

## Scholars Program

### THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM

#### UNDERGRADUATE APPLICATION FORM 2026

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Pretoria (UP) for full-time undergraduate study is open to African students with a **grade point average (GPA) of at least 70%**. The Program targets African youth who face significant socio-economic barriers, refugees or Internally Displaced People (IDPs), and persons with disabilities who will go back to contribute to the transformation of their countries. Applicants from countries outside the borders of South Africa should meet the requirements of the Universities South Africa (USAf), for more information visit <https://usaf.ac.za/>

**Note to International Applicants:** The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program does not cover costs associated with USAf verification and passport applications

**All affidavits can be obtained from a Commissioner of Oaths or local police stations in the applicant's respective country**

**Applicants should not already have obtained an Undergraduate Degree/ Qualification.**

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. To apply for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Pretoria (UP), you **MUST have applied** to UP to study in the faculties listed below and arrange to have the required supporting documents sent to the University. You will need your **U - student number** to complete this application form. **Students who have previously studied at a previous university are required to disclose this during their application for admission at the university.**
2. Only students in **full-time degree programmes** and not **extended or non-degree purposes** are eligible for this Program.
3. Applicants must be starting their first year of study in 2026. No late submissions will be accepted
4. All applicants are required to apply to the University of Pretoria residences for accommodation for the duration of their degree. For information about the university undergraduate residences, visit <https://www.up.ac.za/student-accommodation/article/1972780/hatfield-residences>
5. **The documents listed below (in English) are required to process your application and must be submitted with this application form as one combined pdf document:**
  - i) Proof of your provisional admission letter from the University of Pretoria if admitted before the 31st of August 2025.
  - ii) Copy of high school results
  - iii) Proof of gross income (pay slip(s)/pension advice(s)/financial statements/allowances, maintenance) for the last 3 months (when submitting your application) for biological/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian/spouse/source of income.
  - iv) If no proof of income or if unemployed, the source of income/maintenance/allowance must be provided per individual by means of an affidavit. House executives/housewives must confirm any source of income by means of an affidavit.
  - v) If a biological/adoptive parent is single or never married, an affidavit confirming marital status and maintenance – also if not receiving any financial assistance.
  - vi) If biological/adoptive parent(s) are deceased – death certificate(s).
  - vii) If biological/adoptive parent(s) are divorced, the decree of divorce and affidavit confirming maintenance (also if not receiving any financial assistance).

- viii) If a legal guardian is appointed by a court, the court order must be provided or an affidavit supporting this. Guardian must declare a monthly allowance to the applicant by means of an affidavit.
  - ix) ID/passport for biological/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian/spouse.
  - x) ID/passport and birth certificate for both applicant and siblings.
  - xi) Proof of enrolment of all siblings at tertiary institution(s).
  - xii) A copy of refugee identity document (where applicable). **NB: Refugee students living within South Africa must have a Section 24 valid permit provided by the South African Department of Home Affairs**
  - xiii) Any proof of disability (registration document or certified copy of a doctor's report)
6. Only students admitted to the University of Pretoria will be considered for this Program. To maximise consideration, apply early and ensure that the University receives all required documentation no later than **31<sup>st</sup> August 2025. Apply by 30 June 2025** for admission into a faculty at the University of Pretoria.
  7. Once you receive confirmation that you have been provisionally accepted, complete the application form attached to the link below and submit with a subletting document as a **single PDF file** to [mcfsp@up.ac.za](mailto:mcfsp@up.ac.za)
  8. This Program is limited to students who cannot afford to study at a tertiary institution. Do not apply if you do not fall within this category.
  9. Applicant must declare if he or she has a relative who is a staff member at the University of Pretoria
  10. Students who are awarded the funding opportunity may not hold **other bursaries** (with the exception of UP achievement awards).
  11. All the information provided must be accurate and true. Any falsification of information on this application may result in your application being excluded.

Date of application

20 / /

Please indicate your University of Pretoria Student Number \_\_\_\_\_  
Programme Choices (Degree Choices) \_\_\_\_\_

Once successful, the Scholar will have to enter into a bursary agreement with UP/Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program.

*Please mark options with an X.*

Please mark answers in appropriate box	Yes	No
Have you applied for and been successful with other bursary or loan?		
Explain		

**For which undergraduate programme have you been admitted?**

*The Program provides funding **exclusively** for the following faculties*

*Please mark your choice of study programme with an X.*

Faculty	Study Programme Choices
<b>Economic and Management Sciences</b> <a href="https://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-economic-and-management-sciences/article/30185/undergraduate-programmes">https://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-economic-and-management-sciences/article/30185/undergraduate-programmes</a>	
<b>Natural and Agricultural Sciences</b> <a href="https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/SCI-faculty/UD-programmes">https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/SCI-faculty/UD-programmes</a>	
<b>Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology</b> <a href="https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/EBIT/Faculty%20of%20Engineering%20Built%20Environment%20and%20Information%20Technology">https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/EBIT/Faculty%20of%20Engineering%20Built%20Environment%20and%20Information%20Technology</a>	
<b>Humanities</b> <a href="https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/HUM/Faculty%20of%20Humanities">https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/HUM/Faculty%20of%20Humanities</a>	
<b>Law (Open to only applicants from SADC)</b> <a href="https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/LAW/Faculty%20of%20Law">https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/LAW/Faculty%20of%20Law</a>	
<b>Education</b> <a href="https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/EDU/Facult">https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/faculties/view/EDU/Facult</a>	

Please note: It is incumbent upon applicants to verify that the degree program they pursue aligns with the licensure requirements of their home countries, a crucial consideration, especially in the field of Law.

