**SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES**

By Dr Saka,PhD(Hong Kong)

Salaam alaykum warahmathuLlaah wabarakatuh @all

Good evening/afternoon/morning to you...depending on which side of the divide you are. My name is Abdullah Saka...I had my first degree in Nigeria; PhD Student in Hong Kong.

Need I say, It is a pleasure to be in the midst of passionate scholars here. Thanks to those that pushed for the creation of this group as some of us benefitted from a similar group created two years ago. I hope we will be able to repeat the success stories of the first group in the coming years. I know we have pundits here (I doff my hat in utmost humility) regardless, I will try to make it as simple as possible for the purpose of some and to serve as the basis.

The structure for tonight's class is:

a) Introduction to scholarship

b) Vital documents

c) Proposed classes

d) Q and A

" Actions are (judged) by motives (niyyah), so each man will have what he intended..." You can be pursuing scholarships with a good niyyah (something like helping other Muslims, 'repping' Islam, more knowledge et al).

...of what purpose is your certificate without the deen. One of my 'Ogas' do say 'What a rewarding life it is for him with the deen and dunyah'

**A) Introduction**

Scholarships come in various forms. We have partial, full, studentship, Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, and Tuition waiver et al. Also, scholarships from Universities, Governments, Organizations, and Individuals.

There is no clear compartmentalization between some of the scholarships, as some of them are interwoven.

[10/21, 14:16] Dr Saka MMC: Scholarships are often targeted at indigents/ academic achievers/ those that are helping their community. Some scholarships can combine any of the three or standalone.

**The basis is \*passion\***

Getting scholarships is all about information; if you are not informed you'd be deformed. There are a thousand and one great scholarship opportunities around the world, but most of us don't know about them. You can get scholarships information from blogs, sites, school webs, et al. You need to plan ahead about the scholarships you'd like to apply for. Know the key dates (application start date and deadline) and the requirements; with these, you'd be able to have a workable plan.

I once heard obliquely from a Chinese Scholar in MIT that "Asians do write and revise their scholarship essays for more than a year".

A friend of mine (a Nigerian) used a whole year (12 months) to prepare for one Ivy league school.

http://afrischolarships.com

https://scholarship-positions.com

https://www.scholarshipportal.com

https://www.afterschoolafrica.com

https://www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships/

http://www.scholars4dev.com/8319/fully-funded-scholarships-international-students/

https://www.studyandscholarships.com/?m=1

http://afrischolarships.com

https://scholarship-positions.com

https://www.scholarshipportal.com

https://www.afterschoolafrica.com

https://www.internationalstudent.com/scholarships/

http://www.scholars4dev.com/8319/fully-funded-scholarships-international-students/

https://scholarshipsandaid.org

You can subscribe to some of these sites for newsletters for the latest scholarships...

There are scholarships opportunities all over the world... You should decide with an informed mind...Not because your friends are going to the US, UK, Canada or this and that. Each country has requirements and discipline standards varies across the world.

Some US schools are leading in certain disciplines, same with the UK, Canada, Germany, France, Hong Kong, and other countries. Your decision should be based on your discipline ranking, University ranking, job prospect after graduation among other key factors to be considered. Also, you should apply for scholarships selectively, especially those with application fees. Don't waste money when you don't even meet the basic requirements...

Most scholarship applications are free\* save for application fees, don't pay agents to do the application for you...Well, if you have the cash to throw around, you can go ahead; and if you are not really after scholarships, you just want to leave the country.

There is a rule of thumb for scholarship application that requires payment;

1: Do you meet the basic requirement?

2: Is it genuine?

3: What are your chances?

4: Is it worthy?

After the Countries/schools/scholarships decision...

Worthy of note here is that application method varies. E.g Canada Unis require getting a supervisor, same with some other countries. In the light of that, we'd be having classes for different countries/scholarships in the coming days. Also, some schools require personal statement/statement of purpose/statement of intent/essays...we'd be having a class on this too.

We have exams like GRE/IELTS/TOEFL...

GRE is graduate record exams...Most US schools require this (Not all schools and not all courses). A friend of mine had his MSc in the UK and he is currently doing his PhD in the US without writing any of the aforementioned exams.

It is all about information. I'd advise you to take the exam(s) \*if required\*, as it won't limit your applications. Also, don't rush to take any of the exams.

IELTS and TOEFL are English Proficiency tests...IELTS is British oriented while TOEFL is US oriented.

GRE is one great exam...lol. A brother of ours had 170/170 in his Quant...he destroyed GRE and TOEFL. He will be here to share his experience and tips.

For those that are US inclined...You can search for school that doesn't require GRE...If you don't have the means to take the exam. I think MIT and some ~crazy~ schools are not GRE freak again these days. The Indians and Asians are GRE guru...They've recorded perfect score or near-perfect score in the past and up till now.

**Know the scholarship/school requirements before taking any of the exams...**

**B) Vital documents**

The following are vital documents for application:

\* Passport (I heard there is no such thing as an International passport...issokay)

\*Transcript

\*Certificate

These three documents are very vital...If you don't have them yet, try to get them ASAP; but that doesn't stop you from making plans for your applications. There are other documents depending on the school/scholarship requirement...There is also this misconception that scholarships are for first class graduates only; while there are some scholarships that favor first class graduates, there are \*many other\* scholarships that are open for all to compete...

Direct PhD is not meant for first class graduates only in the US...It is all about how you can package your applications and some other factors that we will be discussing during US admission class. In essence, scholarship application is all about planning and knowing your options. Knowing how to cross your t's and dot your i's.

If you can't package your application to standard...irrespective of your grade, you'd receive a well-packaged rejection mail

"Dear Mr/Miss/Ms.....

We received applications from many qualified candidates like you...🌚"

Need I say...Rejection mails are part of scholarship applications...You win some, you lose some. Your rejection mail is a testimony that you have tried but there are some useless rejection mails as a result of your own doing. Don't just submit for submitting sake...Submit a good application.

Some received so many rejection mails...but that didn't stop them. They reevaluate and refire...

Imagine getting 19 rejection mails out of 22 applications.

They didn't back out...we have them as mentors today. Some of our senior colleagues had more than enough rejection mails, we have some of them here today.

I'm laying emphasis on this because it is a normal thing...and you shouldn't back out when you are at the receiving end. Just imagine receiving a rejection mail thru DHL.

"Well packaged and expensive rejection mail

**C) Proposed classes**

"What has reached you was never meant to miss you and what has missed you was never meant to reach you."

In the coming days/weeks...

**We will be having comprehensive classes on the following:**

**Hong Kong PhD Fellowship Scheme**

**Commonwealth Scholarship**

**PTDF Scholarship**

**Turkiye Scholarship**

**US scholarships**

**China scholarships**

**Canada Scholarships**

**New Zealand scholarships**

**Saudi Arabi, Qatar, and UAE scholarships**

**Erasmus Mundus**

**AIMS**

**MasterCard scholarship**

All these classes will be anchored by scholars that have won the scholarships before...

It is time for \*Q and A\*

This just an introduction class..we'd start with the comprehensive classes in the coming days.