



ESSAY COMPETITION RULES

DPO Privacy Centre East Africa in collaboration with the **Rule of Law Club of Makerere** and **Uganda Law Society (ULS)** invite university and tertiary institution students to participate in an essay competition exploring the relationship between the rule of law, the right to privacy and the protection of personal data in Uganda. The competition seeks to encourage students to critically examine how laws, policies and institutions can safeguard privacy rights while enabling the responsible and lawful use of personal data.

Submissions will be evaluated by an independent judging committee based on the quality of legal analysis, originality of arguments, use of relevant authorities and engagement with the competition theme. The top five (5) essays will be recognised during the **Makerere University Data Protection Dialogue**, awarded prizes and given an opportunity to be published on the DPO Privacy Centre East Africa website and platforms.

1. SUGGESTED TOPIC AREAS

Participants may write on any topic relating to the theme **"Rule of Law and Data Protection in Uganda"**. Suggested areas include, but are not limited to:

- a. Lawful Bases for Processing Personal Data
- b. Digital Identity Systems and Access to Public Services
- c. Remedies and Access to Justice for Data Subjects
- d. Data Protection in Higher Education Institutions
- e. Surveillance, National Security and Judicial Oversight
- f. Emerging Technologies, Digital Governance and Human Rights
- g. Privacy, Transparency and Access to Information
- h. Artificial Intelligence, Automated Decision-Making and Accountability
- i. Data Protection in Financial Services and Digital Lending
- j. Health Data, Confidentiality and Protection of Sensitive Personal Data
- k. Data Protection Authorities and Regulatory Independence
- l. Cross-Border Data Transfers and Regional Data Governance

Participants are encouraged to develop original arguments that examine legal, institutional, policy or societal challenges at the intersection of privacy and the rule of law in Uganda.

2. FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

Submissions must comply with the following formatting requirements:

Font:	Segoe UI
Font Size:	12 - (Body) 10 - (Footnotes)
Line Spacing:	1.5
Alignment:	Justified
Word Count:	1,000–2,000 words (excluding footnotes and bibliography)

3. COVER PAGE

Each submission must include a cover page containing:

- Essay title
- Author(s) name
- University/tertiary institution affiliation
- Contact details (email address)

The author's name should not appear elsewhere in the essay to facilitate anonymous assessment.

4. REFERENCES

All sources used must be properly cited using footnotes and a bibliography.

Participants must use the **Oxford University Standard for Citation of Legal Authorities (OSCOLA)** referencing style.

Ugandan legislation should be cited using the chapter numbers assigned in the 2023 Revised Edition of the Laws of Uganda.

Participants are expected to rely on credible legal authorities, including legislation, cases, academic literature and other relevant sources.

5. ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to university and tertiary institution students currently enrolled in accredited institutions in Uganda.

Submissions may be made by one, joint or more authors.

6. SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Participants must submit their essays in electronic format as follows:

- a. Essays should be submitted in Microsoft Word (.docx) format.
- b. Submissions must be original work of the participant and must not have been previously published or submitted for another competition.
- c. Any form of plagiarism will result in disqualification.
- d. Participants must ensure that all personal information provided is accurate and complete.
- e. Early submissions are encouraged.

Submissions should be sent to **info@dpoprivacycentre.com** (cc **makerereruleoflaw@gmail.com**) by **18th September, 2026 at 11:59 PM**.

NB: Late submissions will not be considered.

7. ASSESSMENT CRITERIA

Essays will be assessed based on:

- a. Understanding of the relationship between the rule of law and data protection;
- b. Strength and originality of legal analysis and arguments;
- c. Use and interpretation of relevant legal authorities;
- d. Structure, coherence and clarity of writing;
- e. Quality and accuracy of citations and referencing;
- f. Ability to identify practical challenges and propose solutions.

Please note that the decision of the independent judging committee shall be final.

8. RECOGNITION AND PUBLICATION

The top five (5) essays will be recognised and celebrated during the Rule of Law and Data Protection Dialogue Day.

The selected participants will have an opportunity to present their work and engage with stakeholders during the dialogue, providing a platform to showcase their research, legal analysis and perspectives on emerging privacy and data protection issues.

In addition, the top five essays will be published on all platforms of **DPO Privacy Centre East Africa** and the **Rule of Law Club of Makerere** as part of its efforts to promote research, knowledge sharing and public engagement on data protection and privacy issues. Publication will provide participants with an opportunity to share their work with a wider audience, including legal practitioners, policymakers, academics and data protection professionals.

Recognition and publication will serve to highlight outstanding student contributions to the development of data protection scholarship and the promotion of the rule of law in Uganda's digital society.

9. INQUIRIES

In case of any inquiries, kindly reach out to info@dpoprivacycentre.com

