

FAQ and Guide on McGill MasterCard Foundation Scholarship

1. What's MasterCard Foundation Scholarship (MCF Scholarship Program)

MasterCard Scholarship (MCF) is a Scholarship for people from Africa. It's for Academically talented but economically disadvantaged students. Please read more about MCF Scholarship here <https://mastercardfdn.org/all/scholars/becoming-a-scholar/>

2. MCF Scholarship at McGill

MCF Scholarship is one (If not 1st) of the most prestigious Scholarship in McGill University, Canada. McGill MCF will accept only graduate students for next academic session. Usually, **4 to 6 students will be accepted into McGill MCF Scholars Program throughout Africa**. So, it's really a competitive scholarship and worth trying by all eligible candidate.

3. How do I apply.

To apply for the Scholarship, kindly read more about it via this link <https://www.mcgill.ca/mastercardfdn-scholars/about-program>

- a. You will need to be nominated by your department here at McGill. Simply send an email to the admission coordinator of your program (find the email on the departmental website of McGill, at www.mcgill.ca). Please attach your CV, Transcript while sending the email
- b. The coordinator will forward it to the departmental chair for review, and will get back to you if they can nominate you or not. (Department can't nominate all students, Top-ranked candidates will be nominated).
- c. After your nomination is approved, they will forward your nomination request to MCF committee, and MCF will give you go ahead to apply for school admission (**You won't pay the application fee**).
- d. Please note, preliminary nomination by department doesn't guarantee automatic departmental admission. (**McGill is in the top 30 Universities in the world, and 2nd best in Canada after Toronto**), so they're strict in granting admission. That being said, please put in a very strong personal statement, submit tight CV for admission consideration. **YOU WILL BE ADMITTED**.
- e. MCF selection committee will review the file of only **NOMINATED** and **ADMITTED** Candidates, and select the winners.

4. AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN NOMINATED, AND NOW APPLYING FOR ADMISSION AND SCHOLARSHIP

You will complete the school admission form and MCF scholarship form together. Please write very well in your essays. (You don't have to show pity of no money, focus on your past skills and involvement. **it's a graduate application**, they expect people coming to be leaders and have strong achievement already). List all your awards, publications, etc. MCF McGill focus on strong Academic Excellence and community involvement. The Selection committee are McGill Profs, and they place strong priority on GRADE and SKILLS.

5. For all Engineering applicants (Except Bioresource. Bioresource applicants will be nominated as described above)

- a. Your department will most likely tell you to apply for admission (through MCF portal, so you won't pay the application fee), that doesn't mean automatic nomination.
- b. Your department will admit ONLY the candidate (s) they wish to nominate, and forward it to MCF. And continue with **step 3e** above.

6. For Forestry related Program

Even though there's no Forestry courses eligible for this program (Because Natural resource here are Thesis-Based), You have the chances to apply to Bioresource Engineering department. Department of Bioresource engineering have two options available.

- a. Integrated Water Resource Management
- b. Integrated Food and Bioprocessing.

I will encourage you to apply for Integrated Water Resource Management. It has some flexibilities, you can focus on environmental aspects of it, like Environmental Assessment, Wetland ecology, etc. (My Personal Opinion).

7. Can I do a Ph.D after my Non-thesis M.Sc?

YES, you can do a PhD. Although the program is Non-thesis, it has a lot of research components. And you will also do Internship and Research Project. You can do your internship and project at a Prof Lab, or a University. This will enable you to have in-depth research skills. **I have seen many people that have done this before, My Professor here even confirmed it.**

8. Benefits of MCF Scholarship

MCF Scholarship is a FULLY-FUNDED Scholarship. It covers the cost of your VISA, FLIGHT TICKET, Internship ticket, accommodation, health insurance, and a monthly stipend.

I hope with this, I have been able to answer many questions. If there's more specific question(s), feel free to ask me via (email most preferred) drhammed@outlook.com, or WhatsApp (I'll respond at my earliest convenience).

(Please Note: Every stuff here are from my own personal opinion, and does not in anyway reflect the opinions of MCF McGill officials or selection committee.)

Best wishes,
Hammed.