**Scholarship Application Questions and Answers**

[August 8, 2016](http://scholarshipsglobe.com/scholarship-application-questions-answers/.html) [admin](http://scholarshipsglobe.com/author/admin)

**Scholarship Application Questions and Answers**

**Q: Are there scholarships for [specific field of study]? Are there scholarship for [nationality]?**

A: There are scholarships for most fields of study and for most nationalities.  The key is just to find them. In scholars4dev.com, scholarships are categorized by fields of study and by target group .  Click on a particular field of study or target group to view a list of available scholarships according to your criteria.

**Q: What are the general eligibility requirements to get a scholarship?**

A: The eligibility requirements vary from scholarship to scholarship. It will also depend on the level of study the scholarship supports. Based on the scholarships we have featured, some of the common qualifications include a previous University degree, proficiency in English, high academic grades, unconditional/conditional acceptance to a programme offered at a participating/host University. Aside from the eligibility requirements of the scholarship, you must also consider the eligibility requirements of the programme of study you are applying to.

**Q: How do I apply for a scholarship?**

A: The simple answer to that is to follow the application instructions given by the scholarship provider/University. The application instructions vary among scholarship providers so there is no standard way of applying to a scholarship.  The application instructions are usually outlined very clearly.  Follow the the instructions step by step so you will not get overwhelmed by the amount of information presented.

**Q: When is the best time to apply for a scholarship?**

A: The best time to apply for a scholarship is within the application period set by the scholarship provider/University. Usually, scholarship applications (as well as admissions) should be done 6 months to one year before the academic year you plan to study.

**Q: Are scholarships offered every year? If I missed the application deadline this year, can I apply for it the next year?**

A: Most major scholarships are offered annually but this will always depend if the University or the scholarship provider has enough funds for their scholarship program.

*From Neema Kallinga*

**Q: I have searched for scholarships so many times but I’ve failed to see scholarships offered to undergraduates. Most scholarships only cover PhD or MS/MA studies. Are there any undergraduate scholarships out there?**

A: Although it is somewhat true that most of the  existing scholarships are for postgraduate studies, there are international undergraduate scholarships that can be found (with a lot persistent searching).

*From FURAHA*

**Q: Will a scholarship allow me to study at any University around the globe or the does it require me to study only at a specific place or university?**

A:  It depends upon the type of scholarship.  There are scholarships that allows you to study at any country while other scholarships only allow you to study at specified host institutions .  Most government-sponsored scholarships allow you study at any University in their country .

*From Aliu and  Ngalim Adrian S.*

**Q:  Do I need to gain admission into my preferred course of study in the university of my choice first before applying for a scholarship? Is it possible to get a scholarship when you don’t have admission in a university yet?**

A: The application process differs from scholarship to scholarship. Most of the time, admissions to the Univeristy is required before you are allowed to apply for the scholarship.  Sometimes, the application to admissions and the application to the scholarship are submitted at the same time. In some instances, your application to admission already serves as your application to the scholarship – you don’t need a separate scholarship application. Still, there are some scholarship providers that allow you to apply for the scholarship even without admissions to a programme/school or while you are still processing your application to the programme.  One must then follow the application instructions set by the scholarship provider.

*From Babalola, Yisau*

**Q: Sometimes, the application form is not found at the website of the scholarship provider. How can I find the application forms easily?**

A:  The application form should always be found at the scholarship website but there are a number of reasons why it can’t be found. One reason could be that the scholarship application period hasn’t started yet so the form is still not available for viewing/downloading.  Another reason is that some scholarship websites don’t readily display the link to the application form.  If this is the case, then you should try to visit all the relevant pages of the scholarship website. Don’t forget to look at the left or right sidebars as the download link might be placed there.  When all else fails, contact the scholarship provider and request for the link to the application form.

*From Nalumansi Moureen*

**Q:  Is it possible for me to get a scholarship in the same country I am in and do i get to choose the course i want to study?**

A:  Most international scholarships require you to study in any country **except** your own. If you want to study in your own country, you should try to find national or local scholarships.  The liberty to choose a particular course of study will depend on the conditions set by the scholarship provider/University.

