



# INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP FORUM (ISF)

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## **TRANSCRIPT OF LECTURE (AAUA/MCB 2012 ALUMNI GROUP)**

### **STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE IN SECURING SCHOLARSHIP ABROAD**

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January, 2021; 20:00 WAT

Lecturer: **Gafari Abiodun Lukmon**

Ph.D. in view

Moderator: scholar **Oluwatobi**

### **Lecture Agenda**

1. Introduction
2. Meaning of a Scholarship
  - Important/Types of scholarship.
  - Examples of scholarship.
  - Why scholarship abroad
3. Scholarship application process
  - Documents required.
4. Conclusion/motivation
5. Questions & Answers

### **INTRODUCTION**

Thanks for the opportunity given to me this evening. I appreciate scholar Oluwatobi for the invitation. I am happy to be amidst like minds. My name is Gafari Lukmon popularly known as LukGaf, for the next hour God's willing, I will take you through the step-by-step process of securing scholarship.

I am aware all of us here have what it takes to win a Scholarship. Apart from the fact that we all had a good grades from our first and/or second degree, we are also committed to winning one. Is that so? So, I will not take much of your time since we are not discussing specifically a scholarship. But, it would be much appreciated if we could ask questions at the end of the lecture. Since majority of us here graduated with a First class degree or second class, then, it is advisable you continue your study to a more advanced level - postgraduate level.

By continuing your study to a PG level, I mean furthering your skills and knowledge in your chosen field. You would all agree with me that part of the advantages of studying up to a PG level is the employment prospect and having in depth knowledge of your chosen field. Gone are the days when they beg people for work after B.sc graduation.... With Ph.D. now, people still search for job. So having PG degrees might assist in securing a better placement.

Also, without any equivocation, many of us like to be Academician, we like to be called Professor or Doctor, even during our undergraduate level. Am I correct? But, you may not be able to achieve this without proceeding to PG. Studying at a PG level is however difficult, stressing and not encouraging most especially in our dear country, Nigeria.

For close to a year now, some schools are still on strike. No good laboratory equipment for those using Lab, Motivation equals zero. Also, cost of study up to a PhD level is very expensive. What of exploitation? You may not count all. Corruption? Sex for grade. Most of our universities are ranked low

How many Nigeria universities made the top list in the just concluded ranking? Employment is not even certain even with your PhD. You have to know someone who knows a person who knows a Senator. That is pathetic and very sad. Indeed, "Nigeria relies on whom you know and not what you know". All these difficulties with respect to studying PG in Nigeria make me say

\*if there is any country I can advise Scholars not to take PG studies, it is Nigeria!\*

Apology if that hurts. But we must face the reality. May God give us good leaders and transform our country for better

Once again, I congratulate you if you are a First class or second class candidate. I congratulate you because you have all opportunities to explore Scholarships anywhere in the world. In US, Europe, Asia? YES

In essence, if you do not want to face all these problems facing Nigeria PG students I highlighted, then you may choose to study outside Nigeria absolutely free of charge... With your good grade, zeal, motivation and especially God's grace, I assure you of securing a Scholarship

## MEANING OF SCHOLARSHIP

Okay, what do I mean by a Scholarship?

Anybody?....

Sorry I am a teacher 😊

Anybody to define a scholarship please

Well, because of the time, Scholarship simply means a grant or payment made to support a student's education awarded on the basis of academics or other achievements. That is it is a grant in form of money (kuudi as rightly used in Nigeria)... I think with what I explained up, you should know by now why you need to secure a scholarship for your study.

- It provides you opportunity to study at PG level free of charge
- It gives you exposure
- It opens you to a lot of opportunities;

Part of which include: learning a diverse cultures; Meeting new people, job opportunity and travelling experience

While we were joking one day, a friend was narrating his experience with travelling on air.

He said and I quote "Why should I not thank God for opportunity giving to me to travel by air when there are many people who loves to enter the plane even if they would be sent out immediately after boarding" 😊. With a

scholarship, you have the opportunity of travelling by air if you have not done so before. The importance are however not limited to these I mentioned.

