Welcome to Amala

At Amala, we believe in the power of education to change the world. As co-founders of Amala, we have been on an exciting journey since 2017 to create the first international high school diploma programme that is tailored to young people who are refugees and their host communities who are out of school - the Amala High School Diploma.

We first launched the Amala High School Diploma in Kakuma Camp, Kenya in April 2021 to a pioneering cohort of 50 students. We are delighted to now be launching a fourth cohort in Kakuma this October. In this guide, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the programme, meet some of our current High School Diploma students and graduates in Jordan and Kenya and learn about their experiences and how they have developed since starting the programme.

We hope that the Amala High School Diploma will be an attractive option to you - as a way to not only finish your secondary education through a diploma programme, but to develop skills and competencies that will enable you to solve problems and make a change in your community and in the world.

We look forward to meeting you.

Polly Akhurst and Mia Eskelund
Co-founders and Co Executive Directors Amala
A message from our Kakuma Programme Coordinator

“...I am a living example of how education can change people’s lives in powerful and long-lasting ways. Therefore, I cannot stand seeing so many young people who have left their home countries now stranded in the camp without an opportunity to finish secondary education.

The Amala High School Diploma Programme means a lot to me as an individual who values education and to the hundreds of youth who have been out of school, not out of choice but simply because the system does not recognise them.

I believe Amala Education is the answer to this problem and I am excited to be a part of this answer. The Diploma has opened a new window for refugee/displaced youth to be just like their fellows in regular secondary schools and I look forward to supporting this second cohort of students through this journey.”
Hear what our current High School Diploma students & graduates have to say...

**Pascal (Kakuma)**

"The Amala High School Diploma has come to be a ray of hope for me. I dropped out of school because when I arrived in Kakuma, regardless of my knowledge and learning ability, I was taken back to primary school even though I had already completed this level in my country. Through Amala, I have a second chance at an education system which fits my needs; it is as if the program was designed specifically for me."

**Ibrahim (Jordan)**

"Amala was just a path that allows you to see yourself and what you are capable of. I want to see as many students in the world go through this Amala path. It will unleash their skills and direct them - they could be leaders in the world, I'm sure."

**Sahara (Kakuma)**

“My attitude has changed. Initially, when I started the Amala High School Diploma programme I wasn’t social, and it was not easy for me to connect with another person. Now my attitude has changed. It's easier for me to make friends."
Join Amala

Do you want to...
- Study and gain a high school education
- Become an active and responsible problem-solver and innovator
- Develop skills to make a positive impact in your community and the world
- Develop your future educational and career pathway
- Improve your English for both academic and work purposes
- Make friends with people from different countries and backgrounds...

Are you...
- Aged between 16 and 25 years old
- A refugee, internally displaced, asylum seeker or otherwise displaced or a Kenyan national
- Living in Kakuma 1 or 2*
- Currently out of school and have not had the opportunity to complete your secondary education
- Available to study for a total of 20 hours per week for a fifteen month period
- Intermediate (B1) level of English. (You can find out more about what a B1 level of English means here)

If you answered 'yes' to all of the questions above, then the Amala High School Diploma Programme is for you!

This brochure will help you learn more about the Amala High School Diploma Programme, what you will learn, where it can take you and how to apply.

*We are only able to accept applications from prospective students living in Kakuma 1 and 2 for this cohort. Please see more details in the ‘Transportation’ section of this guide.

Amala is very different from other courses since it focuses on discussion and activities. At Amala you're heard and you listen to others, also at Amala everyone is right.

Rachael
High School Diploma Student
Kakuma 2021
The Amala High School Diploma

The Amala High School Diploma is the first international secondary education programme specifically designed for refugee youth. The Diploma enables those out of school to complete their secondary education through flexible study, typically over a fifteen month period. Through a combination of Amala courses, a personal interest project and a pathways programme, the High School Diploma enables students to make change in their community and pursue further opportunities for higher education, work and entrepreneurship.

English is the language of instruction, so students need to have an intermediate level of English in order to join.

Learning

The Amala High School Diploma aims to give a well-rounded and rigorous education, which enables you to explore a range of areas across and beyond subject disciplines. It is designed to help you develop as an active, responsible and compassionate problem-solver and creative innovator. The curriculum for the Diploma has been developed by Amala and people with experience of displacement, in partnership with our partner UWC South East Asia, one of the most well-regarded international schools in the world.

Programme Structure

### THE AMALA HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

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<tr>
<th>STREAM</th>
<th>LEADERSHIP FOR SOCIAL INNOVATION</th>
<th>TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE PEACE</th>
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<td>MAKING SOCIETAL CHANGE</td>
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<td>COURSE 2</td>
<td>ETHICAL LEADERSHIP</td>
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Amala Courses

Students on the Amala High School Diploma will study for ten courses within five streams. Courses range from *Scientific Informed Action* to *Economics for Positive Change*. Each course is designed to last for ten weeks and involves ten hours per week of study.

