

PREAMBLE

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program was initially a \$500 million, 10-year initiative to educate and prepare young people – particularly from Africa – to lead change and make a positive social impact in their communities. Since its inception, the volume of funding and scope of work has increased.

The Scholars Program provides young people from economically disadvantaged communities who have demonstrated academic talent and leadership potential with access to quality and relevant education.

The Program will serve an estimated 35,000 young people at the secondary and university levels. It has a particular focus on Africa, which is the world's youngest continent and is experiencing unprecedented growth. Yet, it faces the lowest secondary and university education enrollment rates.

KEY PROGRAM ELEMENTS

- **OPPORTUNITY**

More than 80 percent of the world's 1.5 billion people between the ages of 12 and 24 live in developing countries and many face significant barriers to accessing education.

Education plays a pivotal role in building human capital and productivity. It provides young people with skills to access better opportunities, and increases their decision-making capacity and ability to contribute to society. The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program provides access to secondary and higher education for young people who are committed to giving back to their communities.

- **MODEL**

The MasterCard Foundation is building a global network of 29 universities and non-governmental partners who share the vision to identify and provide comprehensive support to talented young people pursuing secondary and university education.

Partners were selected for their shared values, commitment to academic excellence, nurturing environments, and programs relevant to growth sectors in Africa, such as manufacturing, telecommunications, banking, and agriculture.

- **COMPREHENSIVE SCHOLARSHIPS**

Students receive financial support for fees, uniforms, books and supplies, transportation, accommodation, and stipends.

- **21ST CENTURY SKILL BUILDING:** Students benefit from enrichment in skill areas relevant to employment success, such as critical thinking, communications, and entrepreneurship.
- **TRANSITION SUPPORT:** Students will receive support during their transition into secondary school, university or the workforce with mentoring, career counselling, internships, leadership development, and other life skills coaching.
- **GIVE-BACK:** An integral component of the Program is the commitment from the Scholars to give back to their communities and countries of origin. Students will demonstrate this commitment through volunteerism and community service, as well as other forms of experiential learning.
- **ALUMNI NETWORK:** Graduates of the Scholars Program will be connected through an alumni

network that offers information, resources, and opportunities to consult with other graduates.

□ PARTNERS

Scholars Program partners are education institutions and non-profit organizations committed to developing and encouraging the potential of young people in Africa. **To date there are over 20 partners, each with a unique contract, terms and conditions.** The list of all partners can be found here: <https://mastercardfdn.org/all/scholars/becoming-a-scholar/apply-to-the-scholars-program/>

* As the program grows, it is expected that more partners will come on board while others discontinue.

□ SCHOLARS

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars are young people showing academic promise and achievement. They are ready to learn and to make a difference in their communities.

Students selected for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program are provided opportunities to realize their full potential. Through Foundation partners, they receive holistic financial, academic, and emotional support as they transition from secondary to university education and into the workforce. Scholars will build core competencies such as critical thinking, problem solving, and working across diverse groups to ensure their success in the global economy.

For more information visit www.mastercardfdnscholars.org