



PRESS STATEMENT

by the

Hon. KINOKA FEO, MP

MINISTER FOR HIGHER EDUCATION, RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

2025 NATIONAL ONLINE SELECTIONS

As the Minister responsible for Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology, it is my privilege to announce to the country on the occasion of the 2025 National Online Selections for Grade 12 Students, a landmark event in our ongoing commitment to strengthening Papua New Guinea’s higher education system and ensuring that entry into tertiary education is based on fairness, transparency and merit.

As we celebrate 50 years as a nation, we look back on the journey of our education system since independence and honour the vision, leadership and commitment of those who laid its foundations and guided its growth.

Consistent with Marape-Rosso Government’s higher education policy objectives for **Access, Quality** and **Relevance**, the education landscape continues to evolve in response to technological advancement. I acknowledge the leadership of the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology in implementing digital systems that support transparent, accountable and merit-based selection outcomes.

The table below presents a summary of the 2025 National Online Selections outcomes for the 2026 academic year.

	Total number of Applicants	Quota/Spaces Available	Total Number of Students Selected
Grade 12 School Leavers	32,478	16,001	11,626
Non-School Leavers	2,611	8,401	2,026
TOTAL	35,089	24,402	13,652

For applicants whose information is included in the National Online Application System (NOAS) National Admissions Pool, you are reminded to regularly check your NOAS Account notifications, as higher education institutions may issue offers on an ongoing basis.

Improving access to higher and technical education and broadening opportunities for our citizens continues to be one of my key priorities. I am pleased to observe a notable increase in the student quota this year compared to 2024 and I acknowledge the Department of Higher Education, Research, Science and Technology and stakeholders for their sustained commitment to institutional registration, programme accreditation and infrastructure development in support of quality higher and technical education.

I acknowledge with gratitude the Government of Australia, through DFAT and the Australia Awards, for their partnership in using the National Online Selections System to select students for their in-country scholarship programme for 2026.

This collaboration will open up greater opportunities for the people of Papua New Guinea and I am privileged to contribute to its realization. As the responsible Minister, I am dedicated to enhancing access to quality education by creating additional opportunities and establishing strategic partnerships with key stakeholders.

Starting in 2026, the Government of Papua New Guinea, through my Ministry, will launch a scholarship initiative to assist students from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu in pursuing higher and technical education at recognized higher education institutions in Papua New Guinea. This program will offer a total of 70 scholarships each year for four years, with 50 scholarships designated for the Solomon Islands and 20 for Vanuatu.

This initiative underscores the government’s dedication to enhancing regional collaboration and unity among Pacific Island nations. It also represents a strategic investment in fostering interpersonal connections, capacity building and educational partnerships within the Pacific region. By inviting students from neighboring countries, Papua New Guinea reaffirms its leadership in regional development and commitment to promoting shared growth through education.

I applaud the commitment and drive of everyone involved in this process. Regardless of whether you are selected this year, I urge you to stay committed to your aspirations, keep learning and take advantage of every opportunity to enhance your abilities and knowledge. You represent the future of Papua New Guinea and your education is a crucial investment in our nation’s advancement.

I would like to express my gratitude to the parents, teachers, communities and mentors who supported the students throughout their educational paths. Additionally, I sincerely thank the DHERST officers and selection committees for their professionalism and commitment to ensuring that this national process is carried out smoothly and with integrity.

I wish all students the best in your academic journey and eagerly anticipate witnessing your development into skilled professionals and conscientious citizens of Papua New Guinea.

Thank you and God bless Papua New Guinea.

Authorised for release by,

Hon. Kinoka Feo, MP
Minister for Higher Education, Research,
Science and Technology