

DURHAM INSPIRING EXCELLENCE POSTGRADUATE 5K SCHOLARSHIP

Application Guidance

Introduction

This document is an overview of the full application process for the **Durham Inspiring Excellence 5K** scholarship. The **Inspiring Excellence 5K** scholarship is an invite to International Students to achieve the outstanding at Durham. Durham University is offering 200 awards of the **Inspiring Excellence 5K** scholarship for new postgraduate overseas applicants commencing their studies in September 2025.

Each scholarship is a competitive award worth £5,000 towards the original tuition fee for a postgraduate taught programme starting in September 2025. The selection will be based on an individual's achievements and potential for positive impact upon completion of a Postgraduate Degree at Durham University.

The scholarships are available to all new international students to Durham who meet the eligibility criteria.

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Durham's **Inspiring Excellence 5K** postgraduate scholarships, applicants must:

- have applied to a one-year, full-time (in-person) taught MSc, MA, LLM or MDS qualification (MBA programmes are excluded)
- start master's studies in September 2025
- have received an offer for a Master's programme at Durham by 04 May 2025 (for 1st Selection) and 08th June 2025 (for 2nd selection)
- be classed as an overseas student for fee-paying purposes
- meet or exceed the entry requirements for the programme applied for at Durham University
- not already be in receipt of any other scholarship from the university **except** if eligible for the [Durham International Scholarship](#) worth £5,000 (only for students from Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Malaysia, Pakistan and Vietnam)
- self-funded and not supported by external sponsor or scholarship bodies
- complete the [Inspiring Excellence 5K postgraduate scholarship application form](#)

Funding

The **Inspiring Excellence 5K** Scholarship will be applied as a tuition fee waiver directly to the master's programme tuition fees. No cash alternative is offered. The tuition fees will be adjusted at the time of enrolment at Durham University. The **Inspiring Excellence 5K** scholarships (tuition fee discounts) are not transferable and not deferrable.

The discount is applied for the one-year master's study at Durham University. The **Inspiring Excellence 5K** Scholarship will not be applied for any period not spent at Durham.

Additional Funding (only for eligible postgraduate students for the [Durham International Scholarship](#))

The **Inspiring Excellence 5K** Scholarship may be added as additional funding to students who are in receipt of the automatic £5,000 tuition fee discount from the **Durham International Scholarship**.

In this case, their tuition fees will be adjusted to reflect the **£10,000** discount at the time of enrolment at Durham University.

The **Durham International Scholarship** does **NOT** require an application form and eligible candidates will be notified of the scholarship (tuition fee discount) award. The additional funding provided by the **Inspiring Excellence 5K scholarship** will **ONLY** be applicable when eligible candidates to the **Durham International Scholarship** have submitted the [Inspiring Excellence 5K postgraduate scholarship application form](#), and have been successful in their application.

Note that the additional funding may **ONLY** apply to postgraduate students from Bangladesh, India, Nigeria, Malaysia, Pakistan and Vietnam. The Durham International Scholarship does **NOT** apply to all master's programmes. Below is a list of **exceptions**:

- All Business School Masters and MBA programmes
- Any second year of a taught postgraduate programme
- PGCE
- PGCERT (Education)
- MA - Conservation of Archaeological and Museum Objects
- Executive MSc in Behavioural Science
- All research postgraduate programmes
- MSW - Social Work
- Graduate Diplomas

Inspiring Excellence 5K Postgraduate Scholarship Application

Application

1. Scholarship applicants must have applied to study a postgraduate taught degree through Durham's [Applicant Portal](#) which will generate a Student ID. Without a valid Student ID, no applicant is eligible to apply for the **Inspiring Excellence 5K** Scholarship and the scholarship application form will not be considered.
2. Applicants must have received an offer (conditional or unconditional) to study at Durham before 04th May 2025 (for 1st Selection) and 08th June 2025 (for 2nd selection). In order to receive an offer, a minimum of a personal statement and academic transcript will need to have been uploaded to the application portal.
3. 1st round Applicants without an offer by 04th May will automatically be considered for the 2nd round of selection.
4. There is no save progress function in [Inspiring Excellence 5K Postgraduate Scholarship Application Form](#), so applicants will need to complete the application form in one session. Applicants will need to answer all required questions to move forward with the application. If a question is left blank, an error message will appear informing applicant of this.
5. Once the [Inspiring Excellence 5K Postgraduate Scholarship Application Form](#) is completed and submitted, applicants will receive an automated email confirming its receipt. The International Relations team will be in touch with successful applicants two weeks after the deadlines (see timeline for more details).
6. The **Inspiring Excellence 5K** Scholarship will have 2 rounds of selections and deadlines in the first semester of 2025. This is to allow later applicants to have an opportunity to apply for the scholarship. Unsuccessful applicants in the first round will be automatically considered for the second round and won't need to submit a new application form for the scholarship.
7. Applicants will need to confirm that they have read and agreed with Durham's data statement and the international scholarships terms and conditions before submitting the application form.