### Personal Information

Surname/Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full given names (as in passport / ID) \_\_\_\_\_

Name by which you prefer to be called \_\_\_\_\_

**PASSPORT NUMBER (for Non-SA)** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Birth**

YYYY/MM/DD	Your age	
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**Country of Birth** \_\_\_\_\_

**Citizenship** \_\_\_\_\_

**Province/State/Region** \_\_\_\_\_

**Gender**

Male		Female	
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### Residential and Contact Information

Address where you reside – Home address  
(where you reside when not at school)

Zip code / Postal code

Email address

Contact telephone number(s) where we may reach you.

Landline

Cell phone

Own

Landline

Cell phone

Other

*If "other" please state **relationship***

Where do you access the Internet?

How often are you typically able to access the Internet?

Parents/Guardian/Foster parents - Contact details				
Relationship	Title, Name and Surname	Contact Numbers	Highest level of Education	Occupation
Father				
Stepfather				
Grandfather				
Mother				
Stepmother				
Grandmother				
Guardian				
Foster parent				

Parents/Guardian/Foster parents - Education and Employment			
Relationship	Occupation (Please be specific even if self-employed)	Employer or Workplace	Highest level of Education
Father			
Stepfather			
Grandfather			
Mother			
Stepmother			
Grandmother			
Guardian			
Foster parent			

If parents are deceased, please complete the following:

Legal guardian information			
Legal Guardian (Title, Name and Surname)	Relationship to you	Occupation	Workplace

Please list the names of your siblings below.

Siblings information				
Full Name	Gender	Relationship	Age	Contact Number

Please provide details of your family's yearly income from all sources

Total income per family	
from mother's work	
from father's work	
from all family business	
from real estate rentals	
pension/retirement funds	
from other relatives	
Social grants of any sort	
<b>Total Monthly Net Income</b>	
<b>Total Annual Income</b>	
<b>Monthly Expenditure</b>	

Attach copies of the following information: pay slips for the last 3 months, proof of income, bank account statements for each account, tax returns, loan documents and any other information as evidence of your family's ability to contribute to your education.

Complete the table below for all members of your family living in your parent's home, including yourself:

Full Name	Age	Relation to you	School/University	Year in school	Annual Tuition	Amount your family can pay
		Self				

Amount of your current school fees (inclusive of all top-up fees and levies and boarding fees).

\_\_\_\_\_

Who currently pays for your school fees?

Are you on any bursary/scholarship (please mark with an X): YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, how much does the bursary cover? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you ever traveled outside your home country? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

If so, please indicate **when** this was, **where** you traveled as well as the **length and purpose of the trip**.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Travel Information			
Destination	When	Duration	Purpose

Information on family assets		
Question		No
"Does your family rent their home, or do they reside in informal housing (shack/hut)?"		
Does your family own a car?		
If yes list the year, make (e.g. Honda/Toyota) and model (e.g.Civic/Prado)		
Year	Vehicle Make	Vehicle Model



## ACADEMIC BACKGROUND AND ACTIVITIES

Name of High School you attended	
What is the highest School level you have completed	
Name of <b>last</b> public/national examinations written	
Country of examination	
Date of examination	MM/DD/YYYY

Exam results (list most recent end-of-year results if you have not taken a public exam): Attach a copy of your results

No	Subject	Grade	Marks
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			

## SPORTS ACTIVITIES

List all clubs, sports, and activities you have participated in at your high school and in your community and/or religious organisation. List approximately how many hours per week you have been involved in each. Attach an extra sheet if required.

Year	Type of sport or activity	Level (School/Provincial/National)	Hours involved per week

Please select one of the above activities that was most meaningful to you and explain why in the space below.

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Have you participated in any special programmes that may assist you in preparing to apply for your tertiary studies? If so, please list which programme or school and its location.

Programme/School	Location

List any leadership positions you have held at school and note in which form/year/grade you held that position (e.g. prefect head girl/boy, president/secretary of a club, team captain, etc.).

Leadership Position	Description	Grade/Form/Year

List any academic prizes or other honours you have received.

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School Principal / Mastercard Partner/ Referee

Official Stamp

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of School Principal / Mastercard Partner/Referee:

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### SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS

*These questions help us to get to know you as a person. Please take time to answer them carefully, honestly, and completely (**not more than 300 words each**).*

1. Explain how your choice of study will impact on the career that you plan to pursue

[illegible]

2. Engagement is an important aspect of The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program.

What is your responsibility to your community? What volunteer work in your community have you been involved in, in the past and for how long?

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

In what ways do you currently give back?

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How do you see yourself giving back in the future?

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### SHORT ESSAY QUESTIONS (continued)

Describe a situation where you had to overcome a significant obstacle/challenge(s) to reach a goal. How did you react to this challenge, and what did you learn from this situation?

[illegible]

What else should we know about your background, your family, and your financial position?

[illegible]

[illegible]

## DECLARATION

I certify that all of the answers I have given in this application are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge, and if admitted, I agree to observe all the rules and regulations of the University of Pretoria and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. **Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action and expulsion from the Program.** I agree that all documents submitted as part of this application must be authentic and that any falsification of admission and/or academic records through omission or misstatement by me in this application may result in cancellation of my admission and/or other disciplinary action by the University of Pretoria.

I understand that this information and my university records may be reported to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program and used for evaluation and other programme purposes. All information will be kept in strict confidence and will not be released in any way that would permit individual identification. I authorise the release and use of this information, as described above, to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program.

**Furthermore, I declare that I have no family relations working at the University of Pretoria.**

**I acknowledge that completing this application form does not automatically mean that I will be accepted into the Program.** Only candidates selected by the Committee for this Program will be notified. The decision of the Committee is final. The University of Pretoria shall not be liable for any claims against the Program in case of any disqualifications of applicants or unavailability of funding.

Applicant Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Full Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_