وزارة التعلــــــــــم العالــــــي
والبحـــــث العلمـــــي

**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION
& SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH**

وزارة التعليـــم العالــــي
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**MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION**
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حـــــوار
"مستقبـــل التعليـــــم العـــالي فـــي الإمـــارات"

November 2024  نوفمبر

**Dialogue**
**"Future of Higher Education in the UAE"**
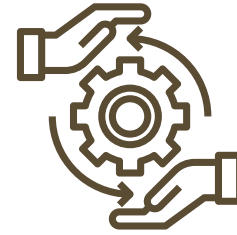
# Student Journey

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# Vision: Revamping student journey to support education outcomes…

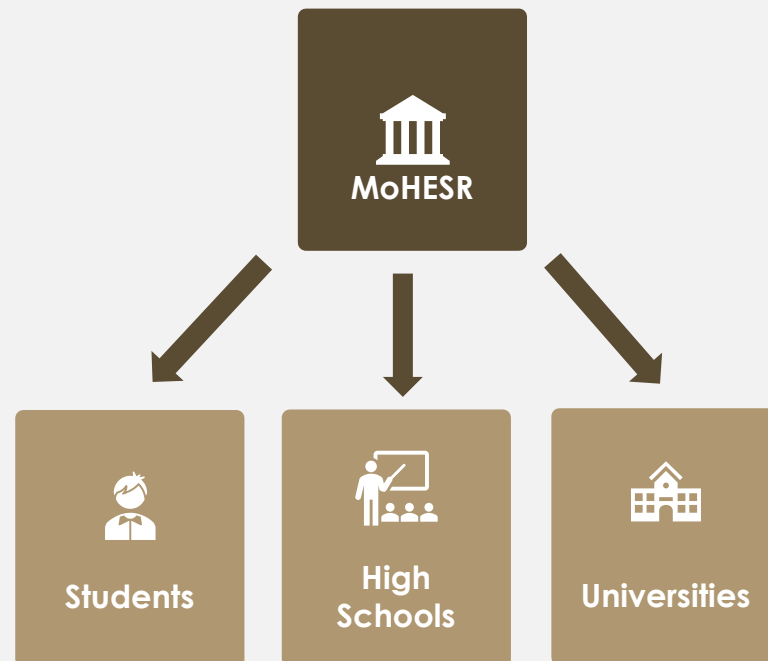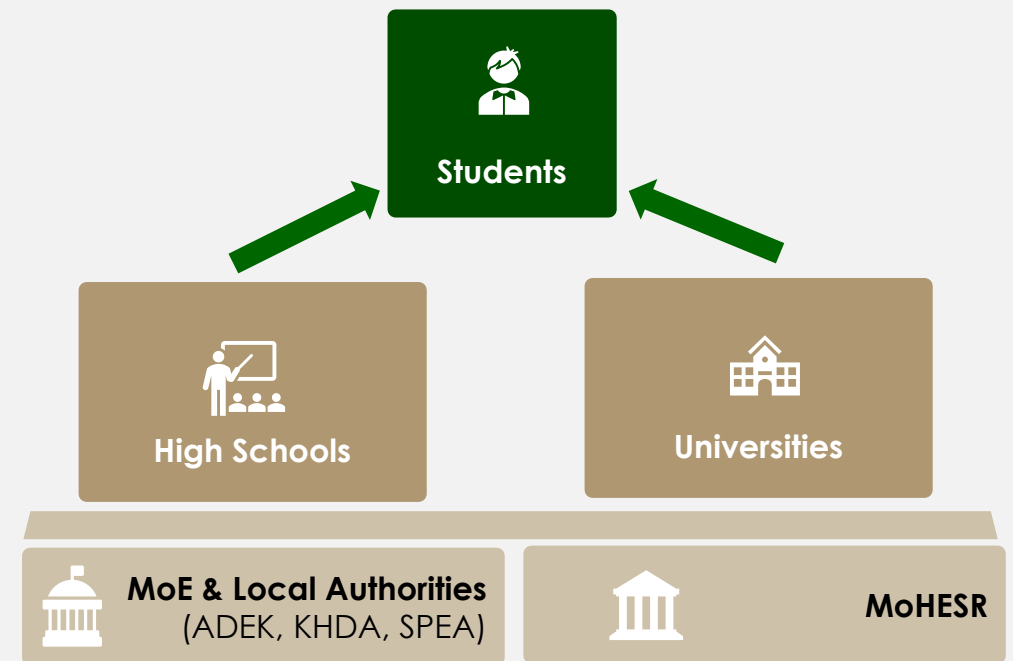| WHAT ? | Revamping the student journey to increase: |
|---|---|
| | **Access to Higher Education**    **Operational Efficiency**    **User Satisfaction** |