*From Mahama Alhassan and Hamidatu Salia Zakari*

**Q:  I have applied for a scholarship and am still waiting for a reply from the University . I want to know whether it’s advisable to call them and find out how my application is doing?  How will I know if I have  won a scholarship?**

A:  As much as possible, you should refrain from contacting the University regarding the results of your scholarship application.  If you are shortlisted or accepted into the scholarship, the scholarship provider/University will surely contact you. Usually, the scholarship provider indicates a specific time period when the selection results will come out. When you haven’t a received a confirmation during this time, then it would be safe to assume that you were not awarded with the scholarship.

*From Alexandra Muhaya*

**Q: I haven’t undertaken IELTS nor TOEFL  exams. Does that hinder my chances of getting a scholarship?**

Related Question from Moses Byomuhangi:

***I am from an English speaking country (Kenya) and i have been taught in English since i started school, would TOEFL be a requirement?***

A: Not all Universities require you to take the TOEFL or IELTS. A significant number of Universities  accepts a Certificate of English as Medium of Instruction in place of an English proficiency exam. When it is absolutely required by the University, then you must take TOEFL or other English proficiency exams regardless if you were taught in English during your University studies or not.

*From Billy*

**Q: How do you write the scholarship essay?**

Did the scholarship provider provide any format? If they did, you should follow that. If they have not specified a specific format, then you can follow this simple outline when making your application/motivation letter: (1) Background/Key Qualifications, (2) Intentions for studying, (3) Expectations of the Course, and (4) your plans during and after the study. In making the letter, you should not just tell them why you need the scholarship but more importantly you should  explain clearly why you deserve to get the scholarship.

*From  Carlos Mbuta*

**Q: The issue to age is not mentioned in most scholarships I have come across. Is age not a criteria?**

Related Question from Clement Irhiemi:

***Q: Is there any age limit to obtaining a scholarship abroad?***

A: Some scholarships set an age limit and some do not. If the scholarship provider did not indicate an age limit as part of their eligibility requirements then it is safe to assume that there is no age limit. When there is an age limit, scholarship providers set different age limits for different levels of study (i.e. Masters, Phd, postdoctoral fellowships).

*From Charity Mbuvah*

**Q: Is there a way for the application fee to be waived? l cannot afford to pay for it.**

*Related Question:*

***Is TOEFL exam supported by the scholarship?***

A: You should be prepared to use your own funds for the application fee because most scholarship providers don’t shoulder this  cost\*. Most often than not, the cost of preparing the application requirements including the TOEFL exam is not covered by a scholarship. If you are really serious in pursuing a scholarship, you must try to save up for the cost of TOEFL or the application fee.

Note: Not all Universities require an application fee, in fact, a significant number of Universities allow you to apply without  having to pay any application fee.  Be aware of scholarship scams and double check if the University really requires an application fee.

***Scholarship Tip #1: Look into Scholarships in Any Field of Study and Any Country***

Still can’t find a scholarship in your preferred field of study? or a scholarship in the university/country you want to study in? Explore more scholarships by looking into scholars4dev.com’s lists of scholarships in any field of study and list of scholarships for study in any country.

Although it is always best to start your search by looking for scholarships specially dedicated to your specific field of study or scholarships specifically intended for study in the university/country of your choice, it is also beneficial to look into scholarships in any field of study and any country. This gives you added flexibility and more choices.

It is important to remember though that by “scholarships in any field of study”, we refer to scholarships in any field of study offered by the University/scholarship provider and not literally all fields of study. By “scholarships in any university/country” we basically refer to scholarships that can be conducted in any country or any university in any country as specified by the scholarship provider.  You should remember that this categorization is not absolute, you should expect limitations and  exceptions in some cases.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER**: When viewing the scholarship profile, you should always remember to see the section “Fields of Study”.  In this section, you will find a list of eligible programmes or a link to a list of eligible programmes under the scholarship.  In some cases, the University or scholarship provider will not fund certain fields of study or will not allow study in certain countries while in some instances, the scholarship provider specifies only a set of programmes or countries that can be eligible under the scholarship program.  Thus, before you apply, you should always confirm first if the field of study you are interested in or the country you intend to study in, is approved under the scholarship program.

