



Scholars Program

In partnership with



2026 Innovation and Technology Scholarship Application

Application Deadline: Sunday, 14 September, 23:59 GMT

Scholarship Overview

The Mastercard Foundation, in partnership with Arizona State University (ASU), will provide graduate scholarships to train 120 young African professionals at the master's level for various programs over 5 years (2025 – 2030). This is a fully immersive and traditional on-campus 2-year master's program with an emphasis on technology and innovation. Recognizing the rapid evolution of the global digital economy, this program aims to equip African youth with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead in areas such as technology and sustainable innovation.

30 Scholarships are available for students admitted for the 2026/2027 academic year, which will cover the full tuition fees, expenses for accommodation, and comprehensive support for the 2-year graduate program. On top of financial support, Scholars will participate in activities as part of the wider Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at ASU, including leadership curriculum, individual mentorship, and other events and programming. While classes are in session, Scholars have the opportunity to work part-time in on-campus positions, either with the Baobab Platform team or in the broader ASU community. Between the first and second year, Scholars will be supported to participate in a 2-month internship that aligns with their program of study.

A strong expectation of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program is that participants return to their home countries to invest their gained skills and education in their country's social and economic growth. Women, refugees and displaced persons, and people with disabilities are strongly encouraged to apply. ASU is committed to enhancing the quality of students' educational experience by ensuring accessibility for all programs and services.

Scholarships are available for one the following full-time, on-campus graduate programs:

[MS Global Technology and Development](#)

[MS Information Technology](#)

[MS Human Systems Engineering - Intelligent Systems](#)

[MS User Experience](#)

[MSC Computer Science](#)

[MS Data Science Analytics & Engineering](#)

[MS Robotics and Autonomous Systems](#)

[MS Civil, Environmental & Sustainable Engineering](#)
[MS Clean Energy Systems](#)
[MS Data Science, Analytics and Engineering](#)
[MS Modern Energy Production and Sustainable Use](#)

Eligibility Criteria

- Applicants must qualify academically for admission to the degree of their choice that includes English proficiency.
- Applicants must be a citizen of an African country committed to ethical leadership and demonstrated engagement in their community.
- Applicants must be between the ages of 18 and 33 on or before the application deadline.
- Applicants must demonstrate a track record of leadership and service in their community.
- Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence and ambitions that exceed one's financial resources.
- Applicants must have earned an undergraduate degree conferred by August 2026.
- Applicants must not have started or completed other graduate or master's degrees before August 2026.
- Applicants must be able to live in Phoenix, Arizona for the duration of the program

Incomplete or ineligible applications will not be reviewed or considered.

Value of the Scholarship

The Scholarship will cover the following:

- Costs incurred for visa application processing
- Costs incurred for English language tests
- Costs incurred for program application
- Airfare to and from Phoenix, Arizona
- Full tuition, books and fees
- Medical expenses
- On campus housing
- Participation in Scholarship programming

Awards are tenable for the duration of the graduate program of study.

The deadline for all applications will be 23:59 GMT on Sunday, 14 September. All applicants must apply for the scholarship first and, if successful, will be assisted in the process of applying for admission to Arizona State University. **Do not apply to admission to ASU.** Shortlisted candidates will be contacted via email to schedule an interview via video or phone call. Final scholarship decisions will be made by late February 2026. Successful applicants will travel to Phoenix, Arizona to join the Program in August 2026.

All applicants, once registered, should have read and understood the application guidance and eligibility criteria before submitting an application to the Program to avoid any errors or incorrect information. Arizona State University and the Mastercard Foundation reserve the right to cancel incomplete and/or late applications, to effect changes to the conditions of the scholarship or to make no awards at all.

Admission to the academic program does not guarantee being awarded the scholarship.

Please see our Frequently Asked Questions [here](#) and direct any questions to mastercardfdnscholars@asu.edu.

There are 2 ways to submit your application:

We encourage applicants to submit an online application. To proceed to the online application, please click [NEXT](#).

OR

If you have limited internet access, view and download the [PDF version](#) of the form (do not request edit access). To submit, email your completed application and required attachments (CV/Resume, Letter of Recommendation, and Transcripts) to mastercardfdnscholars@asu.edu.