Selection criteria

The **Inspiring Excellence 5K Postgraduate Scholarship** is a competitive scheme, and not all applications will be successful. A panel of key members of staff will select most suitable applications. In addition to the application form responses, nationality diversity and balance across programmes will also be considered in the selection.

Scholarship awards are discretionary and final. Due to the volume of applications for this award, Durham University is unable to provide feedback to unsuccessful applicants.

Applicants may contact the team for further questions by email:
international.scholarships@durham.ac.uk

Scholarship Application Form

These are all the questions applicants must answer in the **Inspiring Excellence 5K** scholarship application form. Note that scholarships applicants must have applied for an eligible course at Durham University and have a valid Student ID Number. The scholarship application will be deleted in the absence of a valid Student ID Number.

Section 1 – Personal Information

1. [Mandatory] *Your First name*
2. [Mandatory] *Your Surname*
3. [Mandatory] *Your email address* (should be the same as on your Master's application)
4. [Mandatory] *The country of your nationality*
5. [Mandatory] *The country of your Permanent Residence*

Section 2 – Durham Application Details

6. [Mandatory] *Your Durham Student ID* (the 9-digit series of numbers that start with 00)
7. [Mandatory] *Have you received an offer from Durham University?* Select one of the 3 options: 'Unconditional offer received', 'Conditional offer received', or 'I have not received an offer'
8. [Mandatory] *Name of the Master's course that you applied for.*
9. [Mandatory] *Are you studying or completed a pre-master's course at Durham University International Study Centre?* Choose 'Yes' or 'No'
10. [Mandatory] *Your tuition fee status.* Select 'Overseas' or 'home' (to be eligible you must be an overseas fee payer as home is only for UK students)
11. [Mandatory] *Are you a recipient of, or have you applied for, any other scholarship/funding from another organisation?* Choose 'Yes' or 'No'

12. [If YES was answered in Question 11] *please specify the scholarship/funding you have applied for.* Only shows in case of a 'Yes' answer to Question 11.

Section 3 – Education Background

13. [Mandatory] *Name of your most recent/current bachelor's degree?* Add the name of the course studied/studying
14. [Mandatory] *Name of institution of your most recent/current bachelor's degree*
15. [Mandatory] *What is your GPA?* Add your overall grade achievement from your bachelor's studies – finished or studying

Section 4 – Application Questions

16. [Mandatory] ***Outline how studying the chosen programme at Durham will help you achieve your career goals and contribute to your community in the future? (300 words maximum).***

Applicants should write about their motivation to study at Durham University in the chosen course, and how this choice reflects their aspirations and expectations of a positive impact in their future career.

[Mandatory] ***Describe a significant achievement in your student life or in your working career to date and explain the impact it had. (300 words maximum)***

This question expects applicants to demonstrate activities gained outside university environment that are special and highlight initiative and positive outcome.

17. [Mandatory] ***Why should you be considered for this scholarship? (200 words maximum)***

Durham University expects applicants to demonstrate their motivation to apply for the scholarship.

Section 5 – Private Notice

18. [Mandatory] *Durham University has a responsibility under data protection legislation to provide individuals with information about how we process their personal data. Further information regarding how we process and secure personal data can be found here: <https://www.durham.ac.uk/about-us/governance/information-governance/privacy->*

notices/prospective-students. You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by contacting international.scholarships@durham.ac.uk. Please tick this box to give us your consent for your personal data processing. Yes option only.

The option YES needs to be selected to finish application and submit it.

Application Timeline

Key dates for the Inspiring Excellence 5K Postgraduate Scholarship applicants are:
Applicants may contact the team for further questions by email: Applicants may contact the team

14 March 2025	Application to apply for the Inspiring Excellence 5K Scholarship is open for students in Durham's webpage
30 April 2025 (1st Selection)	Deadline for applicants to submit the Inspiring Excellence 5K Postgraduate Scholarship Application Form (1 st Selection)
04 May 2025 (1st Selection)	Deadline for applicants to have received an offer for a Master's programme at Durham University
w/c 12 May 2025	Durham will announce the selected scholars. Scholars from 1 st round will have 2 weeks after announcement to pay their deposit and confirm their place in the master's programme. Waiting list of applicants will be created from the 1 st round.
08 June 2025 (2nd Selection)	Deadline for applicants to submit the Inspiring Excellence 5K Postgraduate Scholarship Application Form (2 nd Selection) and to have received an offer for a master's degree at Durham University
w/c 16 June 2025	Durham will announce the selected scholars from the 2 nd round. Scholars will have 2 weeks after announcement to confirm their place (pay deposit) in the master's programme. Waiting list of applicants will be created from the 2 nd round.
w/c 07 July 2025	Durham will announce the selected scholars from the waiting lists. Scholars will have 2 weeks after announcement to confirm their place in the master's programme.

Key Contact

International Relations Team: international.scholarships@durham.ac.uk