Pathways Programme

Becoming an Amala High School Diploma student will help you to develop your future educational and career pathway. One of the ways we prepare you for this is through our pathways programme which will help you to develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to identify, plan for and take action towards pathways for higher education, entrepreneurship and employment beyond your study with Amala.

The programme involves a wide range of support, including goal-setting and support with research on opportunities, CV writing, support with application to university or higher education or with launching your own entrepreneurship project.

Personal Interest Project (PIP)

The PIP is a chance to dig deeper into something that is of great personal interest to you. It could be focusing on a certain issue affecting your community, a passion you have, centred around a career goal or something else entirely!

Over 15 months, you will be expected to spend around 50 hours on the project and will document your work and progress as you go. At the end of the PIP, you will produce a PIP presentation and report. An important thing to mention here is that the process (how you go about doing the PIP) is just as important as the product (the outcomes and outputs of the PIP). Enjoy the ride.
Assessment

In order to complete the High School Diploma, you will need to demonstrate mastery of our foundational credits. These credits are based on competencies you develop during the programme in the areas of sustainable innovation, resourcefulness, leading change, self-navigated learning, understanding self, other people and cultures, technical, scientific and numerical literacy and problem solving and critical thinking.

Throughout the programme, you will get the opportunity to evidence your learning through completing assignments and projects. This will lead to the development of your own digital Mastery Transcript that will highlight a portfolio of your work and give you a resource to use when applying for work and further education opportunities.
How you will study

The timing of the Diploma is designed to be flexible so that you can continue other commitments, such as working or taking other classes, at the same time. The time commitment is approximately 22 hours per week.

In-person learning

Each week, you will come together with your class (of approximately 25 students) and facilitators at the Amala Learning Centre. Your facilitator will guide this part of the learning, which will include exercises and in-class discussions as well as group work.

Many of the courses involve active engagement within the community, either in the form of impact projects or initiatives. The role of the facilitator is to support you in your learning, by guiding the class through activities involved in the programme, supporting you to make sense of your learning, and creating an inclusive learning community. You will study two courses for a total of 12 hours of in person class time (6 hours per course) each week.

Please note that transportation for students to get to the Amala Learning Centre will only be provided on a needs basis and to those who qualify for transportation assistance from eligible areas.

Online/independent learning

Each week, you will study independently online, using Amala’s online platform, Aula, which is the virtual classroom. The Aula platform is designed for online engagement and to support interaction and peer-to-peer learning. You will also submit assignments on Aula and will receive feedback from your facilitator. This study will be done flexibly in your own time for a total of 8 hours (4 hours per course) each week.

During the programme you will have access to a space with connectivity and devices in order to complete the online study.
**A typical week**

The exact class schedule will be determined according to student availability. But here is an example of what it might look like:

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*Note that the online/independent study can take place at a time chosen by you and does not need to be the same each week.*
Further educational opportunities (higher education and vocational) in areas such as Business Studies and Administration, Communication, Management, Information Technology, Computer Science, Social Work. Notably, Amala High School Diploma graduates are eligible for scholarships for the University of the People's online degree programmes.

Professional opportunities - such as support for further development of entrepreneurial projects, internships, volunteering.

Becoming an Amala student will open up pathways for further education, work and entrepreneurship. We are committed to preparing you for these appropriate pathways before, during, and after the Amala High School Diploma Programme.

Recognition and Accreditation

Amala is a member of the Council of International Schools (CIS), a global membership community working collaboratively to shape international education. Membership means that Amala is now pursuing CIS International Accreditation, the quality and rigour of which is recognised by Ministries, departments of education, and universities around the world. Read more about our membership with CIS here.

Education and Career Pathways

At the same time as pursuing accreditation, Amala is working with a growing number of pathways providers, including higher education institutions, workplaces and internship providers to raise awareness of the programme and open up pathways opportunities for students. Your facilitators will actively work with you to locate relevant and realistic opportunities and pathways following the programme. Some pathways that you could pursue after graduating from the programme are:

- Further educational opportunities (higher education and vocational) in areas such as Business Studies and Administration, Communication, Management, Information Technology, Computer Science, Social Work. Notably, Amala High School Diploma graduates are eligible for scholarships for the University of the People's online degree programmes.

- Professional opportunities - such as support for further development of entrepreneurial projects, internships, volunteering

If you are unsure whether or not the Diploma Programme aligns with your own ambitions for further study or opportunities, please email us on hello@amalaeducation.org

One of my dreams has been to start a project to improve education for girls. Since joining the Amala High School Diploma I have got some positive ideas to support my dream and finally I’ve done it!

Fatima
High School Diploma Student
Kakuma 2021

After Amala
Before Amala I didn’t know how to manage a project, how to even start, how to organise ideas, how to put them into action; but with the help of Amala I learned how to manage a project. So it was all thanks to Amala because if I hadn’t been a part of it, I wouldn’t have had that level of help.
Admissions

We are looking for a strong group of students to form our fourth cohort of the Amala High School Diploma Programme in Kakuma. As it is a rigorous programme, we are looking for students who are committed to see through the programme during its fifteen month duration, who are passionate about learning and who want to be part of the Amala community.