## Types of Scholarship

There are mainly two types of Scholarship

1. Full scholarship
2. Partial scholarship

**Full scholarship:** As the name implies, if you secure this, you will be granted absolutely free fully funded scholarship. It covers but not limited to airfare, monthly stipend, laptop, health insurance.

**Partial Scholarship:** The scholarship that is not full is called a partial. It can cover some percentage of your tuition fee or might just be a tuition-free. In essence, it is not absolutely full scholarship

At this junction, let me advise you that if you win a partial scholarship and you can afford the rest of the payment, please go for it! Why? Remember, I said above, studying PG abroad opens you to many opportunities

Respected colleagues, the basis to winning a scholarship are **\*passion and commitment\***

## Examples of scholarship

There are thousands of Scholarship in the world depending on your preference, each has their deadlines. Examples are:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| • Commonwealth Scholarship            | • Poland Government 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                                 | • 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      | • KNB   |
| • MEXT scholarship Japan              |   |

They are more than these. You may follow @forum\_ISF on twitter to get updates on new applications

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PROCESS

Before you apply to any scholarship, ask yourself, these three questions.

- Is the scholarship genuine? (There are many scammers who aim to exploit scholars) So it is your responsibility to find out if it is a scam or not
- Am I eligible?
- What are my chances?

As soon as you answer these questions, then, proceed to gather documents needed to secure a scholarship

### Documents Required.

The documents required for scholarship application process include:-

- Transcript/ statement of results
- Proof of English test (IELTS, TOEFL, GRE or medium of instruction letter). In UK, some university accept a credit pass in your WAEC in lieu of other proof of English.
- Certificate ,if available (or notification of result)
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Published literature(s) (journals) (sometimes optional but it is an added advantage)
- Two or three recommendation letter from a Professor or Associate Professor.\*
- International passport
- Faith in God.

Kindly note you are not ready for a scholarship without the documents 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8

You need to spend some money. It worth it. Don't be a miser. Some good students are yet to secure a scholarship because they are **Miser**. They don't want to spend money taking their international passport, transcript etc and that is why we mandated the provision of international passport before you are added to ISF

Go and get your international passport if you do not have please, with all those I listed above

Also, I advise you go through this drive for all you need on scholarship (it includes series of lectures of securing scholarship in different countries, standard test materials etc)

It is one of the popular Nigeria Scholarship Forum In fact, the largest, to the best of my knowledge

[https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1UVI5yT-5JfMwyHHloxPwkuuPm08L\\_zBn](https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=1UVI5yT-5JfMwyHHloxPwkuuPm08L_zBn). Check this drive to see rich contents.

## CONCLUSION AND MOTIVATION

In closing, while applying, you may be getting denial (we call it a love letter).

"Love letter" is a term used a for rejection email. Don't be discouraged by it. We have some scholars who have a lot of rejections and now enjoying their scholarship.

I am one of them. The key is **Consistency**.

In conclusion, I advise you to go through the following:

One of the issues I often have to clarify with folks who are interested in Graduate studies outside of Nigeria is the choice of the type of examination to write.

I need to state this as clearly as possible: IELTS/TOEFL are not alternative exams for GRE. The former exams are English Proficiency exams (often required from INTERNATIONAL students whose native languages are not English).

The latter on the other hand, is an admission requirement for most Universities in the United States and few schools in Canada. The exam is written by NATIONALS of these countries as well as international students.

While it is possible to write only GRE as an international student (without writing IELTS/TOEFL) and still be considered for admission by some schools. It is almost...