## HOW ?

**From…**

Journey centered on **processes** with **MoHESR** being the main interface



**To…**

Journey centered on the **student** supported by **institutional coordination**

# Vision: … and maximize matching of students to higher education opportunities

## Yearly demand for higher education

**Yearly demand of ~ 27k[1]** as follows:

- **Female grade 12 graduates**: **~ 13k**

- **Male G12 graduates from previous year** who enrolled in national service: **~ 12k**

- **P2 & P3 students: ~ 2k**

## Yearly supply of higher education

**Yearly supply of ~ 46k+** as follows:

- **Federal universities**: capacity of **18k+** new intake / year[2]

- **Local & private universities**: **1.1k+** active programs[3] with a yearly intake of **~ 26k+** new students[4]

- **Scholarships abroad: ~ 2k new intake / year** across both federal & local scholarships[5]

**Enough capacity** to **guarantee access to higher education to all.**

Focus of the **new journey** will be to **improve supply-demand matching**

# Model: an integrated end-to-end student journey supported by a strong ecosystem with clear accountability

| | From… | To… |
|---|---|---|
| **Students** | • Start in Grade 12<br>• Fixed submission periods<br>• Constrained to select one choice early | • **Early** start in Grade 11<br>• **Year-long** submissions<br>• **No limitations** on number of applications |
| **High Schools** | • Limited involvement in supporting student registration & application | • **Accountable** for student registration & support and are subject to incentives & penalties accordingly<br>• **Coordination** with National Service for male students |
| **Universities** | • Limited flexibility to design their own process<br>• Limited ownership on publishing key information | • **Flexibility** to set their own process and schedule<br>• **Accountable** for sharing key information (capacity, deadlines, admission requirements) |
| **MOE & Local Authorities** | • Limited involvement in the process | • **Oversee** schools' role in student support<br>• **Enforce** incentives and penalties for schools |
| **MoHESR** | • Bottleneck coordinating with all stakeholders<br>• Setting rigid deadlines and complex process | • **Enabler** by providing an open platform<br>• **Focus on clearing stage** & maximizing access |

# Student Journey:
## A streamlined, consolidated student journey easing access to higher education in the UAE is proposed

**Only applicable to students without an offer**

| Registration | Application & Enrollment | Clearing stage |

**Student Journey**

**1** Students register starting G11

**2** Students receive counselling, explore & learn about universities

**3** All students submit their choices

**4** Students can apply all year long depending on each program's deadline

**5** Universities review at their own pace and can issue offers all year round

**6** Students without offers will be tracked & matched to available university spots & alternative programs

**Guiding Principle**

❖ **Early access**

❖ **Open all year-round system**

❖ **No student left behind**

**Stakeholder accountability**

**Schools overseen by MoE & Local Authorities**

**Schools overseen by MoE & Local Authorities**
**Universities overseen by MoHESR**

**MoHESR in coordination with universities**

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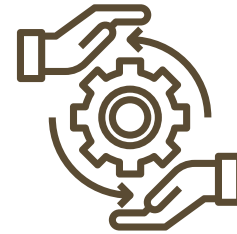
Governance

## Key improvements

- ✓ **Early** registration

- ✓ Students get **familiarized** with programs, scholarships & process

## Stakeholder Accountability

- **Schools** support student registration & provide counselling with **oversight from MoE and local authorities**

**Student**

Start → **1** Join Grade 11 → **2** School provide awareness to students on NAPO and registration process

**Student data available within MoE**

Yes → **3a** Integration of NAPO with MOE system will ensure automatic registration

