

In the name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful.

This e-book on scholarships and grants is actually a chapter from a book that is to be published (in shaa Allah). Although, it is uncommon to make the e-book of a chapter of a book that is to be published available to people but the writer feels that no one knows what will happen in the twinkling of an eye. Moreover, this chapter will surely be modified with more useful information before the book will be published and the information here is just the tip of the ice-berg compared to what the whole book contains.

However, no part of this e-book should be re-used without contacting the writer. It can be read and shared as a whole **for free!**

We hope that this piece of work will be beneficial to those with no knowledge of scholarship/grant and those who already have the knowledge.

May Allah accept it as an act sincerely done for his sake.

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(Note: two versions of the book will be published; the one with Islamic spices and a general one).

Baarokah llahu feeh. Concise and well written!

Indeed this is an eye-opener for those starting the scholarship journey.

Abdullah Saka (PhD Student)

CHAPTER SEVEN

7.0. Scholarships

7.1 Definition/Explanation

Scholarships are granted basically to help the less privileged have access to quality education or to reward high performing students.

Meanwhile, people have diversified reasons for applying for scholarships. Also, scholarship providers have different reasons for offering scholarships.

Scholarship hunt is a very serious business that needs prayer, patience, perseverance, diligence, tenacity and self-discipline to get. It requires hard work and dedication.

Different scholarships have different requirements, deadline for submitting applications, documents, etc. Thus, the best information you can get about a particular scholarship will come from previous awardees, and the scholarship provider, either from their website or from other authorized sources.

You have in this section general information about scholarships which we hope to be very helpful to you. It will also serve as a general introduction for those who have no knowledge about scholarships.

Before I move further, I will love to blow up the myth that scholarships are not real or that they can only be won by some special people/students. Scholarships are real, there are thousands of people who have completed their studies through scholarships and some are still studying on scholarship around the world. Anybody can win a scholarship; Africans, Americans, Arabs, Asians, Australians, Europeans, etc. so far they meet the requirements.

Lastly, as I said earlier, winning a scholarship requires tenacity and a lot of hard work from searching for the right scholarships to meeting the requirements.

May Almighty Allah make it easy for you to easily secure your desired scholarships and he should make it beneficial to you in the world and the hereafter.

7.2 Some benefits of winning a scholarship

- It lessens the financial burden on you, your parents or guardians.
- It helps you to be focused on your study. A student may lose his or her focus if his or her financial sources collapse.
- It can help you to study in your dream university which you can ordinarily not afford.
- You will be able to create your professional network with international personnel.
- It enhances your performance in school by meeting up with the financial requirements of your institution.
- Scholarships can enable you to have access to world-class education/training.

7.3 Types of Scholarships

- i. Study Grant/Bursary**
- ii. Partial Scholarship**
- iii. Full Scholarship**
- i. Study Grant/Bursary**

It is a support (mostly in the form of money or a tuition waiver) that is granted to either current students in order to assist them with their academic bills or to admission seekers to support them when they gain admission. It can also be granted to pursue a non-degree program/training.

Study grant/bursary will not cover all the expenses of your study and some are granted only once during your academic period, once in a semester/session or once during your non-degree program/training period.

Apply for as many study grants/bursaries as possible and meet the previous winners or check the internet for their requirements.

ii. Partial Scholarship

Partial Scholarship can be granted to those who meet the requirements. Some students are granted partial scholarship if they are unable to meet up with the requirements of the full scholarship or if partial scholarship is what the provider makes available.

This type of scholarship will not cover all the expenses of your studies.

Some partial scholarships will grant one or more of these benefits but not always all:

- Partial/Full tuition fee
- Accommodation fee
- Health care fee
- Study Materials
- Project expenses
- Some other fees for non-academic activities etc.

iii. Full Scholarship

Full Scholarships can be granted to those who meet the requirements. This type of scholarship will cover all the expenses of your studies and it will grant you all other available benefits. The benefits vary from school to school and it can include but not limited to:

- Full tuition fee
- Living expenses (Monthly Stipend)
- Accommodation fee
- Health care fee
- Study materials
- Project expenses

- Some other fees for non-academic activities
- Travelling cost

7.4 Categories of Scholarships:

1. Undergraduate scholarships
2. Postgraduate scholarships
3. Non-degree scholarships

7.4.1 UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Explanation

Undergraduate scholarship is granted either to undergo your undergraduate study in an intended school or as a support during your undergraduate study.

This type of scholarship is for high school/secondary school leavers or current undergraduate students.