You may keep the message below and refer to this whenever you get a love letter

Begin quote:

"YOUR SCARS WILL MAKE YOU A MASTER

Before you covet my achievements, you probably need to know that I am a product of many failed attempts at success. 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔

Here is a list of the Scholarships I lost:

1. NLNG Undergraduate Scholarship, Nigeria (2007).
2. Lagos State Scholarship Award for undergraduate students who are indigenes of Lagos State, Nigeria (2008).
3. Potential Assistantship Position for an MS degree at the Auburn University, USA, due to a low GRE score (2011).
4. Presidential Special programme scheme for Innovation and Development (Pressid) for postgraduate studies exclusively for First-class graduates of Nigeria (2012).
5. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the Newcastle University, UK (2012).
6. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Kent, UK (2012).
7. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Bristol, UK (2012).
8. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the Cranfield University, UK (2012).
9. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Warwick, UK (2012).
10. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at University of Southampton, UK (2012).
11. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of the West of Scotland, UK (2012).
12. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Glasgow (2012).
13. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Strathclyde, UK (2012).
14. International Postgraduate Scholarship Award at the Bournemouth University, UK (2012).
15. Westminster University Postgraduate Scholarship Award, UK (2012).
16. Postgraduate Scholarship Award at the University of Graz, Austria (2012).
17. Postgraduate Scholarship Award at the Vrije University, Belgium (2012).
18. Postgraduate Scholarship Award at the Corvinus University, Hungary (2012).
19. Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's Degree for WACOMA (Water and Coastal Management), European Universities led by the University of Cadiz, Spain (2012).
20. Felix Scholarship for a direct PhD degree at the University of Reading, UK (2012).
21. Potential Assistantship position for an MS degree at the Auburn University, USA, due to a low GRE score (2012).
22. International Postgraduate Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Sydney, Australia (2012).
23. International Postgraduate Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Melbourne, Australia (2012).
24. International Postgraduate Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Otago, New Zealand (2012).
25. Postgraduate Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Cape Town, South Africa (2012).
26. Postgraduate Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of McGill, Canada (2012).
27. Postgraduate Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Alberta, Canada (2012).
28. A PhD position at the Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology (SIIT), Thailand (2014).
29. PhD position at the University of South Australia (UNISA), Australia (2014).
30. PhD position at the University of Iceland, Iceland (2014).
31. PhD position at the University of St. Andrews, UK (2014).
32. PhD position at the University of Greenwich, UK (2014).



33. Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS) to the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (2014).
34. Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme (HKPFS) to the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong (2014).
35. Erasmus Mundus PhD Scholarship for MACOMA, Europe (2014).
36. PhD position at the University of Pretoria, South Africa (2015).
37. CIMO Fellowship Programme for PhD study at any university in Finland (2015).
38. Doctoral programme in interdisciplinary environmental sciences (DENVI) at the University of Helsinki, Finland (2015).
39. Singapore International Graduate Award (SINGA) for a PhD degree in Microbiology (Bioaugmentation option) at Nanyang Technology University (NTU), Singapore (2015).
40. Joint PhD Fellowship in Soil Biology at the University College Dublin and Teagasc Johnstown Castle, Ireland (2015).
41. PhD position at the Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (IITR), India (2015).
42. PhD position in the Ecotoxicology Research group at the University of Manitoba, Canada (2015).
43. PhD position in Ecology at the ETH Zurich, Switzerland (2015).
44. PhD position in Biological Sciences at the Tennessee State University, USA (2015).
45. Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme for International Students for a PhD degree at Limerick Institute of Technology, Ireland (2015).
46. PhD position at the Centre for Environmental Research, Innovation and Sustainability (CERIS) at the Institute of Technology, Sligo, Ireland (2015).
47. PhD position at the Dublin Institute Technology (DIT), Ireland (2015).

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I know many of you will be surprised. 🏆🏆🏆🏆 I am a scientist, I love keeping records. 😊😊😊

Despite losing almost 50 scholarships altogether mainly because I had no mentor and had to figure things out on my own, I still managed to secure 7 scholarships in my lifetime so far.

