



In partnership with



Scholars Program

THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM

POSTGRADUATE APPLICATION FORM 2027

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Pretoria (UP) for full-time postgraduate study is open to African students who are first-year master's students with a grade point average (GPA) of at least 70%. The Program targets African youth who face significant socio-economic barriers, refugees or Internally Displaced People (IDPs), and persons with disabilities who will return to their home countries and transform their communities. Applicants from countries outside the borders of South Africa should meet the requirements of the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA); for more information, visit <https://www.saqa.org.za/>.

Note to International Applicants: The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program does not cover costs associated with SAQA verification and passport applications

All affidavits can be obtained from a Commissioner of Oaths or local police stations in the applicant's respective country

Applicants should not already have obtained a Masters Degree/Qualification

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. To apply for the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at the University of Pretoria (UP), you **MUST have applied** to UP to study in the faculties listed below and arrange to have the required supporting documents sent to the university. You will need your **U-student number** to complete this application form.
2. Only students in **full-time programmes** and not extended or non-degree purposes are eligible for this Program.
3. Applicants **MUST** apply to a university residence for accommodation. For more information about the residences, please visit <https://www.up.ac.za/student-accommodation/article/1972780/hatfield-residences>.
4. Applicants must be starting their first year of study in 2027. No late submissions will be accepted
5. **To process your application, you must submit the documents listed below (in English only) as a single, combined PDF document with this application form.**
 - i) Proof of your provisional admission letter from the University of Pretoria if admitted before 30 September 2026
 - ii) Academic transcript from previous degree qualification
 - iii) Proof of gross income (payslip(s)/pension advice(s)/financial statements/allowances, maintenance) not older than 3 months for biological/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian/spouse/applicant's source of income.
 - iv) If the individual is unemployed or has no proof of income, an affidavit must prove income, maintenance, or allowance. House executives/housewives must confirm any source of income by means of an affidavit.
 - v) If a biological/adoptive parent is single or never married, an affidavit confirming marital status and maintenance is as well if not receiving any financial assistance.
 - vi) If the biological or adoptive parent(s) are deceased, please provide the death certificate(s).
 - vii) If biological/adoptive parent(s) are divorced, the decree of divorce and affidavit confirming maintenance (as well if not receiving any financial assistance).
 - viii) If a court appoints a legal guardian, they must provide the court order or an affidavit to support their appointment. The guardian must declare a monthly allowance to the applicant by means of

- an affidavit.
- ix) Certified copy of ID/passport.
 - x) ID/passport for biological/adoptive parent(s)/legal guardian/spouse.
 - xi) IDs/passports and birth certificates for both applicant and siblings.
 - xii) Proof of enrolment of all siblings at tertiary institution(s).
 - xiii) A copy of the refugee identity document (where applicable). **NB: Refugee students living within South Africa must have a Section 24 valid permit provided by the South African Department of Home Affairs**
 - xiv) Any proof of disability (registration document or certified copy of a doctor's report)
6. Only students admitted to the University of Pretoria will be considered for this Program. To maximise consideration, apply early and ensure that the university receives all required documentation no later than September **30 September 2026. Apply by 30 June 2026** for admission into a faculty.
 7. Once you receive confirmation that you have been provisionally accepted, complete the application form attached to the link below and submit with subletting document as a **single PDF file** to mcfsp@up.ac.za
 8. This Program is limited to students who cannot afford to study at a tertiary institution. Do not apply if you do not fall within this category.
 9. Applicant must declare if he or she has a relative who is a staff member at the University of Pretoria
 10. Students who are awarded the funding opportunity may not hold **other bursaries** (with the exclusion of UP achievement awards).
 11. All the information provided must be accurate and true. Any falsification of information on this application may result in your application being excluded.

Date of Application:
Please Indicate your University of Pretoria Student Number:
Programme Choice:

20 / /

Please note:

Once successful at UP you will have to enter into a bursary agreement with the Program.

Please mark options with an X.

| Please mark answers in appropriate box | Yes | No |
|--|-----|----|
| Have you applied for and been successful with any other bursary or loan? | | |
| Explain: _____ | | |

For which post-graduate programme have you been admitted?

Please fill in your choice of study programme.

| Faculty | Study Programme Choice |
|--|------------------------|
| Economic and Management Sciences https://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-economic-and-management-sciences/article/30191/postgraduate | |
| Natural and Agricultural Sciences https://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-natural-agricultural-sciences/programmes/year/2022/type/pg | |
| Engineering, Built Environment and Information Technology https://www.up.ac.za/ebit-postgraduate | |

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|---|--|
| | |
| Humanities (<i>with the exception of Psychology degrees</i>) https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2021/HUM-faculty/MA-programmes | |
| Law https://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-law/programmes/year/2024/type/pg/faculty/F6 | |
| Education https://www.up.ac.za/media/shared/6/ZP_Files/faculty-of-education-postgraduate-programmes.zp160545.pdf | |

Please note: It is incumbent upon applicants to verify that the degree program they pursue aligns with the licensure requirements of their home countries, a crucial consideration, especially in the field of Law.