If you are a current undergraduate student and you wish to win a scholarship that will assist your academic pursuit, know that winning such scholarship requires good academic performance and being smart (being informed). Most of the undergraduate study grants/scholarships are won during the second year in a higher institution by making use of your first year's results. Thus, if you are a new student, nurture your first year in the institution and never joke with the remaining years in order to retain such scholarship or to qualify for more.

Undergraduate Scholarships Requirements

A. For Current undergraduate students

If you are an undergraduate student and you want to apply for a study grant/bursary, all you need to do is to try to:

- have an outstanding academic performance or good stand
- get necessary information about it from reliable sources

- apply for as many scholarships as possible to assist you with your study and living expenses.
- follow all the required procedures after your application and
- be on the lookout for the results of your applications.

B. For Secondary/High school leavers who are seeking undergraduate scholarship offer

The requirements vary from one scholarship to the other. If you want to easily secure a scholarship, try to prepare the following ahead of your application.

1. Ordinary Level (secondary/high school) result and Certificate

Get your O' Level result ready and make sure that you pass the necessary subjects with the required grades. Get your Secondary/High school certificate ready; you will be required to submit it during your application. Check the scholarship provider's website for the grade required for the course you wish to enrol on.

2. Passport

If you want to apply to foreign schools, you will need to get a Passport as your identity. The passport must still be valid for the period of your study. Your passport is one of the first things a foreign school will ask you to submit.

3. English Proficiency Exam Result

Most institutions outside Africa might require you to submit an English proficiency exam result e.g. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) if your first language is not English. So, plan to get that ready. 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 (well, you can try both if you have the money). The result must still be valid at the start of your study. TOEFL or IELTS result is not accepted by most universities if the result is two years old before the start of your study.

Some universities can accept the English Language score of your Ordinary Level (secondary/high school) result, while some will accept a letter from the school you finished from in lieu of the English proficiency exam result. The letter must state that your secondary education was taught in English Language and you can communicate fluently with it (Reading, Listening, Speaking and Writing). The letter must be duly signed by the school management on a letterhead paper.

4. Recommendation letters.

You should notify some (three to five) of your teachers about your scholarship application so that they can provide recommendation letters for you which you might need to add to your application materials.

5. Statement of Purpose

Some institutions/scholarship bodies will request that you write and attach an SOP (Statement of Purpose) with your application for scholarship. You will state why you want the scholarship grant, why you want to study with them, how you plan to utilize the knowledge after your studies etc.

Instructions about the content of the SOP are usually stated by the scholarship provider.

6. Health Statement/Report

Some institutions will request for your Health Statement from a certified doctor like the Malaysian Government Scholarship and some scholarships in China.

7. Entry Assessment and Interview

Some institutions will conduct entry assessment, an interview or both for you before they can grant you the scholarship.

A list of some Undergraduate Scholarships

- Federal Government Scholarships
- Chevron/NNPC National University Scholarship
- Chevron Agbami Undergraduate Scholarships
- Agbami Scholarships Programme
- Shell Nigeria University Scholarship Programme
- Shell/NNPC National University Scholarship
- Agip Oil Company Undergraduate Scholarships
- Mobil Nigeria Undergraduate National Scholarship Programme
- Nigeria LNG Scholarship Scheme
- Total Nigeria National Merit Scholarship Programme
- Addax/NNPC National Tertiary Institutions Merit Scholarship Programme
- NWAG Nigeria Scholarships for Female Nigerians
- MTN Foundation Science and Technology Scholarship
- MUSTE Scholarships
- Globacom GBAM Scholarships
- American University of Nigeria Scholarships
- Abdulkabir Aliu Foundation etc.

(Check the list of the postgraduate scholarships, some of the schools also offer undergraduate scholarships.)

Note: you can apply for student exchange scholarships as an undergraduate student. This will enable you to be transferred from the university where you are studying to another country to complete your undergraduate studies. Although, this may attract some fees. Contact the admissions office or student affairs officers in your institution for guidance.

7.4.2 POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

Explanation

These Postgraduate Scholarships include Masters, Doctorates (Ph.D.) and Post-doctorate scholarships.

Postgraduate Scholarships Requirements

The requirements vary from one scholarship to the other. If you want to easily secure a scholarship overseas, try to prepare the following ahead of your application.