Eligibility criteria

To find out whether the Amala High School Diploma is for you, take a look at our eligibility and selection criteria for our scholarships:

- Aged between 16 and 25 years old.
- A refugee, internally displaced, asylum seeker or otherwise displaced or a Kenyan national
- Living in Kakuma 1 or 2 (see next page for more details)
- Currently out of school and have not had the opportunity to complete your secondary education
- Availability to study for a total of 20 hours per week for a fifteen month period
- Intermediate (B1) level of English. (you can find out more about what a B1 level of English means here)

Selection criteria

As we select students to for this fourth cohort, we will be looking for potential in the following areas:

- Awareness of oneself, needs and goals
- Passionate about making positive impact on your community and the world
- Ability to put a plan into action, a ‘can do’ attitude
- Ability to work with and communicate with others
- Motivation to continuously improve and strive for excellence
- Ability to adapt to different situations and people
Transportation

For this cohort, we will only be accepting applications from students living in Kakuma 1 and 2. This is due to both a limitation on funding for transportation and our experience is that students living further away find it challenging to access the resources to complete the programme.

Applicants who qualify to join the programme from the following areas will be eligible for transportation assistance. This can be applied for upon enrollment to the programme on a needs basis:
- Kakuma 1, Zone 1, (Block 1 - 12)
- Kakuma 2, Zone 2 (Block 1 - 12)

Applicants who qualify to join the programme from the following areas will not be eligible for transportation assistance as these areas are within walking distance of the centre*:
- Kakuma 1, Zone 2 (Block 6 -15)
- Kakuma 2, Zone 1 (Block 1 - 11)

*Please note that special exemptions will be made in cases of disability.

The selective provision of transportation is to ensure equitable distribution and support for learning opportunities among the community youth.

We ask you to provide your address as part of the application and will ask you throughout the process to verify this. Students who do not provide a correct address at the time of application will not be eligible for support later in the process.

We are keen to expand the programme to different areas of the camp and Kalobeyei settlement alongside our partners - look out for more opportunities for this in 2024.
How to apply

There are two stages to the application process

- **Application**: You will fill in a short application form on Amala's website. The application form has six sections, where we will ask you about your background, your motivation to study with Amala and your education goals.

  The application form will take you between 30 - 90 minutes to complete, and all the questions are available on our website.

  If you have any problems filling in the online application form, please contact us on hello@amalaeducation.org and we can help you.

  **Apply on** www.amalaeducation.org/study-with-us

- **Interview**: If you are shortlisted, you will be invited to an interview, where two members of the Amala team will ask you some questions to get to know you better, and where you also get the opportunity to ask any questions you might have.

  To apply, go to our website www.amalaeducation.org/study-with-us and fill in the application form

**Key dates**

Applications will be assessed on a rolling basis so you are encouraged to put your application in early.

**18 September 2023**: Application Deadline

**October 2023**: Diploma Programme starts

“This programme has really given me an idea of I who want to be.”

James
High School Diploma Student
Kakuma 2021
About Amala

Amala (formerly Sky School) was established in 2017 in response to the lack of quality education available for refugee youth around the world. Amala’s mission is to use the power of education to transform the lives of refugees, their communities and the world. Over the last two years, over 700 youth have participated in Amala Changemaker Courses in areas such as Peace-building, Ethical Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship.

The Amala High School Diploma Programme has been developed in collaboration with our partner school, UWC South East Asia, and with the support of 150 educators globally. The Amala High School Diploma was first launched in 2020 in Amman, Jordan with the first students graduating in September 2021. In Kakuma, our first cohort who started in April 2021 graduated in September 2022.

Amala is a not-for-profit organisation that is registered as a charity in the United Kingdom.

Before Amala I only had one door of opportunity and one choice and this was how my life would have been. Now, as I graduate I can see that every step in my life has over 15 doors and opportunities!

Majd
High School Diploma Graduate
Jordan 2021
What should I do next?

**Reflect**  - Do you think that the Amala Diploma Programme is for you? Take time to reflect on whether you are ready to join the programme, and why you think it is a good fit for you.

**Read**  - Read through our eligibility and selection criteria carefully to see if you qualify for one of our scholarships.

**Learn more**  - Go to our website [www.amalaeducation.org/diploma-programme](http://www.amalaeducation.org/diploma-programme) to learn more.

**Apply**  - send us your application to become part of our fourth cohort of Amala High School Diploma Students!

Apply here: [www.amalaeducation.org/study-with-us](http://www.amalaeducation.org/study-with-us)
#WeAreAmala #EducationForChange

When you become an Amala student, you join a global student and alumni community. Explore the alumni who have already taken part in Amala courses on www.amalaeducation.org/meet-our-alumni
Amala uses the power of education to transform the lives of refugees, their communities and the world.