No → **3b** Data retrieved through APIs with relevant local authorities

**4** Complete profile if any information missing with the supervision of schools

**5** Explore universities, programs, and scholarships & receive guidance from school counselors on the different programs → **6** Join Grade 12 → **2**

**Information regarding programs, are specified by universities (see next slide)**

Triggers '**Application stage**'

# Registration

In parallel with student registrations**, universities update** program **information** including:
**capacity, deadline, admission requirements & admission process**

✓ **Ownership** *on universities to* **update program** *information*

✓ **Flexibility** *for universities to set admission* **process & schedule**

## Stakeholder Accountability

• **Universities** update information on their programs with **oversight from MoHESR**

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Illustrative

*Universities **not on NAPO** can **also still publish their programs** and redirect students to their platform*

**Programs open for application**

**Program**
Mechanical Engineering ▼

**Location**
All ▼

### UNI 1

**Location:** Dubai
**Program:** Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering
**Capacity:** 100 students
**Deadline for applications:** April 2025

**View details**
**Apply**

### UNI 2

**Location:** Abu Dhabi
**Program:** Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering
**Capacity:** 70 students
**Deadline for applications:** May 2025

**View details**
**Apply**

### Scholarship

**Location:**
**Program:** Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering
**Capacity:** 50 students
**Deadline for applications:** March 2025
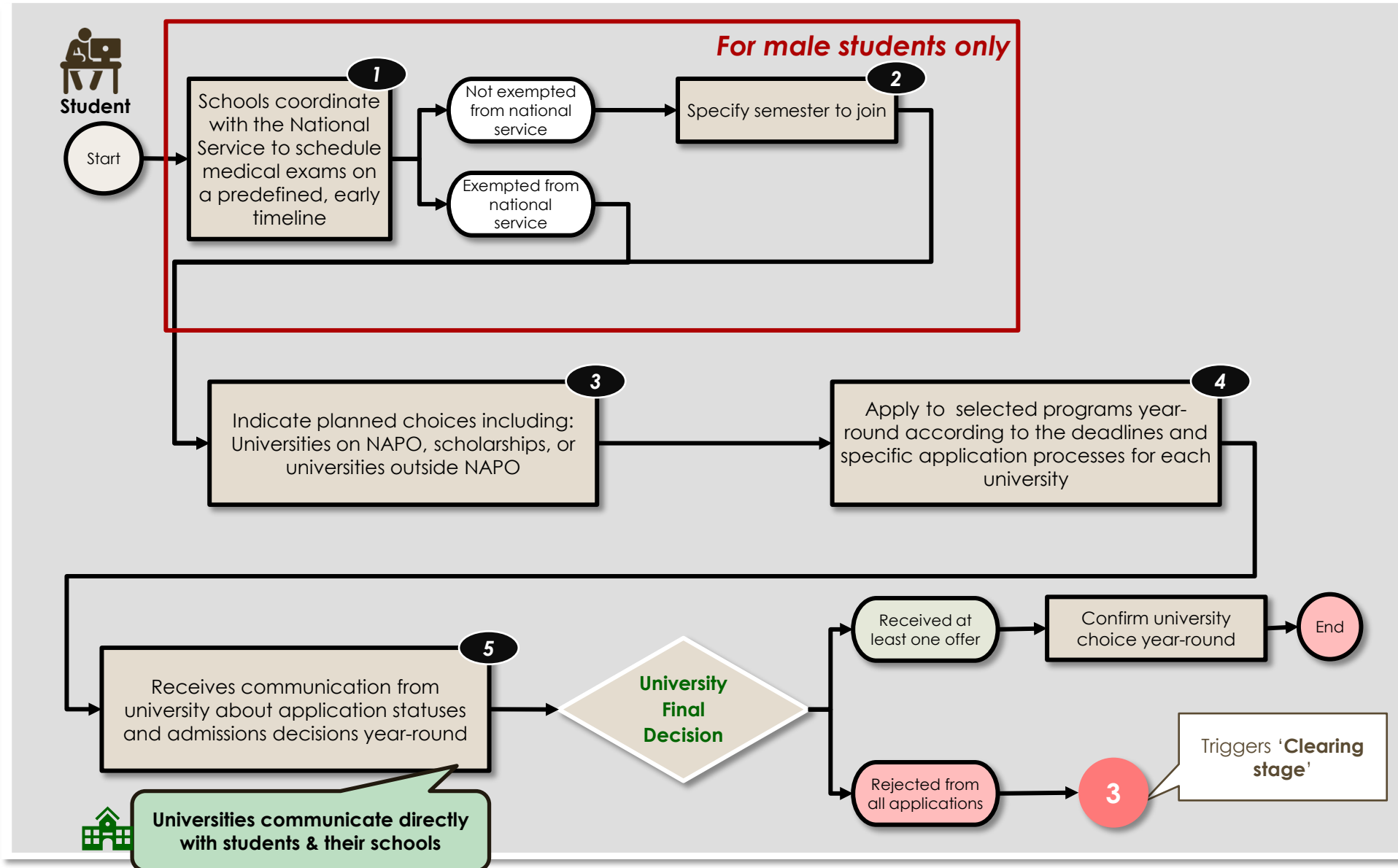
**View details**
**Apply**

