

# Securing International MSc and Ph.D. Scholarship in Various Discipline across the globe

---

**Kehinde Salami**  
**Luqman Muraina**

Contacts:  
[Salamikehinde684@gmail.com](mailto:Salamikehinde684@gmail.com)  
[Murainaluqman@gmail.com](mailto:Murainaluqman@gmail.com)



# Agenda

- 
1. Benefits of seeking international scholarships
  2. Scholarship application checklist
  3. Different types of available scholarships
  4. Searching for STEM related scholarships
  5. Searching for scholarships in behavioural and arts subjects
  6. How to be an ideal candidate
  7. Some dos and don't of common scholarship applications
  8. How to handle rejections
  9. Q&A
- 

Kehinde { 1:4 } ; Luqman { 5:8 }

# Benefits of Seeking International Scholarships

---

- **Improve your career prospects**

opportunity to broaden your skills and qualifications

- **Experience a new culture**

Interact with people from different nationalities, learn foreign languages and traditions.

- **Earn while you study**

part-time jobs, student jobs, internship, master thesis etc

- **Short study period**

Predefined academic calendar, No labour union strike (ASUU, SSANU etc)

- **Opportunities to work with multinational/dream companies**

e.g Microsoft, UN, Exxon mobile, Siemens, Google etc

# Scholarship Application Checklist

---

- Academic Transcript (or Academic records)
- Degree Certificate (or Notification of result)
- Motivation Letter/Statement of Purpose/Letter of Intent
- Curriculum Vitae
- Recommendation Letter(s)
- Proof of English Proficiency (TOEFL, IELTS or Medium of Instruction)
- International Passport
- Published Literatures – Journals or Portfolio. Research proposal

# Transcript & Certificate

---

## Transcript

- Includes your name, name of your institution, list of all courses taken, grades received, and degrees conferred.
- It should contain complete information about your degree class and the university grading scale.
- The academic registrar or registry department at your institution oversees issuing academic transcripts.

## Certificate

- Certifies that the recipient has completed an educational program or course and passed a series of examinations.
- Notification of result could be used in place of certificate where the later isn't available.

# Motivation Letter/Statement of Purpose/Letter of Intent

---

- A motivation letter is a personal document detailing your professional skills and reasons for applying for a course of study or a scholarship.
- Why are you a good fit? what can you bring to the program, not just what the programme will offer you.
- Use your essay to tell a story, connect the dots in your “past (curiosity) - programme - goals”.
- Don't just list your interests. Instead, explain how they came about and why you want to pursue them further – and how this program will help you do so.
- Discuss specific aspects of the program that mean a lot to you. Internship, Excursion, Faculty members, University location etc.

# Motivation Letter/Statement of Purpose/Letter of Intent

---

## 1. Your motivation

- What birthed your motivation for this field?
- The challenges in society which your acquired knowledge and expertise will make contributions to resolving.

## 2. Your academic background and work experience

- Outline what makes you an excellent fit for the programme.
- Academic track record, MOOC, conferences, relevant employments, volunteering activities, leadership experience etc.

## 3. Attraction to the course and university

- Here explore the university or programme website.

## 4. Career goals and how the programme will help you achieve them

- Short and long term career goals.
- Relate the benefits of the programme or degree to your earlier mentioned motivation.

## 5. Conclude with assuring them that you will complete the program within the stipulated time frame.



**When applying to scholarships such as MasterCard, Chevening, Commonwealth, SISGP, etc,**

It is recommended to use the **STAR** approach in answering many essay prompts.

- ‘STAR’ (Situation, Task, Action, and Result) can help you provide a concise and compelling answer to competency- based questions.
- **Situation:** provide some brief details about the situation you were in when you used your competencies.
- **Task:** outline your objective or purpose during that situation, again, to put your answer into context.
- **Action:** describe what you did in that situation and how you approached it.
- **Result:** state the outcome, for example: Were the objectives met? What did you learn/gain from being in that situation?

- *MASTERCARD SCHOLARSHIP:*
- *WE WANT TO LEARN ABOUT YOUR TRACK RECORD AS A TRANSFORMATIVE LEADER.*
- *Tell us about one current idea or project you are working on, which clearly demonstrates this. Max 250 words.*



# Curriculum Vitae

---

- Should be detailed and well written in a chronological manner.
- Educational background, work experience, awards, publication etc
- Use Action words.
- Should include the following
  - Profile
  - Educational Qualification
  - Professional/Academic experience – state your tasks/responsibilities and achievements
  - Skills and interest
  - Awards and honours
  - Publications
  - Conferences workshops attended.
  - Additional education - MOOCs
  - Professional Affiliations
  - Leadership and volunteering experiences
  - References

# Recommendation Letter

---

- Use to authenticate applicants' abilities and skills.
- Choose someone who knows you and can write confidently about you.
- A good recommendation letter should outline the following;
  - Intellectual independence
  - Problem solving potentials
  - Research leadership
  - Teaching leadership
  - Ranking as a student
  - Creativity
  - Team work
  - Personal characteristics, and college readiness. Specific examples to back up all observations and thoughts.
  - A synopsis of why you believe this student is a good fit for this scholarship.
  - A closing that indicates you are willing to be contacted for additional information if necessary.

