



Republic of Rwanda
Ministry of Education

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE LAPTOP LOAN SCHEME

To increase the adoption of blended learning and the use of eLearning platforms across public and private higher learning institutions, the Government of Rwanda with its partners has put in place an optional laptop acquisition scheme starting with government sponsored students in need of devices.

Below are the answers to the most frequently asked questions (as of January 2024):



Is this scheme a grant or a loan?



This scheme is AN OPTIONAL LOAN facility, additional to your existing study loan.

The interest rate for this loan is 11 % as simple interest.

Who is eligible?

All ongoing Government sponsored students WITH THE EXCEPTION of the following:

- For RP- Final year students who completed their academic year 2022/2023 in November 2023.
- For UR- Final year students who will complete their academic year 2022/2023 in June 2024.

Why are final year students at the remaining campuses excluded when fellow finalists at Nyarugenge, Remera, Gikondo ,Busogo and Kicukiro (IPRC) campuses were given laptops?

The government's commitment to ensuring adoption of blended learning and eLearning typically started in September 2023, making computer a must-have for every student joining public university. The new (additional and optional) loan facility was therefore introduced to all government-sponsored students.



While it is appreciated that all the students (including the finalists) would need a computer, the huge demand and the resources available make it imperative to focus on fresh and middle-year students, who still have a considerable academic backlog ahead.

Moreover, during the previous distribution (at the mentioned campuses), some recipients sold out the laptops and others never presented them for verification. A significant portion of them (~70%) being the final year students. The focus on fresh students is therefore part of the mechanisms to ensure that the computers given under the student loan facility are strictly used for academic purposes.



Are all students going to get the same laptops?

No. The laptops are assigned based on their specific study programs and their required capacity. There are 4 types:

- Lenovo Notebook. Intel Core i3, 8GB RAM, 512 GB SSD (cost 523,000 Rwf)
- Lenovo Notebook. Intel Core i5, 8GB RAM, 512GB SSD (cost 790,000 Rwf)
- Lenovo Notebook. Intel Core i7, 8GB RAM, 512GB SSD (cost 1,050,000 Rwf)
- Lenovo Notebook. Intel Core i7, 16GB RAM, 512GB SSD (cost 1,150,000 Rwf)

Do the laptops have a Warranty?

Yes, there is a two (2) year warranty. Warranty covers default manufacturing malfunction that may occur under normal use of laptops during the warranty period.

Warranty does not cover theft, or any malfunction caused by the user/student either knowingly or unknowingly, like breakages, tampering with the machine...etc.



How can the students apply for the laptop loan?

Students apply through BRD's MINUZA system. Students will receive a notification to log into MINUZA and follow the prompts.

Why has it taken so long to complete laptops distribution?

Halfway through the distribution process, it was learnt some recipients were selling the laptops, while many others were at the brink of doing the same. It was necessary to halt distribution temporarily to conduct verification aimed at establishing accountability.

As a result, revised distribution instructions were issued and an addendum to the contract between students and BRD is to be signed in MINUZA which complements the existing contract with details about sanctions that abusers of the scheme will face.



I signed the contract under the assumption that the laptop would arrive soon. Since there have been delays, I no longer need the laptop.
How can I cancel my contract?

Any student who applied for a laptop and later for whatever reason ends up not taking it, is entirely free from the loan. It means there is no requirement or procedure to cancel the application either online or physically. By simply not picking up the laptop during distribution, you are not bound to any obligation and no loan will be added to your account.

When distribution in all campuses is over, MINUZA will be updated to reflect the changes. If there is any problem, feel free to reach out to the BRD Education team.

I am a final year student, I signed the contract but as per the recent announcement I am no longer eligible for a laptop. Will I be asked to repay?

Final year students that signed the contract but are no longer eligible, will not be asked to repay. The contracts they signed have been cancelled and very soon MINUZA will reflect the change.



Considering the laptops' cost, can we receive the equivalent amount as a loan and then purchase the laptops ourselves at cheaper prices?

The only way a student can acquire the laptop they are eligible for is through a supplier contracted by Government. Issuing cash is not an option.

For eligible students who did not request for the laptop loan within the announced period, do they still have a chance to apply?

After the distribution period, special cases including those who could not apply in time will be handled. More information on this will be shared at a later time.



What happens if my laptop is stolen ?

It is important to note that the security of the laptop is primarily the student's responsibility. During the physical verification, many students reported cases of theft which upon further investigation turned out to be deceitful lies. But for the few genuine cases of theft that already occurred and are likely going to occur, the sponsorship will be put on hold until the recipient provides the following:

- An official theft declaration from Rwanda Investigation Bureau (RIB).
- A written recommendation from the university's campus administration confirming that the act was reported to the University/campus security officers.
- A commitment letter from the recipient acknowledging the consequences in case it is discovered that the laptop was not stolen.
- Upon the reception of the above, the Higher Education Council (HEC) will assess case by case and inform the student of the outcome.

What happens if I sell the laptop under this scheme?

Laptops provided under this loan scheme are not for sale. If taken, it must be utilized during study. You will be required to present it physically for verification from time to time and as part of your final clearance prior to graduation.



For those who sold them, their sponsorship is immediately halted until they pay in full with interest the cost of the laptop they were given to **the Bank Of Kigali account 100012133884 under BRD-Education fund/Recovery.**

The bank slip should be presented to the University Registrar who will in turn support and request HEC to reinstate the sponsorship after consultation with BRD to ensure that funds have reached BRD's bank account.

These students will no longer be eligible to any other laptop loan.

Upon the reception of the above, the Higher Education Council (HEC) will assess case by case and inform the student of the outcome.

When do I fully own the laptop?

Once you graduate, you become the full owner of the laptop. You will be required to pay back as soon as you get employment.

Failure to do so results in penalties as per the Ministerial Order No 001/MINEDUC/2023 of 04/01/2023 determining benefits for learners.





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