## Key improvements

✓ *Open platform* *with no forced timeline*

✓ *Students* ***are not forced*** *to select only one final choice*

## Stakeholder Accountability

- **Schools** support student applications with **oversight from MoE & local authorities**

- **Universities** reviewing applications & communicate with students with **oversight from MoHESR**

**Student**

*For male students only*

Start

**1** Schools coordinate with the National Service to schedule medical exams on a predefined, early timeline

Not exempted from national service

Exempted from national service

**2** Specify semester to join

**3** Indicate planned choices including: Universities on NAPO, scholarships, or universities outside NAPO

**4** Apply to selected programs year-round according to the deadlines and specific application processes for each university

**5** Receives communication from university about application statuses and admissions decisions year-round

**University Final Decision**

Received at least one offer → Confirm university choice year-round → End

Rejected from all applications → **3**

Triggers '**Clearing stage**'

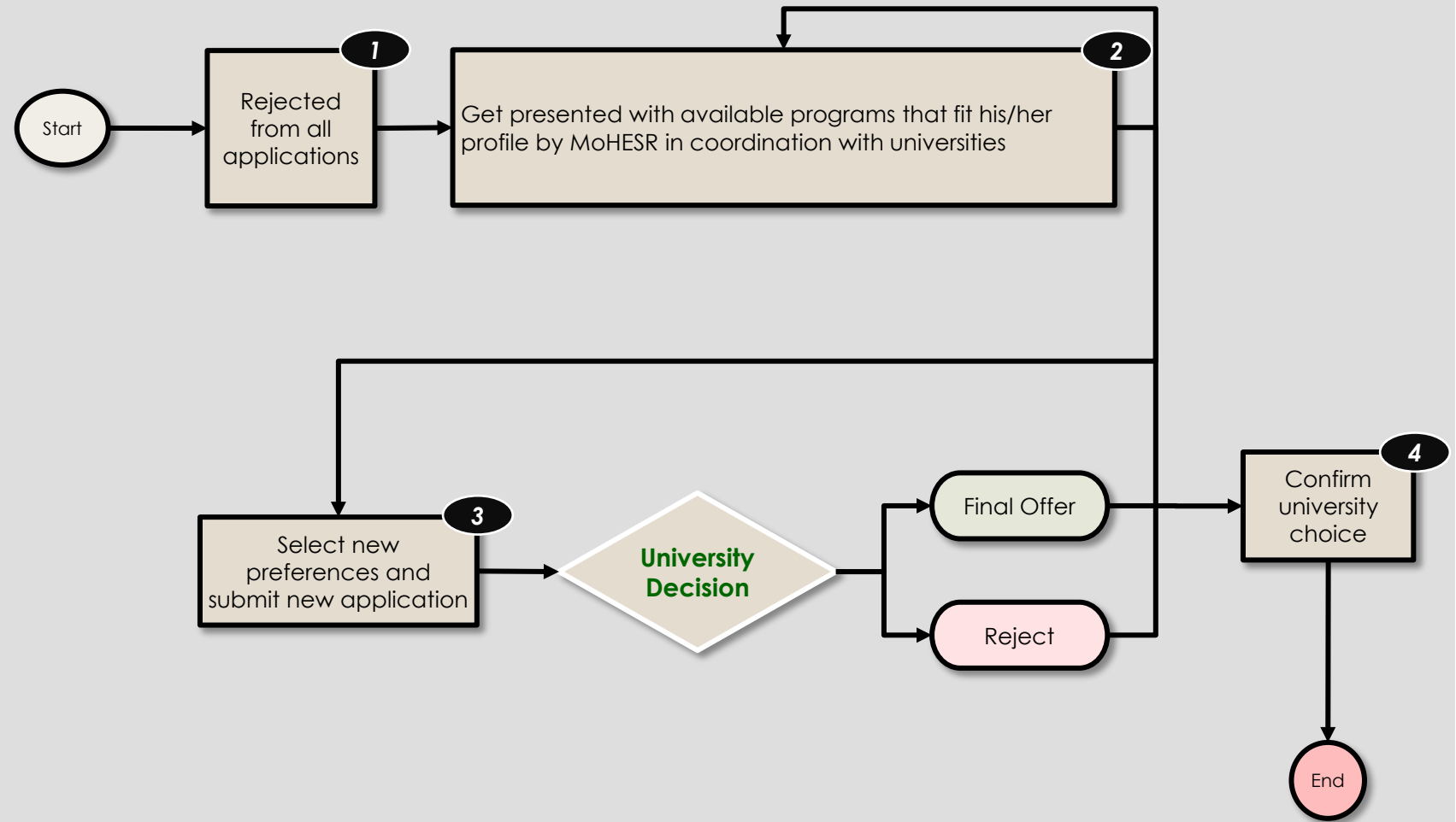**Universities communicate directly with students & their schools**