Personal Information

Surname/Family Name _____

Full given names (as in passport / ID) _____

Name you prefer to be called _____

Passport number (For Non-SA)

Date of Birth

| | | |
|--|-------------|--|
| | Your age | |
| | | |

Country of Birth

Citizenship

Gender

| | | | |
|----------|--|----------|--|
| F | | M | |
|----------|--|----------|--|

Residential and Contact Information

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| Address where you reside – Home address (where you reside when not at school) | |
| | |
| | |
| | Zip code / Postal code |

Email address _____

Contact telephone number(s) where we may reach you.

| | | | | |
|----------|--|------------|--|-------|
| Landline | | Cell phone | | Own |
| Landline | | Cell phone | | Other |

*If "other" please state **relationship***

How often are you typically able to access the Internet?

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Address where you will or do reside in South Africa (e.g., University of Pretoria) | |
| | |
| | |
| | Zip code / Postal code |

| General Information | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| Question | Yes | No |
| Has any court ever made an order declaring you mentally unfit? | | |
| Have you ever been subjected to an administration order in terms of section 74 (1) of the Magistrates Courts Act? i.e. have you ever had a court order against you for being unable to pay your debts? | | |
| Are you a refugee? | | |
| Are you an Internally Displaced Person? | | |
| Are you a person with a disability? | | |

If you answered yes to any of these questions, kindly provide details and add supporting documents.

Please provide details of your family's yearly income from all sources

| Total income per family | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| From applicant | |
| from mother's work | |
| from father's work | |
| from all family business | |
| from real estate rentals | |
| pension/retirement funds | |
| from other relatives | |
| Social grants of any sort | |
| Total Monthly Net Income | |
| Total Annual Income | |

Attach copies of the following information: pay slips for the last 3 months, proof of income, bank account statements for each account, tax returns, loan documents and any other information as evidence of your family's ability to contribute to your education.

| Monthly Expenditure | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Groceries | |
| Electricity | |
| Rent | |
| School Fees | |
| Loans | |
| Transport Fees | |
| Other Expenses | |
| Total Monthly Expenditures | |

Complete the table below for all members of your family living in your home, including yourself:

| Full Name | Age | Relation to you | School/University | Year in School | Annual Tuition | Amount Your Family can Pay |
|-----------|-----|-----------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|
| | | Self | | | | |
| | | | | | | |
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Amount of your current school fees (inclusive of all top-up fees and levies and boarding fees). _____

Who currently pays for your fees? _____

Are you on any bursary/scholarship (please mark with an X): YES _____ NO _____

If so, how much does the bursary cover? _____

Do you have a passport? YES _____ NO _____

If yes, what was the purpose of your previous travel? _____

Have you ever travelled outside your home country? YES _____ NO _____

If so, please indicate **when** this was, **where** you travelled as well as the **length and purpose of the trip**.

| Travel Information | | | |
|--------------------|------|----------|---------|
| Destination | When | Duration | Purpose |
| | | | |
| | | | |

| Information on family assets | | |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|
| Question | Yes | No |
| Does your family rent their home, or do they reside in informal housing (shack/hut)? | | |
| Does your family own a car? | | |
| If yes list the year, make (e.g Honda/Toyota) and model (e.g.Civic/Prado) | | |
| Year | Vehicle Make | Vehicle Model |
| | | |
| | | |

What else should we know about your background, your family, and your financial position

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ACADEMIC

List all universities attended, location (including city/country) and which degrees completed.

| Institutions | City/Country | Degree Completed | Who paid school fees |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
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S

List all clubs, sports and other activities you have participated in your community and/or religious organisation. List approximately how many hours per week you have been involved in each. Attach an extra sheet if required.

| Year | Sport/ activity | Level (School/Provincial/National) | Hours involved per week |
|-------------|------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Please select one of the above activities that was most meaningful to you and explain why in the space below.

Have you participated in any special programmes that may assist you in preparing to apply for your studies? If so, please list which programme and its location.

| Programme | Location |
|------------------|-----------------|
| | |
| | |
| | |

List any leadership positions you have held at school and note in which form/year/grade you held that position (e.g., prefect, head girl/boy, president/secretary of a club, team captain, etc.).

| Leadership Position | Description | Grade/Form/Year |
|----------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| | | |
| | | |
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| | | |
| | | |

List any academic prizes or other awards/honours you have received.

APPLICANT EMPLOYMENT

If you have been employed, list all forms of employment since degree completion.

| Time Period | Occupation (please be specific, even if self-employed) | Employer/Workplace | Reason for Leaving |
|--------------------|--|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |
| | | | |

Have you ever stopped attending university because of finances: YES _____ NO _____

If yes, please explain:

DECLARATIONS

I certify that all of the answers I have given in this application are complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. If admitted, I agree to observe all the rules and regulations of the University of Pretoria and the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program. **Failure to do so can result in disciplinary action and expulsion from the Program.** I agree that all documents submitted as part of this application must be authentic and that any falsification of admission and/or academic records through omission or misstatement by me in this application may result in cancellation of my admission and/or other disciplinary action by the University of Pretoria.

I understand that this information and my university records may be reported to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program and used for evaluation and other programme purposes. All information will be kept in strict confidence and will not be released in any way that would permit individual identification. As described above, I authorise release and use of this information to the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program.

Furthermore, I declare that I have no family relations working at the University of Pretoria.

I acknowledge that completing this application form does not automatically mean I will be accepted into the Program. Only candidates selected by the Committee for this Program will be notified. The decision of the Committee is final. The University of Pretoria shall not be liable for any claims against the Program in case of any disqualifications of applicants or unavailability of funding.

Applicant Signature: _____ Date: _____

Full Name of Applicant: _____