1. Ordinary level (secondary/high school) result and certificate for an undergraduate scholarship.
2. Undergraduate/master's certificate and complete transcripts for a postgraduate scholarship. You need a very good result; strive to graduate with a First class or Second Class (Upper Division) if you are still in school. Worthy of note is that scholarship opportunities are not restricted to First class or Second Class (Upper Division) graduates. Irrespective of your graduating grade, there are scholarship opportunities you can compete for, so far you can show why you are a suitable candidate.
3. International Passport (if you want to apply overseas).
4. Most institution outside Africa might require you to submit an English proficiency exam e.g. TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) or IELTS (International English Language Testing System) if your first language is not English. So, plan to get that ready. 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.

Some universities can accept a letter from the school you finished 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.

5. Some institutions mostly in North America and Arabian countries might also require you to present a GRE result.

6. You should notify some of your lecturers as regards letter of recommendation:

7. Some institution/body will request that you write and attach an SOP (Statement of Purpose)/Personal Statement with your application for the scholarship. You will state while you want the scholarship grant, why you want to study with them, how your knowledge will be useful after your studies etc.

8. You might be required to submit a “Research Proposal” mostly for PhD Scholarships but some master’s scholarships do request for it.

9. Some institutions will request for your Health Statement from a certified doctor like the Malaysian Government Scholarship and some scholarships in China.

A list of some Postgraduate Scholarships

- King Abdulaziz University Scholarship
- King Abdullah University of Science and Technology Scholarship
- King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals Scholarship
- Khalifa University Scholarship
- Commonwealth shared scholarship
- Commonwealth masters scholarship
- Chevening Scholarship

- Australian Government Scholarship
- Malaysian Government Scholarship
- Chinese Government Scholarship
- Mastercard Foundation Scholarship
- PTDF (Petroleum Development Fund) Scholarship
- African Institute For Mathematical Science (AIMS) Scholarship
- Gate Cambridge Scholarship Program
- Open Society Masters and Doctoral Scholarships at Central European University
- UCAS
- Italian Government Scholarship Board
- Erasmus Mundus Scholarship
- Turkiye Government Scholarship
- Irish Research Council Scholarship
- Perimeter Scholars International Awards in Theoretical Physics in Canada
- Skoltech Scholarship
- Hamad Bn Khalifa University Scholarship
- Fulbright Foreign Student Program (USA)
- Endeavour Postgraduate Leadership Awards (Australia)
- Swiss Government Excellence Scholarships (Switzerland)

- Swedish Scholarships for International Students (Sweden)
- VLIR-UOS Training and Masters Scholarships (Belgium)
- Clarendon Scholarships at University of Oxford (UK)
- Warwick Chancellor's International Scholarships (UK)
- Westminster Full International Scholarships (UK)
- Adelaide Scholarships International (Australia)
- University of Sydney International Research Scholarships (Australia)
- University of Maastricht High Potential Scholarships (Netherlands)
- TU Delft Excellence Scholarships (Netherlands)
- Erik Bleumink Scholarships at University of Groningen (Netherlands)
- Amsterdam Excellence Scholarships (Netherlands)
- International Leader of Tomorrow Award at the University of British Columbia (Canada)
- Lester B. Pearson International Scholarship Program at the University of Toronto (Canada)
- Joint Japan World Bank Scholarships
- ADB Japan Scholarship Program
- Rotary Foundation Global Study Grants
- OFID Scholarship Award
- Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS)
- Singapore International Graduate Award (SINGA)

(Check your country's scholarship board's website for details about more scholarships that are available for your country).

7.4.3 NON-DEGREE SCHOLARSHIPS

Explanation

This is a scholarship that might be granted to an individual for them to: - pursue a training in a particular field which usually lasts for just few weeks/months.

- attend a professional conference in a particular field.
- discharge some duties in a designated place where the scholar's services are needed for a particular time etc.

Non-degree Scholarships Requirements

The requirements extremely vary from one scholarship provider to another and it depends on the aim with which the scholarship opportunity was created.

Some of such scholarships might be for academic staff, government workers, workers from private companies, students in a particular level, professionals in some fields and many others.

Only the scholarship providers can state the requirements for the scholarship they provide.

7.5 HOW TO EASILY SECURE A SCHOLARSHIP

- Make sure you meet all the requirements. If you're still in school, plan to graduate with the best result you can in order to easily secure a scholarship for your next education pursuit. First-class or Second Class Upper (undergraduate secure postgraduate scholarships). Many distinctions in your O'Level result (Secondary school leaver seeking undergraduate scholarships).

Albeit many Scholarship providers prefer students with excellent grades, the grade is just a criterion out of the criteria. There are other areas that some scholarship providers look out for. Areas such as extracurricular activities, community development services, internship among others. .

