

Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship 2026

We are delighted to announce the Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarships, designed to recognise outstanding international students. This highly competitive scholarship is open to international students applying to postgraduate taught programme at Durham University for the 2026/27 academic year.

The scholarship is offered in three award types:

- **Inspiring Excellence 5k (PGT)** – £5,000 in tuition fee discount
- **Inspiring Excellence 10k (PGT)** – £10,000 in tuition fee discount

Selection will be based on an applicant's achievements and their potential to make a positive impact after completing a postgraduate degree at Durham University.

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

Key Dates

- Scholarship Application opens on 1 October 2025
- 1st Round Scholarship Application closes on 16 January 2026
- 1st Round Scholarship winners will be announced in February 2026
- 2nd Round Scholarship Application closes on 29 May 2026
- 2nd Round Scholarship winners will be announced in June 2026
- Late scholarship applications may be considered subject to the availability of remaining scholarship places

Eligibility Criteria

To be eligible for Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship, applicants must:

- have applied to a one-year, full-time (in-person) taught MSc, MA, LLM or MDS qualification (MBA, MSW programmes and MA in Theology and Ministry are excluded)
- start postgraduate studies at Durham University in September 2026
- be classed as an overseas student for fee-paying purposes
- self-funded and not already be in receipt of any other scholarship, fundings or from the university or any external institutions
- meet or exceed the entry requirements for the programme applied for at Durham University
- complete the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship** application form

Funding

1. The Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship applies to courses commencing in September 2026. The scholarship award is not transferable, not deferrable and will be applied as a tuition fee waiver directly to the postgraduate programme tuition fees. No cash alternative is offered. The tuition fees will be adjusted at the time of enrolment at Durham University.
2. If an awardee of the Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship fails to meet the academic conditions of the course for which they originally applied, the scholarship offer will be withdrawn.
3. Awardees must obtain approval from the International Office before making any changes to their programme of study, including course transfers or interruptions to study.
4. Awardees will lose eligibility for the award if they are no longer classified as overseas students for fee purposes, or receive other scholarships, funding, or sponsorship from Durham or external institutions during their degree.
5. Applicants must be willing to participate and cooperate in marketing and communications activities (Scholarship Commitments) for their Faculty/Durham University. This may include testimonials and public relations opportunities, as well as being involved in and attending Open Events, Webinars or being a class representative.
6. Awardees who suspend their Scholarship Commitments or academic studies will have all future scholarship discounts cancelled. Please note that only under exceptional circumstances e.g. medical reasons, and at the sole discretion of the Faculty Executive Dean, approval may be given for discounts to recommence after suspended studies continue.

Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship Application

1. Scholarship applicants must have applied to study a postgraduate taught degree through Durham's [Applicant Portal](#) which will generate a Student ID. Scholarship application without a valid Student ID will not be considered.
2. Applicants are required to submit only one scholarship application to be considered for all award types. If multiple applications are submitted, only the first will be considered.
3. 1st round applicants without an academic offer will automatically be considered for the 2nd round selection.
4. There is no save progress function in the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship** application form. Applicants will need to complete the application form in one session. Applicants need to answer all questions to progress with the scholarship application.

An error message will appear if any question is left blank. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

5. Applicants will need to confirm that they have read and agreed with Durham's data statement, the scholarship eligibility criteria, funding guidelines, and terms and conditions before submitting the application.
6. Applicants will receive an automated email confirmation following the completion of the scholarship application form.

Selection Criteria

The **Durham Inspiring Excellence 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 process.

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

For any questions regarding the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship**, please contact the scholarship team at inspiring.excellence@durham.ac.uk

Scholarship Application Form

Below are all questions on the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship** application form. All questions are mandatory. Scholarships applicants must have applied for an eligible course at Durham University and have a valid Student ID Number.

Section 1 – Personal Information

1. Your First Name
2. Your Last Name
3. Your Durham Student ID (the 9-digit series of numbers that start with 00)
4. Re-enter your Durham Student ID
5. Your email address (should be the same as the one on your Master's application)
6. Re-enter your email address
7. The country of your Nationality
8. The country of your Permanent Residence
9. I want to be considered for **Inspiring Excellence 10k ONLY**
Yes / No

Section 2 – Application Details

10. What degree have you applied for at Durham University?

If you have applied to multiple courses, please indicate your top choice.

11. Are you studying or completed a Pre-Masters at Durham University International Study Centre?

12. Your tuition fee status

To be eligible for the scholarship applicant must be an overseas fee payer

13. Are you a recipient of, or have you applied for, any other scholarship or funding?

To be eligible for the scholarship applicant must be self-funded and not already be in receipt of any other scholarship, fundings or from the university or any external institutions

14. [If 'Yes' was answered in Question 13] Please specify the scholarship or funding you have applied for.

15. Name of your most recent / current bachelor's degree

16. Name of institution of your most recent/current bachelor's degree

17. What is your GPA?

Section 3 – Application Questions

18. Outline how studying the chosen programme at Durham will help you achieve your personal and careers goals? (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 on their future career.

19. 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 asks applicants to showcase experiences outside the academic environment that demonstrate initiative, highlight meaningful achievements, and have led to positive outcomes.

20. What makes you a strong candidate for this scholarship, and how could you make a positive impact on both in the university and the wider community at Durham? (300 words maximum)

This question provides an opportunity to showcase applicants' strengths and potential to make a meaningful, positive impact. Applicants may include examples such as participating in charitable events, involvement in student unions, or engagement in other initiatives within their local communities.

Section 5 – Terms and Conditions

21. How did you hear about **Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship**?

Please select the most relevant option

- Agent
- Durham Alumni
- Durham Staff member
- Durham University Website
- High School Counsellors
- Higher Education Comparison Website
- Scholarship webinars or campus event
- Search Engine
- Social Media Platform
- Others (please specify)

22. [If 'Others (please specify)' was answered in Question 21.] Please specify How did you hear about Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship.

23. Terms and Conditions - Please read our Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship Application Guidance Document before proceeding

[Mandatory Checkbox] I have read and agree to all the eligibility criteria, funding guidelines, and terms and conditions of the Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship.

24. Privacy Notice

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: [Privacy Notice](#). You have the right to withdraw your consent at any time by contacting inspiring.excellence@durham.ac.uk. Please tick this box to give us your consent for your personal data processing.

[Mandatory Checkbox] I have read and agree to the Privacy Notice.

Application Timeline

Deadline	Date
1st Round Scholarship Application Close	Friday 16 January 2026
1st Round Scholarship Offer Announced	February 2026
1st Round Scholarship Acceptance Deadline (Awardees will be asked formally to accept the scholarship and complete tuition fee deposit payment by a set deadline)	February 2026
2nd Round Scholarship Application Close	Friday 29 May 2026
2nd Round Scholarship Offer Announced	June 2026
2nd Round Scholarship Acceptance Deadline (Awardees will be asked formally to accept the scholarship and complete tuition fee deposit payment by a set deadline)	June 2026
Late Applications and waiting list Offer Announced	July 2026

Key Contact

If you have any further questions regarding the **Durham Inspiring Excellence Postgraduate Scholarship**, please contact the Durham University International Scholarships Team at inspiring.excellence@durham.ac.uk