Here are the scholarships I have won:

1. Iju Scholarship initiative for undergraduate students resident in Lagos, Nigeria (2004).
  2. Total/Elf Petroleum Nigeria Ltd. (EPNL) National Tertiary Institutions Scholarships for undergraduate students in Nigerian universities (2006)
  3. Christ the Redeemers Ministries (CRM) Annual Bursary for undergraduate students who are RCCG (Redeem Christian Church of God) members who emerge successful in a nationwide examination (2007 and 2008).
  4. Federal Government of Nigeria Undergraduate Scholarships (2009/2010).
  5. London Metropolitan University (LMU) Postgraduate Scholarship Award for an MSc degree at the LMU, UK (2012).
  6. Commonwealth Shared Scholarship for an MSc degree at the University of Greenwich, UK (2012).
  7. Commonwealth PhD Scholarship for a PhD degree at the University of Manchester, UK (2015).
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Today, I have become so skilled at giving scholarship advice and reviewing scholarship forms for several people who end up winning.

I also raised other young scholars like me and today, we have formed a formidable force globally. Little wonder Illimani keeps producing scholarship winners annually in an unbelievable fashion. Now you know the secret to my success in scholarship affairs. The several scars I carry, earned me the unique knowledge and authority on scholarship matters anywhere in the world. I have seen it all and done it all; made all the errors you can think of and now its made me full of knowledge on this subject.

This is why there is a higher tendency of winning a scholarship when a young hungry brilliant Nigerian meets me. They feel the light-bulb effect almost instantly. 😊😊😊

Brace yourselves young Nigerians, my team is about to put forward a "Scholarship Mastery Boot camp", the first of its kind in Nigeria, and it is going to be awesome! Trust me. 🤔🤔🤔

Be expectant. 😊😊😊"

From where I am going to stop for tonight because of the time

Again, thanks for the opportunity given to me by AAUA MCB

May God Bless You All

Thanks for your attention

## Questions & Answers

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| <b>Q:</b> Must the professors be from your former school or any professor within the country? | <b>A:</b> Sorry, it is at most three letters. It doesn't matter if the Prof is from your school. So far he knows you and can demonstrate that in the letter, no problem! |
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| <b>Q:</b> Can someone with 2:2 or third class secure a fully funded scholarship? | <b>A:</b> Well... It is possible! We have seen few scholars who won a Scholarship with this grade (I know of some 2:2 guys).<br>But the person has to submit a strong application. E.g publications and good SOP<br>I advise those with 2:2 or third class to try and do their MSc in Nigeria and ensure they have Ph.D. grade |
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| <b>Q:</b> What of candidates without WAEC? Because some used Neco to secure admission | <b>A:</b> If the university or scholarship body takes English Proficiency letter (a letter that states who are taught in the English language), you may use it<br>But you should write TOEFL/IELTS if you have money, it is a plus point |
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| <b>Q:</b> Based on the scholarship he lost, what were the most common mistakes he could point out that made him forfeit them? | <b>A:</b> Well, the question is relative. But one of the major factors is bad SOP (essay)... Others include recommendation letters and a good grades.<br>You have to write a good essay and give expert to review them for you<br>At times, you may qualify but might be because many other scholars also qualify. There are 3 seats available and 10 scholars are qualify...you know what would happen |
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**Q:** And also, what are the chances of HND graduates securing a fully funded scholarship?

**A:** Nigerian HND is equivalent to a US Bachelor Degree. So, you do the conversion by evaluating with WES or any other evaluation agencies. So, they report your HND in American Bachelor degree. This way, you can make use of your US Bachelor's degree report anywhere in the world. Best of Luck.

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**Q:** Is it possible to win a scholarship without GRE, and other test of English examinations?

**A:** It is possible. It depends on the requirements set by the university or the body awarding the scholarship

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**Q:** How can one apply for GRE and what materials should one lay hands on to study for it?

**A:** You can visit the GRE website. Also, some scholar registers you at a subsidized price. For materials, check the ISF drive I shared.

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**Q:** Secondly without an NYSC certificate can one secure a scholarship?

**A:** Without an NYSC certificate, you can get a scholarship

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**Q:** Can age be a barrier to getting a scholarship?

**A:** Age can be a barrier in some scholarship but not all

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*Ikechukwu Nwali  
For: International Scholarship Forum [ISF]*