***Scholarship Tip # 2: Don’t Apply to Every Scholarship***

It might make sense to apply to every scholarship that comes your way but consider our advice to apply only to a few scholarships. This will not only save you time and effort but also help you improve your chances in getting a scholarship.

This advice follows the Pareto Principle or the 80/20 Rule. Applying this principle in scholarship application, it is wise to apply only to 20% of available  scholarships that would give you 80% chance of success.

Let’s try to put this into example.

You are an African, particularly, a Nigerian looking for a scholarship in Masters in Development Studies in Germany. After your search, you were able to find 10 scholarships that are available for Africans for study in Germany.

Following the advice above, you will try to focus on applying to 2-3 scholarships that gives you higher chances of success.  The question now is, how do you pick the scholarships you should apply to?

This question can be answered by considering the following criteria:

1. Which among the 10 scholarships you found are specifically targeted to Nigerians?
2. Which among the 10 scholarships are aligned to your qualifications?
3. Which among the 10 scholarships prioritize the study programme you are applying for?

The ideal scholarship you are looking for is a scholarship program that is targeted specifically to Nigerians, whose eligibility requirements matches your qualifications, and if possible, whose priority programs include Masters in Development Studies or related programs.

Applying to a scholarship that is matched to your citizenship, qualifications, and interests generally gives you better chances. As well, applying only to a few scholarships gives you more time to make a great scholarship application letter, complete all your application requirements, and submit your application on time.

This advice is not meant to be a rule; you are always free to apply to more scholarships as you wish if you would think it would increase your chances. The general advice is to make sure you are applying for scholarships that are matched to you and not just any scholarship that presents itself.

Browse through our categories to find scholarships that are best matched to you!

***Scholarship Tip #3: Discover school-specific scholarships***

As you browse scholars4dev.com, you will notice that there are a lot of scholarship programs offered by major international organizations and universities. But did you know that there are other numerous scholarships offered by specific schools of a university that are not listed? Read more to find out about school-specific scholarships.

School-specific scholarships are scholarships offered by a particular school under a University.  For example, the [Institute of Education](http://www.ioe.ac.uk/index.html) – a school/college under University of London offers school-specific scholarships  such as [Centenary Masters Scholarships for International Students](http://www.ioe.ac.uk/studentInformation/41455.html).

School-specific scholarships are good scholarships to apply to because they are targeted to your field of study. As well, fewer people know about these scholarships because they are not as easy to find as university-wide scholarships and not as known as popular scholarships. Generally, because of these reasons, there is lesser competition in applying for school-specific scholarships compared to university-wide scholarships and popular scholarships.

Sometimes the official scholarship page of the University lists school-specific scholarships while sometimes the University has their own scholarship database that contains the school-specific scholarships but most often than not, school-specific scholarships are buried in the college/school’s own scholarship page.

Start your search of school-specific scholarships by visiting the website of the specific school of a University that offers the course your are interested in. Browse through their ‘scholarship’ page or ‘fees and funding’ page. You could also inquire directly with the school about the scholarships they offer.

To help jumpstart your search for school-specific scholarships, use the following lists to arrive at the university scholarship page. From there, you can follow the advice above:

***Scholarship Tip #5: Take note of Annual Scholarship Programs***

Offered yearly, most annual scholarship programs are well-funded scholarships meaning they have enough funds to sustain the program for a long time and they have ample number of scholarship available.  Thus, it is wise to take note of annual scholarship programs.

Popular scholarship programs such as Fulbright Scholarships, Commonwealth Scholarships, DAAD Scholarships, Erasmus Mundus Scholarships, and Australian Development Scholarships are examples of annual scholarship programs but there are a lot more

Scholarships Tip #6: Ask Yourself “Am I Qualified for a Scholarship?”

In applying for scholarships, it is important to realize certain truths about scholarships as well as truths about yourself.  Am I really qualified for an international scholarship? Are my qualifications enough? What can I do to improve my chances? These are the questions that [scholarshipsglobe.com](http://scholarshipsglobe.com/) will help you try to answer.

