

# Gates-Cambridge Scholarship

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# Introduction

**The Gates-Cambridge is more than a financial award — it is an opportunity to join a global community of leaders committed to making a lasting difference in the world.**

**This is a fully funded award that supports exceptional students in pursuing postgraduate study at Cambridge.**

# OVERVIEW

Established in 2000 through a \$210 million donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge, the Gates Cambridge Scholarship builds a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.

Awards per year ~**80**  
Countries eligible **All non-UK**  
Alumni network **1,700+**  
Alumni countries **112**

Approximately two-thirds of awards go to PhD students. Typically, 25 are available in the US round, with 55 available in the international round.

# Funding

## Funding covers...

### CORE COMPONENTS

- Full University Composition Fee
- Maintenance allowance: £22,050/year (2025–26 rate)
- Return economy airfare
- Visa costs & Immigration Health Surcharge

### DISCRETIONARY ADD-ONS

- Academic development: up to £2,000
- Dependent children allowance
- Fieldwork support (PhD)
- Maternity/paternity funding
- Hardship grants

**The scholarship covers the full cost of studying at Cambridge, plus discretionary funding.**

PhD scholars receive funding for up to 4 years. The maintenance allowance may be reduced if you hold a salary or another scholarship.

# Eligibility

Eligibility  
[Check here.](#)

- Any nationality except British citizens
- Applying for a PhD, MLitt, or one-year postgraduate course at Cambridge
- No age restriction

# Application Components

**This scholarship uses a combined application form: the admission section and the funding section. (see following slide)**

**Applicants submit their application for admission and funding (Gates Cambridge and any other funding) via the University's Graduate Application Portal.**

# Application Components

## Funding Section (the bulk of your application)

### Gates Cambridge selection questions

- Please describe how, through your education and past experiences, you have displayed academic excellence.
- Please explain why you want to study this specific course at the University of Cambridge, and how it will facilitate your future plans
- Please provide an example, or examples, of how you have demonstrated a commitment to improving the lives of others. Please explain why this is important to you and how it is relevant to your future plans.
- Please provide an example, or examples, of how you have demonstrated a capacity for leadership. How will this help you make an impact in the future?

# Application Components

## **Research proposal (PhD applicants only)**

Gates Cambridge requires PhD applicants to submit a research proposal as part of their application for funding.

## **Gates Cambridge reference**

In addition to two academic references for admission, Gates Cambridge applicants must arrange for someone to submit a reference setting out how they meet the scholarship's criteria.

**Visit the Gates Cambridge “How to Apply” site for more details.**

<https://www.gatescambridge.org/apply/how-to-apply/>

# Selection Criteria

## **Four core criteria:**

- Outstanding intellectual ability
- Well-reasoned choice of course
- Commitment to improving the lives of others
- Leadership potential

*Consider how your application reflects these (including letters of recommendation).*

# Application Timelines

**Sept 2026**

**Applications open (US and International rounds)**

**Oct 2026**

**US round deadline — US citizens resident in the USA must apply by late October 2026**

**Dec 2026 - Jan 2027**

**International round deadline — all other eligible applicants; exact date depends on your Cambridge course**

**Apr 2027**

**Scholarships offered (international round); US round scholarships offered late winter/early spring**

**Requires  
institutional  
endorsement.**

**Internal  
deadline:**

**Aug 14**

# Next Steps

- **Visit your campus fellowships office.** This scholarship requires an institutional endorsement.
- **Research programs of study.** Know which Cambridge course you want — and why. Your "reasons for choice" matter enormously.
- **Build your recommender network early.**

**Gates Cambridge**  
Gatescambridge.org

- Articulate your interest to others.** This scholarship prioritizes service and leadership with purpose — not just achievement.
- **Mark your calendar.** Campus deadlines are typically weeks before the national deadline. Missing them means missing the scholarship.



Take this  
survey to  
give  
feedback!

# Questions?

**We're here to help you navigate the process.**

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[fasa.caltech.edu/fellowships](https://fasa.caltech.edu/fellowships)

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