## Key improvements

✓ *Data integration to accurately identify pool of students without any offer*

✓ *Automatic **optimization of capacity & list of options***

## Stakeholder Accountability

- **MoHESR** leads the clearing stage in coordination **with universities**

**Students without an offer**

# Clearing stage: 2 types of interventions to ensure greater access to higher education

**Overview**

| Before clearing stage | During clearing stage |
|---|---|
| **Minimize** the number of students reaching the clearing stage | **Maximize** matching with alternative options |

**Pillar**

| **Inclusive admission policy** | New **Policy** already **published** | **Effective data integration** | **Accurately identify** students who have **no offers** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Diversified educational pathways** | Including & encouraging **vocational degrees** (diplomas, certificates) & **associate degrees** | **Real-Time data on capacity** | Monitor **live updates** on university **capacity** |
| **Student options** | Students can keep **unlimited backup options** | **Effective partnership with universities** | Coordinate with universities, particularly **federal** ones, to admit students with **bridging programs** or in **alternative pathways** (diplomas etc.). |

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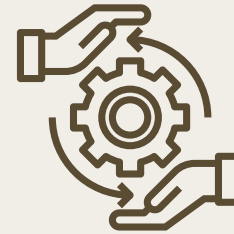
Governance

# Roles and responsibilities effectively distributed across ecosystem stakeholders

| Dimension | Task Description | Schools | MoE & Local Authorities | Universities | MoHESR |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Student Guidance & Support** | 1. Ensure students register on NAPO & completing their profile (G11) | Ownership | Oversight | | Provides data analyses and dashboards to ease oversight |
| | 2. Guide students on available programs, eligibility, and deadlines | Ownership | Oversight | Support | |
| | 3. Provide preparatory workshops and information sessions to ensure application readiness | Ownership | Oversight | Support | |
| **Information Transparency & Communication** | 4. Communicate program details, admission requirements admission process & program capacity seats & deadlines | | | Ownership | Oversight |
| **Application & admission processes** | 5. Sets admission criteria & processes including deadlines | | | Ownership | Oversight |
| | 6. Conduct timely application reviews | | | Ownership | Oversight |
| | 7. Ensure students are submitting their complete applications on time & responding to applications on time (G12) | Ownership | Oversight | Support | |
| **Clearing stage** | 8. Identify & analyses list of students who got rejected from all their applications | Support | | | Ownership |
| | 9. Provide alternative offers & pathways to students without any offer | Support | | Ownership | Ownership |