## The Hard Truth about Scholarships

One important thing you should know about scholarships is that they are not given out just to anyone  who asks, requests, or begs for it.  They are not given just because you are poor and disadvantaged.  They are not given just because you are from a developing country or just because you belong to a minority group.  The truth is scholarships are not given out, they are earned. You earn it by demonstrating your potential and establishing your qualifications.

## Am I Qualified for an International Scholarship?

Although it is true that your disadvantaged situation initially qualifies you for a scholarship (that’s why there are minority scholarships, scholarships based on financial need, developing country scholarships), you will still have to satisfy other qualifications set by the scholarship provider.

Let’s look at a general overview of typical scholarship qualifications required by scholarship providers.

Minimum Scholarship Qualifications

– You must be from a country which the scholarship provider specifies

– You must be of a certain age as set by the scholarship provider. Note that this is not always the case, there are many scholarships where there is no age requirement.

– You must hold a High School Diploma when applying for a Bachelors; a Bachelor’s Degree when applying for Master’s; and a Master’s Degree when applying for PhD

– You must meet the  academic requirements of the programme you are applying to. In most cases, you have to be accepted in the progamme your are applying to before you are considered for a scholarship.

– You must have good knowledge of English language with TOEFL or IELTS scores as proof. In some cases, proof of English as medium of instruction in your university degree would suffice.

Additional Qualifications of Specific Types of Scholarships

– Entrance Scholarships: you have to meet the high school academic average set by the scholarship provider (usually 90% or above)

– Excellence Scholarships: you have to meet the GPA required by the scholarship provider (usually 3.0 or above on a 4.0 rating system)

– Leadership Scholarships: you must demonstrate leadership potential and possess leadership skills and/or experience

– Competition Scholarships: you must win the competition (i.e. essay competition)

– Development Scholarships: you must go back to your home country after your studies

– Youth Scholarships:  you have to be young, atleast below 25

## Are my Qualifications Enough?

Even if you meet the minimum qualifications of the scholarship, it doesn’t necessarily mean you’ll get a scholarship. Yes, good qualification improve your chances but still, there will be hundreds or thousands of you with the same qualifications applying for the same scholarship. Thus, scholarship providers set up scholarship criteria to filter out the best students who will get the scholarship. Here are some of the scholarship criteria used by scholarship provider:

•  The student’s academic excellence and potential in his/her proposed field of study –  applicants must be able to demonstrate a connection between their subject of study and their longer-term career objectives.

•  The student’s academic performance – as evidenced by grades, test scores, publications, letters of recommendation from his/her previous education.

•  The student’s motivation letter (or in some cases, a motivation essay)

•  The quality of the scholarship application submitted (completeness, accuracy, consistency).

•  In development scholarships in particular, students are assessed based on their potential to contribute to the development of their home country.

•  In the case of research students, students are assessed based on the merits and relevance of their proposed research study.

Knowing these criteria, you can find ways to gain advantage over your competitors.  For example, if you don’t have very good academic grades, the personal motivation letter is your chance to show how you deserve to get the scholarship.   In another example, you can do a little extra research about the current areas of focus of the scholarship provider because sometimes,  students are chosen based on their chosen field of study or research – if it aligns with the scholarship provider’s core mission/themes.  It is also useful to know the profiles of previous scholarship recipients; it will give you an idea of the kind of student that the scholarship providers are looking for.

## A Simple Test

Here’s a simple way to test your chances in getting a scholarship. Answer truthfully: have you met at least the minimum scholarship qualifications outlined above? If yes, then you have a good chance in getting a scholarship. If no, then you would have tougher chances in getting a scholarship; either you find a way to meet the qualifications set by the scholarship provider or find other scholarships that doesn’t require strict qualifications.

Hopefully, this post helped you to gain new perspective about applying for a scholarship and what it requires from you.

***Scholarship Tip #7: Tap into other Scholarship Resources***

## ****Scholarship Portal EU****

[**www.scholarshipportal.eu**](http://www.scholarshipportal.eu/)

This massive portal of scholarships lists 1,559 active scholarships in Europe for international students.  Using their database, you can search scholarships according to level of study, discipline, and country of origin.

