

Gates Cambridge Scholarship

<http://www.gatescambridge.org/>

Full-cost scholarship for a citizen of any country outside the UK to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at University of Cambridge

- “Full cost” – the following provided per year:
 - University and college fees covered
 - Living allowance (approx. \$21,000)
 - Return airfare
 - Can apply for additional discretionary funds:
 - Family allowance
 - Personal development funding (conferences)
 - Fourth-year funding for PhD students
 - Hardship fund for emergencies

- Eligible degree programs
 - PhD (three-year research-only degree)
 - MSc or MLitt (two-year research-only degree)
 - MPhil, LLM, MAST, Diploma, MBA, etc (one-year postgraduate course)
 - Not eligible for scholarships: BA, MBBChir Clinical, MD, part-time degrees, non-degree courses

How competitive it is

800 US applicants → 100 invited to interview → 40 offered Scholarship

3500 international applicants → 110 interviewed → 55 offered Scholarship

Who the scholarship is named for

\$210 million donation from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in 2000

What the funder values

- good fit with Cambridge – “convincing argument” for postgraduate degree program at Cambridge
- academic excellence – “academically outstanding with the ability to make a significant contribution to their discipline while at Cambridge”
- leadership potential – “clear ability to lead” → capacity to “take others with them”
- commitment to improving the lives of others – “working for the greater good”

Application components

One Cambridge application pack for both university admission and scholarship –

- GRADSAF application form (includes Gates Cambridge section)
 - Academic transcripts
 - 2 academic references and 1 personal reference
 - Personal reference speaks to your suitability via 4 criteria above
 - Personal statement
 - 500 words or less
 - “Describe how our interests and achievements, both academic and extra-curricular, demonstrate a *capacity for leadership* and a *commitment to improving the lives of others*. Please also set out why you think there is a *good fit* between your *professional aspiration* and the *graduate programme* at Cambridge for which you are applying.”
 - Dependent on program: research proposal, example of written work, GRE/GMAT scores
- NOTE: MBA and MFin candidates apply directly to Judge Business School

Deadlines for next cycle

- September – October 2015
 - Online application open from 1st of September through mid-October (mid-December for non-US citizens)
 - Supporting documents, references due 14 days after submitting application
- November 2015 (February 2016 for non-US citizens)
 - Academic departments rank applicants
- December 2015 (early March 2016 for non-US citizens)
 - Shortlisting of candidates and invitations to interview
- Late January 2016 (late March 2016 for non-US citizens)
 - Candidates grouped into 4 subject-based panels for interviews in-person or via Skype or phone
 - Arts
 - Biological sciences
 - Physical sciences
 - Social sciences
 - Each panel includes a rep of the Trust, 2 academics, former Gates Cambridge scholar
- Early February 2016 (late March 2016 for non-US citizens)
 - Scholarships offered