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Ghana Scholarships Secretariat Sponsored Students
United Kingdom PhD Cohorts

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For immediate release

**GHANAIAN STUDENTS IN THE UK PROTEST OVER PROLONGED DELAYS IN TUITION FEES AND STIPEND
DISBURSEMENT BY THE GHANA SCHOLARSHIP AUTHORITY**

The executive body of the PhD cohort in the United Kingdom (UK) invites all students to a mammoth demonstration on **Friday, 17th April 2026**, at the Ghana High Commission, London. This has become necessary due to what appears to be a deliberate neglect of students sponsored by the Ghana Scholarship Authority (GSA), formerly known as the Ghana Scholarship Secretariat (GSS). For the past several months, students have not received their statutory stipends, with most students now owed between **15 and 40 months** of living allowances. Tuition fees have also remained unpaid, with several students facing deportation notices after their universities withdrew them from their courses.

Currently, several students have been blocked from accessing their university learning portals due to non-payment of the tuition fees. There are hundreds of students who have been reported to debt management agencies to recover the tuition fees they owe to universities. The situation has become severe such that some sponsored students in the UK are now living in a deplorable state and feeding from food banks. Past diplomatic efforts to engage officials at the Scholarship Authority and the Ghana High Commission to resolve these concerns have faltered. To make matters worse, the management of the Scholarship Authority continues to issue non-bilateral scholarships to new students to study in Canada, USA, Germany and China, while those already at various stages of their studies in the UK are neglected.

At present, all continuing students who require renewal letters to re-enrol and continue their studies have been left to their own fate, as the letters have remained unissued for more than **15 months**. The renewal letters are a prerequisite for the successful registration of students to begin a new academic year. However, **8 months** into the 2025/2026 academic year, no renewal letters have been issued, thereby making it impossible for continuing students to register and engage in their studies.

Earlier this year, the executive body of the PhD cohort was invited by the Ghana High Commissioner after the students decided to embark on a protest. In that meeting, several assurances were made. This includes the decision to ensure speedy resolution to the issues, particularly the renewal letters, which do not require immediate financial commitments.

The High Commissioner and her team also prevailed upon us to suspend our planned demonstration so she could address the issues by the **middle of February**. Unfortunately, all five concerns presented to the High

Commissioner remained unresolved. We have observed that the **256 million** Ghana cedi allocated to the Ghana Scholarships, which is meant to be released in the first quarter, remained undistributed. Instead, our intelligence indicates that the finance minister has proposed disbursing a paltry **37 million cedis**. We are extremely concerned about this development, given the scale of the challenges students in the UK face. Moreover, this amount cannot even meet the budgetary needs of PhD students, let alone pay other cohorts. The Ghana Scholarship Authority currently owes a total of **56 million Ghana cedis** to the PhD cohort alone. This amount includes both outstanding tuition fees and several months of unpaid stipends. Against this background, it has become necessary for our members to embark on this demonstration to further draw public attention to the plight of students in the UK.

We are, therefore, calling on all students sponsored by the Ghana Scholarship Authority to turn out in their numbers to register their frustration against what appears to be a deliberate discrimination against students on sponsorship in the UK. We shall all convene in front of **Belgrave Square at 8:30 BST**. Our protest will include flying the Ghana flag and carrying placards with various inscriptions to highlight the challenges facing sponsored students. We also aim to picket in front of the British Parliament. Our aim will be to approach members of the British parliament and convey our grievances to them. Thereafter, we shall picket in front of the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), where the leadership will grant interviews to the press.

We note that these actions could cause the government embarrassment, but they have become necessary, given that students on GSA scholarships in the UK are now destitute, with no help in sight. We also urge the government and its operatives to view this action of students as part of citizens' democratic rights to express their frustration, particularly when all available options to address the issues diplomatically have already been explored. Our protest is also in line with Articles 10 and 11 of the European Convention on Human Rights and the UK Human Rights Act 1998.

By this letter, we wish to convey that we shall take every practical step to protect our members who will attend the demonstration, and that, should there be any evidence of subsequent discrimination against them, we shall petition the Commonwealth Office to ensure their rights are protected and respected. We further clarify that should there be no urgent resolution to the issues, we shall hold another demonstration on **Sunday, 31st May 2026**, by which time the president of Ghana himself will be in the UK. We wish to reiterate that, since all past promises have failed, this protest can only be called off if the government urgently releases funds to the Scholarship Authority and evidence of payment begins before **April 17, 2026**.

Signed

Executive body, UK PhD cohort.

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All media houses in Ghana and the UK

The Prime Minister of Britain

The Mayor of London.

The Rt Hon Speaker of the British Parliament.