

CELESTINI: UGANDA

We envision a world in which everyone can create opportunity through the benefits of connectivity. We celebrate, inspire, and connect individuals building tomorrow's technologies in service of a digitally inclusive world.

marconisociety.org

We envision a future where practitioners of communications technology are as diverse as the communities they need to serve. In order to bring the opportunities of advanced technology to the next billion people, every country needs a pipeline of expert talent.

While some countries have the infrastructure, educational opportunities, and support to develop this critical workforce sector, others are still building their presence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).

Under the direction of the Marconi Society, a global leader in technology and digital inclusion, the Celestini Program aims to create a strong and diverse engineering profession by pairing students with resources to gain hands-on technical experience while pursuing projects that address community needs.

Problem

As the innovations of advanced technology continue to widen the gaps between the wealthiest and poorest nations, countries without robust ICT infrastructure and educational programs face greater challenges the longer they wait.

Celestini: Uganda will train students in network services management, vastly expand access to university resources on- and off-campus via **eduroam**, and support student-led projects that employ Long-Range Wide Area Network (**LoRaWAN**) technology to solve community problems.

Approach

The Celestini Program was founded by the Marconi Society Young Scholars in order to provide critical workforce development and technical training to students in countries around the world. Working with local partners who understand the challenges and opportunities on the ground, the Marconi Society offers technical training, mentorship, and funding support for student-led projects that address a local community need.

Launched in the spring of 2021, **Celestini: Uganda** includes a partnership with the Research and Education Network for Uganda (RENU), ResilientAfrica Network (RANlab), and Network Startup Resource Center (NSRC).

By the end of the program's first year: participating universities will have access to the **eduroam** network and the opportunities it offers for inter-university collaboration, research, and communication; undergraduate students will be trained as network system administrators to manage **eduroam**; and graduate students will have experience with advanced **LoRaWAN** technology and mentorship from global leaders in ICT.

We will measure success by tracking the number of universities who successfully roll out **eduroam**, participant satisfaction, the geographic spread and diversity of participants, and the technical success of student projects, among other metrics.

Audience

Celestini: Uganda will serve undergraduate and graduate students at universities in Uganda, ultimately impacting the communities where they live and learn through the development of a skilled workforce with advanced technical knowledge and relationships with global ICT leaders. The program will work closely with local networking professionals while developing the next generation of advanced technology experts.

Timeline

eduroam Training
June–August 2021



eduroam student placement
September–October 2021



LoRaWAN Program
August 2021–May 2022

Budget

An investment of \$120,000 is necessary to support the administration, project funding, mentorship, and partnership building to ensure the success of **Celestini: Uganda**. Our goal is to continue growing the program in order to extend its impact across all major educational institutions in the country.

Partners

