



Scholars
Program



UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN
IYUNIVESITHI YASEKAPA • UNIVERSITEIT VAN KAAPSTAD

THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN (UCT)

TERMS OF REFERENCE AND CONDITIONS OF AWARD FOR MASTERS STUDY PROGRAMMES APPLICANTS

The University of Cape Town has partnered with The Mastercard Foundation in its Global Scholars' Program; an educational initiative that will provide young people from economically disadvantaged backgrounds, with leadership potential from developing countries in Africa with access to quality university education.

The scholarships ensure a premium educational package that will produce graduates whose qualifications are internationally recognized and locally applicable, and whose transition into the workforce is underpinned by values of engaged citizenship and social justice.

The University of Cape Town invites applications for award of a limited number of scholarships for full-time study for a postgraduate Masters degree in any discipline¹. The scholarships will be granted on the basis of academic talent, financial need and leadership potential to students who intend to commence with their first year of registration for full-time postgraduate study, and who will register in 2024 at the University of Cape Town. No applications will be considered from applicants who have previously registered and graduated with a Masters qualification.

A strong expectation of the Program is that successful applicants who are awarded the Scholarship return to their home countries to invest their gained skills and education in their country's social and economic growth.

1. Selection Criteria

- Applicants must have applied and received a firm offer to study at UCT (**for the 2024 academic year**)
- Applicants must come from an economically disadvantaged background
- Applicants must demonstrate leadership potential and must have acted in a leadership capacity
- Applicants must meet the set academic criteria (see no.3 below)
- No applications for Undergraduate, Honours, Postgraduate Diploma, MBA and PhD studies will be accepted or considered for the 2024 Scholar intake to the Program

2. Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration for The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Cape Town, applicants must meet the following criteria:

Target Group

- Be a citizen of an African country
- Be admitted to a postgraduate **Masters study programme** and preparing to commence with **their first year of registration** in the Engineering and the Built Environment, Commerce, Health Sciences, Humanities, Law, or Sciences faculties at UCT
- Be from an economically disadvantaged background, demonstrate financial need, and leadership potential
- Applicants who intend to register for a second Masters postgraduate degree at the same level are ineligible to apply for this scholarship
- Applicants who have previously registered for Masters postgraduate degree at any higher learning institution are ineligible to apply for this scholarship

¹ Graduate School of Business, MBA excluded.



3. Academic Criteria

- Only applicants who have applied to the relevant academic department at UCT are eligible to apply for The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Cape Town awards.
- The comments on the academic abilities of the applicant by the academic referees will form part of the academic criteria for this scholarship.
- Successful applicants will be required to produce the original academic transcripts on arrival and registration at UCT.
- Applicants will be required to produce translated copies of all academic transcripts where English is not the primary language.

4. Financial Need Criteria

Financial Need must be illustrated as follows:

- Full declaration of all financial and educational details required must be recorded on The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Cape Town, online postgraduate scholarship application form.
- Details of all property and assets of any nature must be declared.
- UCT reserves the right to request that applicants furnish evidence of answers/statements on the application form. If it is found that the provided information is false or untrue, the University further reserves the right to disqualify an application and/or to cancel the scholarship award and recover any scholarship funds that may have been disbursed out to an awardee.

5. Value of the Scholarships

5.1. The scholarships will cover for the following:

- Reimbursement of costs incurred for visa application processing
- An economy class air ticket to Cape Town South Africa for awardees who are i) citizens and/or residents of an African country other than South Africa or ii) residing in South Africa but outside of Cape Town
- Full tuition fees and international student fees
- Accommodation in a student residence managed by the UCT Student Housing Admissions and Advocacy Services at UCT
- Meals through the student housing system at UCT
- Medical cover with a recommended medical aid service provider
- A living stipend; to be used to cover ad hoc expenses pertaining to awardees' studies
- A book allowance to purchase the prescribed textbooks required for the degree programme
- Costs related to community activities as prescribed by The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Cape Town
- Access to an internship opportunity, career development and job placement assistance
- An economy class air ticket home upon completion of studies, for awardees who are i) citizens of and/or residents of an African country other than South Africa or ii) residing in South Africa but outside of Cape Town

6. Tenure of the Scholarships

The Foundation has offered the scholarships for the full duration of the period of study, renewable annually and subject to satisfactory academic performance and demonstration of a track record of participation in the activities and opportunities offered by the Program and is not automatic.

Where renewals are made, the eligibility of the applicant and the academic progress of the Scholar will be taken into consideration.

7. Application Procedure

- 7.1. In order to apply for The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Cape Town, applicants must first apply to UCT for academic study and placement (Important to note - upon generating the student number, applicants may proceed with the scholarship application whilst awaiting final academic application outcomes).
- 7.2. At the point of scholarship selection, the applicant should have a conditional/firm offer from UCT.
- 7.3. The following required supporting documents must be attached/uploaded to the POSTGRADUATE scholarship application form on the online application portal:
 - Certified copy of Identity Document, Passport or Refugee Papers
 - Applicant's Curriculum Vitae (CV) of no more than *two(2)* A4 pages using the following points as context:
 - Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities
 - Skills and Interests
 - Academic and/or Professional Experience Certified copies of all Secondary education transcripts
 - Certified copies of all current and previous Tertiary education transcripts
 - Two (2) different Academic Referee Reports
 - Applicants are required to produce translated copies of all academic transcripts and academic referee reports where English is not the primary language
 - Referees may attach additional pages or documentation in support of the recommendation on the official institutional letterhead with original signature, stamp and date in support of the applicant
 - Applicants are required to submit an essay, of no more than 2000 words which provides a brief explanation of the applicants background / circumstances and additional information using the following points as context:
 - In which ways do you envisage contributing to the economic growth and social development of your country and Africa on completion of your studies, using your education as leverage?
 - Explain any community service activities you have been involved in.
 - List the qualities that, for you, define leadership and elaborate on leadership initiatives that you have undertaken.
- 7.4. A police clearance certificate (less than 6 months old) or proof of application
- 7.5. Shortlisted applicants may be required to attend an interview and submit documentary evidence of the information provided on the scholarship application form.
- 7.6. The submission of incomplete and / or late scholarship applications will not be accepted and will be cancelled. Such applicants will not be considered for



- selection of scholarships.
- 7.7. Appeals against a scholarship outcome decision should be submitted to The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program Selection Committee Chairperson, within 5 days of the publication of the scholarship outcome result at info_mcfsp@uct.ac.za. The subject line of the e-mail should read as MCF SCHOLARSHIP APPEAL. Any appeal received after 5 days of notification of the scholarship outcome decision will **NOT** be considered.
 - 7.8. Please refer to The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Cape Town website for information about the Program:
<https://www.uct.ac.za/mcfsp>
 - 7.9. To apply for a Mastercard Foundation scholarship applicants will need to visit The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program scholarship application website available at this link: <https://uctmcf.smapply.io/>
 - 7.10. No applications will be accepted via e-mail, hardcopy or any other method outside of the online application portal.
 - 7.11. For any queries on the application process, contact the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program: Program Co-ordinator at info_mcfsp@uct.ac.za (telephone number + 27 21 650 3601).

The University of Cape Town and The Mastercard Foundation reserve the right to cancel incomplete and/or late applications, to effect changes to the conditions of the scholarships or to make no awards at all.