

The Gates Cambridge Scholarships

In October 2000, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced a donation of \$210 million to the University of Cambridge to establish the Gates Cambridge Trust. Gates Cambridge Scholarships are available to outstanding young men and women from outside the United Kingdom who wish to pursue a full-time graduate degree in any subject offered at the University of Cambridge. Scholarships are awarded on **outstanding intellectual ability, reasons for choice of course, a commitment to improving the lives of others, and leadership potential** between the candidate and the University of Cambridge.

I. Eligibility

- Be citizens of any country outside the United Kingdom.
- Apply to pursue one of the following full-time residential courses of study at the University of Cambridge:
 - PhD (three-year research only degree)
 - MPhil or MLitt (two-year research only degree)
 - One-year post-graduate course
- Must be admitted to one of the degrees above at Cambridge through the University's normal admission procedures. The Trust does not admit students.
- Courses which are NOT eligible for Gates Cambridge Scholarships:
 - Any Undergraduate degree (a second BA)
 - Business Doctorate (BusD), Master of Business (MBA) & Master of Finance (MFin)
 - MBBChir Clinical Studies
 - MD Doctor of Medicine degree (6 years, part-time), Graduate Course in Medicine
 - Part-time degrees; Non-degree courses; PGCE

II. Awards (80 scholarships each year)

A Gates Cambridge Scholarship covers the full cost of studying at Cambridge, namely:

- the University Composition Fee and College fees at the appropriate rate
- A maintenance allowance for a single student - £17,848/year (US\$23,485)
- one economy single airfare at both the beginning and end of the course
- Family allowance – Dependent only. No funding is provided for a partner.
- Conference attendance & Fieldwork

III. Criteria

Academic Excellence - Gates Cambridge Scholars are expected to be academically outstanding with the ability to make a significant contribution to their discipline.

Reasons for choice of course - It is important that you can make a convincing argument for doing a particular postgraduate degree at Cambridge. It is therefore important that you fully research and justify the course for which you are applying.

A commitment to improving the lives of others - A defining characteristic of the Gates Cambridge Scholarships is the commitment of our Scholars to improving the lives of others. We interpret this criterion broadly and applicants define it themselves by providing evidence of their past, current and future commitment to the societies.

A capacity for Leadership - Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate a capacity for leadership, which can be expressed in a multitude of ways. Applicants should provide evidence of their leadership experience to date and indicate the ways in which their leadership skills may have impact in the future careers.

IV. Application Package

- Cambridge Online Application form
The Graduate Studies Application Form is also your application to the Gates-Cambridge Scholarship.
- Three letters of reference (two for academic and one for scholarship reference)
- Application Fee: pay online with credit card
- University Transcript(s)
- **Scholarship Personal Statement (3000 characters)**

“In not more than 3000 characters (approximately 500 words) please explain why you are applying for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship and how you meet the four main criteria.”

V. Selection Process

	For U.S. citizen	For non-U.S. citizen
Application Due	October	December
Announce Finalists	December	Early March
Finalists Interview	January	March
Inform Recipients	Within a week after the interview	

Interview - All shortlisted candidates will be invited for a 20-25 minute interview and, depending on where you are, you can interview either in person or virtually.

There are four broadly subject-based interview panels: Arts, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, & Social Sciences.

Each three to four person panel usually consists academics, a representative of the Trust and Gates Cambridge alumni.

VI. Helpful Websites

- <http://www.gatescambridge.org/> - Gates Cambridge Foundation Official Site
- <https://www.postgraduate.study.cam.ac.uk/> - Graduate Students Guide
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=svr7lbR5Az0&t=18s> – Scholarship You Tube video