Put in your best and never relent. It's not over until it's over and you don't accept defeat until you compete.

- Apply to less competitive institutions/courses/scholarship opportunities. Apply to all other ones too, please.

- Good scores in English Proficiency Exam (IELTS or TOEFL) and other International Exams (GRE etc.) can enhance your application and make you a better candidate. Note that you need to take any of the exams only if it's required.
- Writing a convincing Statement of Purpose (or Student's Statement) and Research Proposal can enable you to be easily considered for a scholarship.
- Receiving good recommendation letters from your referees can give you a better chance of winning a scholarship. Plead that your referees give you or submit good recommendation letters on your behalf as the case may be.
- Be a member of a professional body. Some postgraduate Scholarship Providers love candidates who belong to professional bodies in their fields and who have attended Professional conferences/training.
- Choosing a course that has high proximity to your last/previous education or work experience.
- Having a passport. Some foreign institutions may not consider your application without showing that you have a valid passport.
- Being able to secure a supervisor in your proposed institution (especially for doctorate degrees).
- Above all is prayer. Put in your best, be prayerful and put your utmost trust in Allah.
- Adhering strictly to a scholarship application instruction can assist you to submit a good application which will then enable you to be easily considered for it. In addition, make sure you supply all the required documents at the right time.
- Have two or more mentors to guide you about your Scholarship Pursuit. Explore all the available platform to get updated with the latest information about Scholarship offers - use the internet, subscribe for Scholarship newsletters, join beneficial social media groups for scholarship information, explore different institutions' websites, etc.
- Another trick is that try to apply for as many scholarship opportunities as possible; either you qualify for them or not - no one knows which one will be successful.

7.6 WHERE TO FIND SCHOLARSHIP ADVERTISEMENT.

1. Your country's scholarship board website.
2. Your intended institutions' or scholarship providers' websites.

3. Websites dedicated to sharing scholarship information (search the internet for them).
4. Social media groups, most especially the ones created for sharing scholarship information.
5. Through friends and relatives.
6. Through current and past scholars (scholarship winners).

7.7 WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WHILE AWAITING THE RESULT OF YOUR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS/VISA/FINAL CONFIRMATION ETC.?

1. Be more prayerful as Allah has the power of all things. Ask Allah to do the best for you.
2. If it's an overseas scholarship, prepare yourself for your study over there. Check the syllabus and prepare ahead. Revisit your past school works and get a good hold of the prerequisites.
3. Learn necessary software that can be of help to you during your study. All students should try to have the knowledge of:

Microsoft Word - for word processing

Microsoft Excel - for data arrangement, representation and analysis.

Microsoft PowerPoint - for presentation.

A bit of Corel Draw or any other software that can be used for graphic design and picture editing.

You will be informed of the software that are specific to your field when you start your study.

4. Research about:

- the weather condition of the country
- the institution and the course you want to study
- the citizens
- the country's laws and regulations
- the employment opportunities etc.

5. Improve your professional life. Learn more about the practical aspect of your course.

6. Learn how to write project/research reports, academic publication etc.

7. If you've already gained an admission into a university/course whose language of taught is different from/than your country's official language or the language you understand, although you'll be taught the language during your first year in the university but please start learning the language (in any way you can - from teachers, online friends, internet...) before you travel so that it'll be easy for you when you get there. Learning with a new language might want to hinder your performance

8. Plan for your travelling. Some schools will want you to process and pay for your visa and flight by yourself. Some schools will reimburse what you spend on that when you get there while some will pay for everything before you leave your home country. Thus, know the method that your intended institution employs and plan for it.

9. Get some clothes and footwear in your home country before you travel; it might be costly there.

10. Take good care of your health. Many institutions do not love to accept unhealthy individuals and that is why you will need to supply your health statement/report while applying for some scholarships.

11. Have an alternate plan. Spend wisely when applying for scholarships; don't spend everything you have on it. As you await the result of your scholarship applications, apply for jobs and plan for your future. Please don't rely too much on scholarship offers.

No matter the result of your applications, be grateful to Allah.

If it's successful, give thanks to Allah, benefit Islam and the Muslims with it, benefit your nation and the world at large. Also, help others to achieve it.

But if your application is unsuccessful, work harder when next you wish to apply, face your future plans and never limit yourself to the mercy of scholarship offers.

I wish you success in your scholarship applications. May Allah grant you the Best in this life and the hereafter.