



# GATES CAMBRIDGE SCHOLARSHIP

## OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

[www.gatescambridge.org](http://www.gatescambridge.org)

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### **Pays for Graduate Study at the University of Cambridge, U.K.**

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship was established in 2000 for students pursuing a full-time postgraduate degree at the University of Cambridge. For 2021 entry, Gates Cambridge will offer 80 full-cost scholarships to outstanding applicants from countries outside the U.K. The program is intended to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others. Gates Cambridge Scholars are expected to exhibit outstanding intellectual ability, justification for the choice of study, a commitment to improving the lives of others, and great leadership capacity.

## ELIGIBILITY

### **Eligibility Requirements**

- Deadline for U.S. citizens living in the USA only: **13 October 2021**.
- Applicants must be a citizen of any country outside the U.K. (more details on website).
- Applicants should pursue one of the following full-time residential courses of study at the University of Cambridge:
  - PhD
  - MSc or MLitt
  - One-year postgraduate course (with some exceptions – see website).

# HOW TO APPLY

## **A combined application form**

Applicants submit their application for admission and funding (Gates Cambridge and other funding) via the University's Graduate Application Portal. To be considered for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship you must complete the section to apply for admission to a course and a College place and the Gates Cambridge part of the funding section. Gates Cambridge has access to the full application for admission and funding when reviewing applications.

## **The admission section**

In this section you are applying to a specific graduate course and a College place. You will provide all of the usual details about yourself, your academic background, plans and suitability for the proposed course.

## **The funding section**

In this section you can apply for a range of funding offered by the University and associated bodies, including the Gates Cambridge Scholarships, which has its own sub-section. When applying for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship you will be asked to provide the following:

### **Statement**

In the application form we ask:

In no 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. Full details about how to apply, including selection criteria and guidance on completing this statement, can be found at: [www.gatescambridge.org](http://www.gatescambridge.org)

The statement is used by the Gates Cambridge shortlisting committees to distinguish between candidates who have been highly ranked by departments on academic grounds. It helps our committees identify those candidates who, as well as being academically outstanding, possess a capacity for leadership and commitment to improving the lives of others. This is the only part of the application form where applicants are specifically asked about their fit with the Gates Cambridge programme and you should use your background, achievements, experiences and future aims to show how you would be a good fit with the Gates Cambridge programme.

line reference or upload a separate letter.

# FOR RECOMMENDERS

### **Gates Cambridge reference**

In addition to two academic references for admission, Gates Cambridge applicants submit a reference about their fit with the scholarship. In the application form we ask:

Please give your assessment of the applicant's suitability for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. These are awarded on the following criteria: intellectual ability, justification for the choice of course, a commitment to improving the lives of others and leadership capacity.

### **We also ask:**

How highly would you rank the applicant for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship?

On what overall group are you basing this ranking?

What is the size of this group?

**The Gates Cambridge Reference is used in the same way as the Gates Cambridge Statement – to reduce the large number of well-qualified applicants to those who match the Gates Cambridge criteria. Referees are also asked how they rate the applicant for the scholarship: exceptional, strong, not strong, weak. They may paste/type up to 4,000 characters into the on-**

### **Important Tips**

- The committee is looking for scholars who demonstrate the desire, potential, and drive to make a significant contribution to their chosen discipline.
- Academic departments at the University of Cambridge nominate only the most academically outstanding applicants for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship.
- Although academics are important, the committee is also looking for candidates who demonstrate a fundamental desire to work for the greater good. Significant volunteer experience is recommended.
- Applicants should provide eminent evidence of their leadership experience to date and indicate how their leadership skills may have a significant impact on their future careers.

- Approximately two thirds of the scholars each year are pursuing a Ph.D. Masters should pay special attention to explaining why this is the optimal degree for them.
- Thoroughly research the proposed degree using the Graduate Studies Prospectus and department website to ensure a strong case for a particular postgraduate degree at Cambridge. The committee should be convinced that the applicant's qualifications and aspirations are consistent with what Cambridge has to offer.
- The application process includes the submission of a Gates Cambridge statement, two academic references, and one reference focused on the Gates Cambridge criteria and not, for example, rehashing a standard or previous reference letter.
- Applicants who are shortlisted will be interviewed. Preparation for this interview is key (specific information about the interview is available on the website).
- If accepted, some fees throughout the program will not be directly covered.