APPLICATION FORM

Surname Name (Last Name)

Given Name (First Name)

Second or Middle Name

Year of Birth (YYYY)

Sex (highlight or check one)

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Prefer not to say
- ☐ Other

Email Address

Phone Number

WhatsApp Number

Primary Address

Country of Birth

Country of Citizenship

Second Country of Citizenship (if applicable)

Country of Residence (at time of application)

What is/are your Native language(s)?

Please list any additional language(s) that you speak.

Is your current household located in a rural or urban area?

What is the highest level of education your parent/mother/father has received?

Do you currently own a passport?

Do you identify as a refugee or displaced person, or person with a disability?

- ☐ No
- ☐ Refugee/Displaced Person
- ☐ Disability
- ☐ Chose not to answer

How did you fund your bachelor's degree? Please select all that apply.

- ☐ Self/parent
- ☐ Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program
- ☐ Government Scholarship/Bursary
- ☐ Loan
- ☐ Extended family (uncle/aunt)

When did you/will you complete your bachelor's degree? Example: June 2015

What institution did/will you receive your bachelor's degree from?

What is the highest level of education you have completed?

- ☐ Secondary/Diploma
- ☐ Undergraduate/bachelor's degree (BA/BS)
- ☐ Post Graduate Certificate
- ☐ Graduate/Masters/Doctoral Degree (MS/MA/PhD)

What was/is your program of study/major?

What is/was your cumulative undergraduate GPA (CGPA) or weighted average? Please include scale (Example: 3.5/4.0, 4.75/5.0 or 83.3/100)?

Did you graduate with honors?

- ☐ First Class/Magna Cum Laude
- ☐ Second Class Upper/Summa Cum Laude
- ☐ Second Class Lower / Cum Laude
- ☐ Third Class / Upper or Lower
- ☐ Other

Please select your preferred academic program for the 2026 Innovation and Technology Scholarship at ASU. (Check only one)

- ☐ MS Global Technology and Development
- ☐ MS Information Technology
- ☐ MS Human Systems Engineering - Intelligent Systems
- ☐ MS User Experience
- ☐ MSC Computer Science
- ☐ MS Data Science Analytics & Engineering
- ☐ MS Robotics and Autonomous Systems
- ☐ MS Civil, Environmental & Sustainable Engineering
- ☐ MS Clean Energy Systems
- ☐ MS Modern Energy Production and Sustainable Use

Which best describes your entrepreneurship experience?

- ☐ Founder/co-founder of a business or startup
- ☐ Worked at a startup
- ☐ Participated in a program or a competition
- ☐ Have an idea, not launched yet
- ☐ Interested, no experience
- ☐ Other

1) Personal Statement

Please provide a personal statement that explains your motivation for pursuing your chosen master's degree program. Highlight your most relevant academic and professional experiences, and clearly describe how this program aligns with your long-term career aspirations. (Your essay must be between 450-500 words)

2. Resilience, Leadership, & Impact

Describe a specific experience where you demonstrated resilience, leadership, and/or adaptability. Explain how this experience contributed to your personal or professional growth and prepared you for success in graduate studies. Additionally, discuss the positive impact you had on your community and the key lessons you gained from this experience. (Your essay must be between 450-500 words)

Documents to Submit

****IMPORTANT**** The name of all your files **MUST INCLUDE** your name so we can identify it as yours.

Resume: Upload your resume. EX: Jane Doe_RESUME

Letter of Recommendation: Upload one (1) letter of recommendation. Please upload **signed** PDF recommendations only; Word documents may not be reviewed. EX: Jane Doe_RECOMMENDATION

Unofficial Transcripts: Upload your unofficial transcripts documents. If your transcript is not in English, please also provide an English translation. EX: Jane Doe_TRANSCRIPTS

Proof of English Proficiency (Optional): Upload a copy of your English proficiency test scores if you have it in your possession. *Note: this is not required for the scholarship application but is for graduate admissions. Ex: Jane Doe_ENG PROFICIENCY

Application Checklist

Incomplete applications will not be considered. A complete application will include the following:

- ☐ Scholarship form
- ☐ Resume
- ☐ One letter of recommendation
- ☐ Unofficial transcript, with English translation if needed
- ☐ Proof of English language proficiency (Optional)

Permissions

By highlighting "Submit", you grant Arizona State University permission to use your information provided to evaluate your eligibility for the opportunity and anonymously report information related to the program's impact. Additionally, you grant permission for us to send service emails and announcements about the Program to the contact information you provided.

- ☐ Submit