# Proof of English Proficiency

---

- English proficiency exam e.g. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System).
- There are numerous materials online that can help you to prepare for any of the exams. Note that you only need to take either TOEFL or IELTS but not both.
- In the UK, some universities accept a credit pass in WAEC.
- Some universities or scholarship bodies can accept letter from the school you graduated from in lieu of the English proficiency exam result.
- The letter must state that your first degree was taught in English Language and you can communicate fluently with it (Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing).
- The letter must be duly signed on a letter headed paper.



The background of the slide is a dark, textured wooden surface. On the left side, there is a rolled-up white diploma tied with a red ribbon, and a brown leather graduation cap with a red tassel. Two horizontal white lines are positioned above and below the main title.

# Types of Scholarship



## Types of Scholarship

- There are mainly two types of Scholarship;
- **Full scholarship:** It covers but not limited to monthly stipend, airfare, laptop, health insurance etc.
- **Partial Scholarship:** The scholarship that is not full is called a partial offer. It can cover some percentage of your tuition fee or might just be a tuition-free.
- The basis to winning a scholarship are **passion** and **commitment**.



# Different Available Scholarships



There are thousands of scholarships that make calls for application every day, each has their deadlines.

Some of them include;

- Commonwealth Scholarship
- Banach-NAWA Scholarship
- Commonwealth Shared Scholarship
- MasterCard Foundation Scholarship
- OFID
- Gates Trust Scholarship
- DAAD Germany
- Gates Cambridge
- Erasmus Mundus Scholarship
- Swedish Institute Scholarship
- Chevening
- Queens Commonwealth Scholarship
- PTDF
- Joint Japan/World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program.
- OKP
- Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme.
- Brunei Darussalam Scholarship.
- Learn Africa for Women
- Allan and Nesta Ferguson Charitable Trust Scholarship
- Fulbright Scholarship
- Exxon Mobil - Oxford Scholarship
- New Zealand Development Scholarship
- Vanier Canada
- Australia Award Scholarship
- Turkiye Bursali
- Chinese Government Scholarship
- The Rhodes Scholarship
- MEXT Scholarship Japan
- Graduate Research and Teaching Assistanship
- Scholarships in USA; Canada; UK; Australia, Europe etc.

# Searching for scholarship opportunities



- **Useful Scholarship Links**

- Erasmus Mundus Scholarship - Call for application is still ON for some programs

Link: [https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/scholarships/erasmus-mundus-catalogue\\_en](https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/scholarships/erasmus-mundus-catalogue_en)

- Commonwealth Shared Scholarship

Link: <https://cscuk.fcdo.gov.uk/scholarships/commonwealth-shared-scholarships-2022/>

- MasterCard Scholarship

Link: <https://mastercardfdn.org/all/scholars/becoming-a-scholar/apply-to-the-scholars-program/>

- DAAD Scholarship

Link: <https://www.daad.de/en/>

- Swedish Institute Scholarship - Call for application is still ON

Link: <https://si.se/en/apply/scholarships/swedish-institute-scholarships-for-global-professionals/>

- PTDF Scholarship

Link: <https://scholarship.ptdf.gov.ng/>

- Stipendium Hungaricum scholarship programme

Link: <https://stipendiumhungaricum.hu/>

- The Rhodes Scholarship

Link: <https://www.rhodeshouse.ox.ac.uk/scholarships/application-overview/>

- Chevening

Link: <https://www.chevening.org/apply/>

- World Bank Scholarships Program - Call for application is still ON

Link: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/programs/scholarships#3>

