



Kigutu International Academy

SCHOOL PROFILE 2025–2026

kigutuiinternationalacademy.org

CEEB code: 944232

Pathways University & Employment Bridging

Genevieve Pool

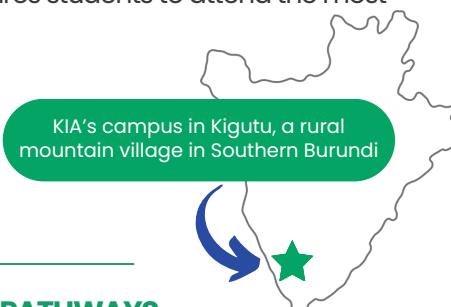
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MISSION & OVERVIEW

Kigutu International Academy (KIA) is a school of Village Health Works (VHW), a 501(c)3 NGO. KIA educates Burundi's most promising scholars—with just a 10% acceptance rate—to become **critical thinkers and ethical leaders**. Our need-blind, full-scholarship model identifies students who excel academically despite resource constraints, then immerses them in a dual-curriculum system (Burundian Sciences + International Humanities) that prepares students to attend the most rigorous universities around the world, producing:

- **Holistic Problem-Solvers:** Leadership training + STEM rigor
- **Community Architects:** Student-led service & entrepreneurial initiatives
- **Global Trailblazers:** Representing Burundi in elite international programs

KIA doesn't just educate students—it builds the leaders Burundi needs.



RECRUITMENT

With hundreds of applications for 32 spots each year, KIA's need-blind admissions evaluate:

1. **Academic distinction** in Burundi's under-resourced public schools
2. **Bilingual proficiency** (French and English)
3. **Leadership potential** and commitment to community service
4. **Critical thinking and resilience** to thrive in our rigorous dual-curriculum program
5. **Values alignment** and demonstrated commitment to Excellence, Service, Compassion, Resilience, and Ethics

Competitive Context: With limited access to quality secondary education, KIA serves as one of the only pathways for high-achieving, low-income Burundian students to prepare for global universities.

ACADEMICS: DUAL-DEGREE PROGRAM

KIA students earn dual bilingual high school diplomas:

- Burundian National Sciences Curriculum (French): The most rigorous track offered in Burundi, covering advanced STEM (27 periods/week)
 - Humanities: Civics, scientific drawing, entrepreneurship, and multilingual studies
- KIA International Curriculum (English): In-house humanities, STEM, and leadership-focused curriculum aligned with global standards

POST-GRADUATE PATHWAYS

In just our first year, KIA alumni have distinguished themselves in higher education, consistently earning top grades, Dean's List honors, and excelling in diverse fields across STEM and humanities at universities worldwide.

Though they face **systemic barriers**—including limited access to standardized testing and **full reliance on financial aid**—KIA students' academic excellence and leadership have propelled them to earn scholarships at top-tier global institutions, including:

- **North America:** Harvard University, Swathmore College, University of Pennsylvania (US)
- **Africa:** Academic City University (Ghana), Strathmore University (Kenya)
- **Europe:** John Cabot University (Italy), Sciences Po Bordeaux (France)
- **Asia:** Kyungdong University (South Korea), NYU Shanghai (China)

FINANCIAL AID

- 100% of KIA students receive some financial aid
- 80%+ of KIA students have an **expected family contribution of zero**
- Village Health Works' Pathways Program provides micro scholarships to meet financial aid gaps and enable our alumni to attend universities around the globe

ACADEMICS: GRADING & RIGOR

KIA students have 54 class periods a week, six days a week. Our students are incredibly hard workers, and low grades are the norm: **at KIA, average grades represent exceptional performance.**

These rigorous standards are especially evident in Burundian system courses, where **scores above 70% represent excellent performance** and grades above 80% are rarely awarded. **Grade fluctuations between years are normal** and reflect increasing academic rigor.

ACADEMICS: QUICK FACTS

- **32 students** in each class, with an even gender ratio
- **71.85%** average GPA
- **89% of students** meet the College Readiness Benchmark
- **125** average DET score
- **Block scheduling:** All courses are "Advanced"
- **Accreditation:** Burundian National Ministry of Education and Scientific Research
- **Ranking:** None – our students are all high academic achievers!

STUDENT LIFE & IMPACT

Beyond academics, KIA students:

- **Lead 90% of extracurricular initiatives**, from health education to microfinance to sports and art
- **Run dozens of community service projects**, including teaching English/STEM across the country
- **Intern with Village Health Works** to address community needs and learn professional skills

In addition to universities, KIA students and alumni have earned recognition from/acceptance to:

- African Leadership Academy
- RISE for the World Finalists
- Swaniker Scholars Program/ALX
- Tujenge Scholars Program
- Young African Leadership Initiative (YALI)
- Yale Young Global/African Scholars (YYGS/YYAS)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE

- Curriculum overview
- Sample transcript



Where there is health, there is hope

VILLAGE HEALTH WORKS

Since 2006, our parent organization VHW has provided compassionate healthcare and critical-thinking-based education in Burundi. We recognize healthcare and education as interdependent: quality healthcare enables learning, while education sustains healthcare development. From our shared campus, VHW's medical and education teams collaborate closely. **KIA students experience ethical development firsthand**, benefiting from our medical center while learning through internships and direct access to global changemakers year-round.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

KIA is supported by the Mastercard Foundation and is a member of the HALI Access Network.



BURUNDI BACKGROUND

A small, densely populated East African nation, Burundi ranks among the world's least developed countries (GDP per capita: \$259). Its education system faces severe underfunding, with limited secondary school access – particularly for girls and rural students. Less than 5% of youth enroll in universities, while qualified teachers and STEM resources remain scarce nationwide. These systemic challenges make KIA's financially accessible program a critical alternative for high-achieving students.

CONTACT US

Please feel welcome to contact us with any application-related questions or information.
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