Gates Cambridge Scholarship

Award Details:

**Emphasis:**

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<th>Academic</th>
<th>Research</th>
<th>Language</th>
<th>Experiential</th>
<th>International</th>
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**Brief Description:**

The Gates Cambridge Scholarship programme was established in October 2000 by a donation of US$210m from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to the University of Cambridge; this is the largest ever single donation to a UK university.

Scholarships are awarded to outstanding applicants from countries outside the UK to pursue a full-time postgraduate degree in any subject available at the University of Cambridge. The selection criteria are:

- outstanding intellectual ability
- leadership potential
- a commitment to improving the lives of others
- a good fit between the applicant's qualifications and aspirations and the postgraduate programme at Cambridge for which they are applying

While at Cambridge, Scholars pursue full range of subjects available at the University and are spread through its departments and Colleges. The aim of the Gates Cambridge programme is to build a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others.

**Award Stipend/Benefits:**

Core components

- the University Composition Fee at the appropriate rate*
- a maintenance allowance for a single student (£14,900 for 12 months at the 2017-18 rate; pro rata for courses shorter than 12 months)
- one economy single airfare at both the beginning and end of the course
- inbound visa costs & the cost of the Immigration Health Surcharge

Discretionary components (The Trust also considers several types of additional funding on a discretionary basis)

- Academic development funding - from £500 to £2,000, dependent on the length of your course, to attend conferences and courses.
- Family allowance - up to £10,120 for a first child and up to £4,320 for a second child (2016-17 rate). No funding is provided for a partner.
- Fieldwork - you may apply to keep up to your normal maintenance allowance while on fieldwork as part of your PhD (the Trust does not fund other fieldwork costs as these should be funded by the University Composition Fee).
- Hardship funding - for unforeseen difficulties
- Maternity/Paternity funding - should you require it, you may apply to intermit your studies for up to 6 months and continue to receive your maintenance allowance during this time
- Some fourth year funding for PhD Scholars may be provided**

*The University Composition Fee varies for different types of students; applicants should see the Graduate Studies prospectus for full details about precise amounts. Where a student from the European Union has been successful in gaining a fees award from public authorities they must accept this and the Trust will not pay these fees.
**The PhD at Cambridge is a three-year degree and Gates Cambridge Scholars should take on a research project that they and their Supervisor think can be completed within three years. However, if there are unforeseen circumstances which mean you need further funding during all or part of your fourth year, the Trust will consider an application on a discretionary basis. But you should not rely on receiving any fourth year funding when you start your PhD.**

If you are receiving a salary from an employer or have another substantial scholarship, the Trust reserves the right to reduce or not pay the standard maintenance allowance. You should let the Trust know ASAP if you are awarded any funding towards your degree at Cambridge.

Most costs are covered by the Scholarship but Gates Cambridge does not cover bench fees or the costs of scientific equipment or similar academic resources. The Trust expects such core course costs to be covered by the academic department at Cambridge.

Can The Award Be Deferred? Yes

Can The Award Be Renewed? Yes

Scholarship Conditions:

You can apply for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship if you are:

- a citizen of any country outside the United Kingdom
- applying to pursue one of the following full-time residential courses of study at the University of Cambridge:
  - PhD (three year research-only degree)
  - MSc or MLitt (two year research-only degree)
  - One year postgraduate course (e.g. MPhil, LLM, MASt, Diploma, MBA etc.)

Eligibility:

Applicant Education Level: Senior Year Undergraduate

Open to (Non-US) International Students: Yes

Specified Majors: No

Minimum GPA: None, but 3.7 to 4.0 suggested

Candidate Profile: Key Characteristics Sought By Review Committee

*Each Scholar is different and brings something unique to the programme. But we are looking for four key criteria:*

- **Academic excellence**
  - Gates Cambridge Scholars are expected to be academically outstanding with the ability to make a significant contribution to their discipline while in Cambridge. At the start of the application process, potential Scholars are ranked by the department they are applying to. Only the most outstanding candidates are considered further.

- **Leadership potential**
  - Successful applicants must be able to demonstrate a clear ability to lead. Evidence of leadership can be expressed in a multitude of ways but the capacity of Gates Cambridge Scholars to 'take others with them' is central to the success of the programme.

- **A commitment to improving the lives of others**
  - A defining characteristic of the Gates Cambridge Scholarships is the commitment of our Scholars to working for the greater good. Although broadly interpreted, this concept is nonetheless fundamental and sets this programme apart from others of its kind.

- **A good academic fit with Cambridge**
  - You should be able to persuade the Trust that your qualifications and aspirations accord with what Cambridge has to offer in its postgraduate programme. 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 your proposed degree using the Graduate Studies Prospectus and the website of the department to which you are applying.
Selection:

Number of Candidates Awarded Each Year: U.S. Round: 35
International Round: 55

Interview: In Person and Phone Interview

Approximate Date Selected Candidates Are Notified: U.S. Round: Mid-December
International Round: Early March

Contact Information:

Name: Ms. Luisa Clarke
Position: Programme Manager
Street Address: Gates Cambridge
Ground Floor, The Warehouse
33 Bridge Street
City / State / Zip: Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, SB2 1 UW, UK
General E-mail: Info@GatesCambridge.org
Phone: +44 1223 338467

Information Sessions:

Webinars for Candidates: Yes
Webinars for Advisors: Yes

Website:

Official Website: https://www.gatescambridge.org/

Application:

Date Application is Available: September 4
Application Due Date: US Round: October 11, 2017
International Round: (Depending on course) December 6, 2017 or January 4, 2018
Application Must Be Submitted By: Candidate or Advisors on candidate’s behalf
Institutional Endorsement Required: No
Institutional Cover Letter Required: No
**Application Process and Materials:**

*The application includes the following sections*

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Register and create online application account.

Statement about candidate’s fit with the Gate’s Cambridge programme

**Two Academic Letters of Recommendation**

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**One Non-Academic Letter of Recommendation**

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Up-to-date Resume/CV

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1. Candidates must submit a 3,000 character (500 word) statement about their fit with the Gates Cambridge programme. 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.

2. Candidates must submit a (non-academic) reference about their fit with Gates Cambridge. The Gates Cambridge reference is used in the same way as the statement - to reduce the large number of well-qualified applicants to those who best match the Gates Cambridge criteria. Referees may paste/type up to 4,000 characters into the on-line reference or upload a separate letter; they are also asked some specific questions about how they rate the applicant for the scholarship. Your referee should be someone of appropriate standing who is able to answer the question with authority and who will and fully understand the Gates Cambridge criteria. Applicants often ask academics (who can comment on their fit with Gates Cambridge, not just offer a third academic reference), employers, senior figures in voluntary organizations for whom they have worked and others who can comment on their suitability for a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. Applicants should not ask family, friends or those unqualified to provide a useful and appropriate reference. The Gates Cambridge reference is in addition to the two academic references required by the University for admission.

**Institution Application:**

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Separate Application for Graduate Admission

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Date Created: 09/11/2017

Last Modified: 09/11/2017