## ****Education USA Financial Updates****

[**www.educationusa.info/financial-aid.php**](http://www.educationusa.info/financial-aid.php)

The EducationUSA network is supported by the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs (ECA).  Though their financial updates page, they help international students find updated scholarships provided by US Universities and colleges.

## ****Scholarship Search UK****

[**www.scholarship-search.org.uk**](http://www.scholarship-search.org.uk/)

About £250 Million worth of scholarships in UK are found in this comprehensive database which lists all available scholarships offered by UK Universities.

## ****DAAD Scholarship Database****

[**www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/12359-finding-scholarships/**](https://www.daad.de/deutschland/stipendium/datenbank/en/12359-finding-scholarships/)

In this database you can find information on various kinds of DAAD funding for foreign students, graduates and postdocs as well as on funding offered by other selected organisations for study in Germany.

## ****JASON: Postgraduate Scholarship Database in Australia****

[**www.jason.edu.au**](http://www.jason.edu.au/)

The Joint Academic Scholarship Online Network (JASON) is a postgraduate scholarship search engine developed jointly by a number of universities. Scholarships in the database apply to Australian students wishing to study at home or abroad, and to international students wishing to study in Australia.  The subscription service offers students the opportunity to create a personal profile of their funding requirements. This service will automatically alert students, via e-mail, to any new scholarships.

## ****CampusBourses: Grant Search Engine in France****

[**www.campusbourses.org**](http://www.campusfrance.org/fria/bourse/index.html)

CampusBourses delivers instant information on financial aid by allowing you to perform searches customized to your needs. From the licence (bachelor) to the postdoc levels, CampusBourses contains data on grant and scholarship programs of national and local governments, corporations, foundations, and institutions of higher education.

## ****Scholarships Bourses Canada****

[**w01.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca/scholarshipnoncdn-boursenoncdn.aspx?lang=eng**](https://w01.scholarships-bourses.gc.ca/scholarshipnoncdn-boursenoncdn.aspx?lang=eng)

This is Canada Government’s official scholarship website where you can find scholarships, bursaries and grants for international students by country of origin.

***Scholarship Tip #8: Improve your Chances in Winning a Scholarship***

Winning a scholarship is not a simple thing to do considering there are a LOT of scholarship seekers and there are only a FEW scholarship awards out there.  In numbers, we are talking about  millions of students vying for only thousands of available scholarships.  How then can you improve your chances in winning a scholarship?

## ****Find scholarships that only few know about****

Sometimes, knowledge is key in winning a scholarship.  In your months of searching, you must have come across popular worldwide scholarships and flagship scholarships of popular universities.  These scholarships are great to apply to but extremely competitive to get. There is one type of scholarships that you might have better chances of winning: school-specific or department-specific scholarships. School-specific scholarships are good scholarships to apply to because they are targeted to your field of study and more importantly, fewer people know about these scholarships because they are not as easy to find as university-wide scholarships and not as known as popular scholarships. Generally, there is lesser competition in applying for these scholarships, thereby increasing your chances.

## ****Apply only for scholarships that are best matched to you****

This advice involves finding out which scholarships are best matched to you. In an ideal situation, you would want to apply to a scholarship program that is targeted to your country of origin, whose eligibility requirements matches your qualifications, and if possible, whose priority fields of study are related to your degree/research/experience.

## ****Stand out in your scholarship application****

Since scholarship application is quite competitive, your application must stand out above the rest. This means you must not only meet the scholarship criteria set by the scholarship provider but exceed it. The key here is to know the specific criteria set by the scholarship provider and make it work to your advantage. Once you know their criteria, you can find creative ways to to highlight the strengths of your scholarship application.

For example, if you don’t have very good academic grades, you can highlight relevant extra-curricular activities in your personal motivation letter.  In another example, you can do a little extra research about the current areas of focus of the scholarship provider because sometimes,  students are chosen based on their chosen field of study or research – if it aligns with the scholarship provider’s core mission/themes.  It is also useful to know the profiles of previous scholarship recipients; it will give you an idea of the kind of student that the scholarship providers are looking for.