education institutions, and we have also ensured that the institutions' autonomy in the selection process is maintained through the Online Selection System (OSS). The introduction of the OSS has resulted in all Grade 12 school leaver applicants with a GPA of at least 2.3 receiving an offer from a higher and technical education institution. This represents a tremendous achievement for Papua New Guinea since in previous years under the manual paper-based selection process many eligible students had not been selected, even some with GPAs of 4.0.

In 2018, the Ministry now seeks to optimise further the process of matching the best applicants with higher and technical study programs by replacing the paper-based School Leaver Application Forms with what will now become the NOAS.

I am therefore delighted to announce that the National Online Application System will be officially opened on the 1st August 2018 at <http://apply.dherst.gov.pg> for Grade 12 Students to apply for further studies to any registered higher education institution for the 2019 academic year.

This means that Grade 12 students enrolled at any registered Secondary School which has submitted its School Information Booklet (white copy) to the Measurement Services Division of the National Department of Education will be able to obtain from their school a unique invitation letter allowing them to apply online. Online application provides the following benefits:

- ✓ **More choices** – Grade 12 school leavers can choose up to five (5) preferred programs. Previously students had two (2) choices of programs.
- ✓ **More information** - Each program now has clear and distinct requirements, preferences and residential options.
- ✓ **More time to make a decision** - The online application system is open for three months. It gives students, parents and schools more time to choose the right program and institution.
- ✓ **Programs and exams match** - Your application will be matched to your chosen program's examination combinations.
- ✓ **Increased chances** for admission through subject combination matching.

I wish to announce also that during the Secondary School Principals' Conference held in Port Moresby between the 18th - 22nd July 2018, 148 principals activated their online accounts and registered 348 patrons. These principals and patrons will now be able to support and monitor their students' online applications in real-time through their respective online accounts.

I have long been an advocate of using technology to support learning, having seen first-hand the impact that digital tools can have on student's accomplishments and motivation. I believe that digital tools, in the hands of engaging and inspiring teachers, can break down barriers to learning and improve the quality of education in PNG. We now need to set our students goals that will assist them in evaluating the benefits, opportunities and responsibilities that technology brings. Indeed, part of our essential task is to help students to use technology to find the right program of studies and the higher education institution in which they wish to enrol.

We plan also to integrate technology into curriculum and instruction across all higher education institutions so that students become not only skilful users of this medium, but also ethically oriented citizens, informed voters and involved citizens.

Offering services of high quality to our people can only be effectively and efficiently provided by embracing the digital age and for us this means having a clear view of the future of higher education in our country. My message therefore to all students, parents and secondary schools is that we must work together to provide a digital bridge between the realms of secondary and higher education to provide better educational outcomes for present and future Papua New Guinean students.

May the Lord Bless Papua New Guinea!



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