## Scholarship search websites

- Hotspot International Scholarship Forum: <https://hotspotisf.com>
- Agristok website: <https://agristok.net/>
- Scholarship Roar: <https://scholarshiproar.com/>
- Ascholarship: <https://ascholarship.com/>
- Jobb norge: <https://www.jobbnorge.no/search/en?te...>
- Job.ac.uk: <https://www.jobs.ac.uk/search/phds>
- Find a job: <https://findajob.agu.org/jobs/atmosph...>
- FEMS: <https://fems-microbiology.org/network...>
- Scholar idea: <https://scholaridea.com/2021/06/11/35...>
- Campus china: <https://www.campuschina.org/>
- Study In China: <https://studyinchina.csc.edu.cn/#/login>
- China Scholarship Council: <https://www.chinesescholarshipcouncil...>
- The World Academy of Sciences: <https://twas.org/cas-twas-centres-exc...>
- Study In Korea: <https://studyinkorea.go.kr/en/sub/ove...>
- ScholarshipDB: <https://scholarshipdb.net/scholarship...>
- Academic positions: <https://academicpositions.com/ad/nilu...>
- Euroscience jobs: <https://www.eurosciencejobs.com/jobs/...>





## Other useful scholarship resources

1. Hotspot International Scholarship Forum

Link: [https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1UVI5yT-5JfMwyHHloxPwkuuPm08L\\_zBn](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/0/folders/1UVI5yT-5JfMwyHHloxPwkuuPm08L_zBn)

Website: <https://hotspotisf.com>

2. A HANDBOOK OF THE ERASMUS MUNDUS SCHOLARSHIP

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1NLcA-bbrTzYlnk-ZzliBw1cdQQWTwjNn/view>

3. TemplateLAB; 50 Statement Of Purpose Examples (Graduate School, MBA, PhD)

Links: [https://templatelab.com/statement-of-purpose/#google\\_vignette](https://templatelab.com/statement-of-purpose/#google_vignette)

4. Other online resources you could explore when writing scholarship or admission essays;

- <https://www.topadmit.com/blog/the-star-approach-to-writing-admissions-essays>

- <https://essayforum.com>

- <https://www.collegeessayguy.com/blog/college-essay-examples>

- <https://www.exeter.ac.uk/media/universityofexeter/careersandemployability/pdfs/resources/RESOURCETheSTARApproach.pdf>

**If you want to apply for any scholarship and you honestly don't know how to write your first draft of the scholarship essay(s), visit the site - <https://essayforum.com/>.**



The background of the slide is a dark brown wooden surface with horizontal planks. In the lower-left area, there is a rolled-up white diploma tied with a red ribbon, resting on a brown leather book cover. A black velvet graduation cap with a red tassel is also visible, partially overlapping the book and diploma.

# Session 2: Luqman Muraina



## Scholarship pathways in Behavioural & Arts (BA) Subjects

- Do you think it is more difficult to win a scholarship in BA disciplines?
- **Institutional-based scholarships:** administered by transnational organizations, i.e., MCF, Commonwealth, Erasmus Mundus, etc.
- **Universities/Departmental assistantships:** usually run by an academic institution vis-à-vis donors.
- **Advertised research-based positions:** structured around a specific research project; swamping on social media.

# Who is an ideal scholarship applicant? Am I?

1. An applicant who is well positioned to win a scholarship
  - Academic excellence
  - Leadership & extracurricular experience
  - Grounded in research, i.e., publications, etc.
2. An applicant who has all or the majority of scholarship requirements
3. An applicant who is inquisitive and doesn't ask google-answerable questions
  - What is the closing date of a scholarship 😊?
4. Have a scholarship plan and goal
5. A prayerful and believing candidate with a touch of never-give-up attitude

# Do's and Don'ts of scholarship applications

- ✓ Apply, apply, and selectively apply again
- ✓ Read the eligibility and scholarship information
- ✓ Have a scholarship/academic mentor
- ✓ Prepare in advance
- ✓ Review and review again
- ✓ Make contact
- ✓ Apply early
- ✓ Be humble - referees
- Submit 'many' applications
- Be a proud scholarship applicant
- Praise or victimize yourself in SOPs
- Submit late
- Get jealous
- Give-up

## **What if love letters keep coming?**

1. Enjoy the breakfast and see if you can get a personalized rejection explanation
2. Sleep over the rejection
3. What can or do I need to do differently?
  - Write scholarship examinations
  - Change scholarship plan
  - Target new countries or schools
  - Rewrite SOP
4. Do other things that matters in life
  - Get married
  - Get a job or start a business
5. Keep applying & pray



Thank you for listening

---



# Follow HISF on our various social media platforms

---

**Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFqNxWx4WmGOjIUxTP3leQQ>

---

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/hotspotisf/>

---

**Twitter:** [https://twitter.com/forum\\_isf](https://twitter.com/forum_isf)

---

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/ForumISF/>

---

**Googledrive:** [https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1UVI5yT-5JfMwyHHloxPwkuuPm08L\\_zBn](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1UVI5yT-5JfMwyHHloxPwkuuPm08L_zBn)

---

**Website:** <http://www.hotspotisf.com/>