



University of Cape Town (UCT) Mastercard Foundation Scholarship Programme 2027 for African Students

Description

The **Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Cape Town (UCT)** provides fully funded study opportunities for talented young Africans. Hosted in Cape Town, South Africa, the programme supports eligible students pursuing their first undergraduate or postgraduate qualifications. The **2027 application cycle** is currently open for eligible postgraduate applicants, while undergraduate applications have closed. The opportunity is designed for academically strong young people who face financial or social barriers and demonstrate leadership potential and a commitment to contributing to their communities and Africa.

Scholarship Overview

- **Host Country:** South Africa
- **Provider:** Mastercard Foundation & University of Cape Town
- **Study Levels:** Bachelor's, Postgraduate Diploma, Honours & Master's
- **Funding:** Fully Funded
- **Deadline:** 30 September 2026 (Undergraduate); 31 October 2026 (Postgraduate)
- **Status:** Open for 2027 intake

Scholarship Benefits

- **Tuition Fees:** Fully covered
- **Living Allowance:** Basic living expenses covered
- **Travel/Airfare:** Travel between home and UCT covered
- **Health Insurance:** Medical aid provided
- **Accommodation:** UCT campus accommodation covered
- **Visa:** Study visa application costs covered
- **Additional Support:** Academic, peer, leadership, entrepreneurship, and career development support included.

Eligibility Criteria

- **Nationality:** Citizens of an African country, including South Africa.
- **Academic Qualification:** Applying for a first Bachelor's degree or an eligible taught postgraduate programme.
- **Age Limit:** No specific age limit is stated on the official UCT page.
- **Academic Merit:** Must demonstrate strong academic ability and commitment to excellence.
- **Financial/Social Need:** Must face significant social and economic barriers to higher education.
- **Leadership:** Must demonstrate potential for ethical and transformative leadership.
- **Community Commitment:** Must be committed to serving their community and contributing to positive change.
- **Work Experience:** No specific work-experience requirement is stated.

- **Language Requirement:** No separate English-language requirement is specified on the Mastercard Foundation eligibility page; applicants must meet UCT programme requirements.
- **Admission Requirement:** Applicants must first apply to UCT and ultimately receive an offer of admission to be eligible for the scholarship.
- **Nomination Route:** No separate nomination is required. Applicants submit a separate Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program application after applying to UCT.
- **Not Eligible:** Part-time studies, PhD programmes, and research-only Master's programmes are not covered.

Available Fields / Programmes

The 2027 UCT Mastercard Foundation Scholars Programme covers eligible programmes in these faculties:

- Commerce
- Engineering & the Built Environment
- Health Sciences
- Humanities
- Law
- Science

Eligible study types include **first Bachelor's degrees, eligible postgraduate diplomas, Honours degrees, and taught Master's programmes**. Research-only Master's and PhD programmes are excluded.

How to Apply

1. Review UCT's available study programmes and eligibility requirements.

2. Submit an **academic application to the University of Cape Town (UCT)**.
3. Submit a separate **Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program application online** through UCT.
4. Upload all required supporting documents and complete the application before the relevant deadline.
5. Shortlisted applicants proceed through UCT's selection process. There is **no embassy or external nominating-agency route**; applications are handled directly through UCT.

Required Documents

For postgraduate applicants, the official UCT guidance confirms the following:

- Certified identity document, passport or refugee papers
- Proof of address
- Current and previous post-secondary academic transcripts
- Proof of completed/current degree
- Curriculum Vitae (CV)
- Scholarship essay
- Declaration and signatures
- Completed and witnessed affidavit
- Two academic recommendations/references

Important Dates

- **Application opening:** May 2026
- **Undergraduate scholarship deadline:** 30 September 2026
- **Postgraduate scholarship deadline:** 31 October 2026
- **Nomination deadline:** Not applicable
- **Interview period:** Not specified on the current official call
- **Results date:** Not specified on the current official call

Is this scholarship fully funded or tuition-only?

The **UCT Mastercard Foundation Scholarship 2027 is fully funded**, not tuition-only. It provides comprehensive support covering tuition, accommodation, living expenses, medical aid, study visa costs where applicable, travel, and a laptop.

Which nationalities and study levels are eligible?

The scholarship is open to **citizens of African countries, including South Africa**. Eligible study levels include **first Bachelor's degrees, eligible Postgraduate Diplomas, Honours degrees, and coursework Master's programmes** at UCT. **PhD and research-only Master's programmes are not eligible.**

Is university admission required before the scholarship application?

Yes. Applicants must first apply for academic admission to the University of Cape Town (UCT). They can then apply separately for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. For 2027, only applicants who receive an offer of admission to UCT will be eligible for the scholarship

What is the exact deadline and timezone?

- **Undergraduate:** 30 September 2026
- **Postgraduate:** 31 October 2026
- **Timezone:** UCT does **not specify a timezone** on the official scholarship page. Therefore, do not add a timezone unless UCT provides one.

Is there an application fee?

No separate application fee is stated for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. However, applicants must first apply to UCT, and UCT may charge an academic application fee.

Category

1. Scholarships

Author
admin

www.fullyfunded.info