



Canon Collins Joel Joffe Scholarships for study at the University of Fort Hare & the University of the Western Cape

Guidelines for Applicants

GENERAL INFORMATION

Canon Collins Trust invites applications from current 3rd year students (going into their 4th year in 2026) studying for an LLB at the University of the Western Cape or the University of Fort Hare. We will provide funding of R40,000 towards the last year of your LLB studies, an opportunity to enhance your academic and leadership skills through organised events and a paid internship at a public interest law firm for approximately five months after your graduation.

The successful candidate will have the opportunity to complete their internship at either the [Equal Education Law Centre](#) or the [Legal Resources Centre](#).

Equal Education Law Centre are a community, membership-based organisation, advocating for quality and equality in the South African education system. The EELC furthermore aims to promote access to equitable, adequately-resourced and high-quality education in South Africa through the provision of specialised legal services and advice on matters concerning education, having particular regard to the needs of socially and economically disadvantaged persons.

The Legal Resources Centre (LRC) is an independent non-profit public interest law clinic that uses the law as an instrument of justice. It works towards the development of a fully democratic South Africa based on substantive equality and provides free legal assistance to indigent people and communities who suffer discrimination by reason of race, class, gender, disability or due to social economic circumstances. The LRC focusses primarily on land and education rights.

These scholarships are funded by the Joffe Charitable Trust (UK charity no. 1180520). Joel Joffe was Nelson Mandela's lawyer in the 1963/4 Rivonia Trial. He played a crucial role in the struggle for democracy in South Africa. The Trust continues to build on his legacy, inspiring others to do as much as possible to realise human rights and reduce poverty.

Across all our scholarships, our scholars demonstrate the potential to drive change towards just and equitable civil societies. This new scholarship will begin to build a cohort of carefully selected lawyers with commitment to work towards strengthening human rights and social justice in South Africa.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must be:

- a national of, and normally resident in, South Africa
- in possession of a strong academic record and extra-curricular involvement
- a current undergraduate 3rd year student of Law at the University of the Western Cape or the University of Fort Hare, completing the LLB coursework no later than December 2026

Please apply only if you are eligible and meet ALL of the above criteria.

APPLICATION PROCESS

When we are open for applications you will be able to access the **online application form** [here](#).
You will find full instructions online when you start a new form.

Please note that we have a strict AI policy. Applicants found to be using generative AI will be automatically disqualified. For further information, please see our [AI Policy](#).

All sections of the form need to be complete before the system will allow the application form to be submitted. Information can be saved and the application form edited until the applicant chooses to submit. All applicants are required to upload the following supporting documentation:

- Copy of degree certificates, if available
- Certified academic transcripts
- ID document (the following are acceptable: passport, birth certificate, driver's license)

You should ask your referees to write a reference that relates to your application for this scholarship. It should outline your strengths as an applicant, demonstrate your capacity to study at the level required, and identify your potential impact in the future.

FILLING IN THE FORM

Please remember that someone else will read your application. Therefore:

Please do

1. Pay attention to grammar and presentation
2. Complete all sections
3. Attach all necessary documents
4. Submit your application in a timely manner

Please do not

5. Repeat answers
6. Write in capital letters
7. Attach unnecessary documents

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

HOW MANY SCHOLARSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

There is no set number, but it is likely the Trust will make 4-5 new awards this year. The Trust makes awards on the basis of available funding and suitable applicants.

SELECTION CRITERIA

In selecting scholars, the Trust will apply a number of criteria including academic merit, need and the potential to contribute to southern Africa's future prosperity. Applicants will be assessed on the basis of the information that they supply on their application form against the criteria outlined below:

1. Academic Record and References

Applicants should be able to show good results from their completed years of study, or be able to demonstrate improvement. They should also have excellent references.

2. Work Experience

We favour applications where there is a demonstrable continuity between applicant's paid or voluntary work experience and their course of study.

3. Leadership Competencies

Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how they have developed their leadership skills in the workplace, academia or in their personal life.

4. Commitment to Country/Community

We will favour applicants who most clearly show a desire to be part of and to contribute to the future prosperity of southern Africa.

5. Application form

The application form matters. Applicants should:

- Demonstrate a good command of the English language
- Answer all of the questions properly and completely
- Complete the application and deliver all supporting documents in a timely manner

TIMETABLE

The deadline for applications is at **15:00 GMT** on **Tuesday 2nd September 2025**. Late applications will not be considered.

Please do not email us to ask about the outcome of your application. All notifications will be by email so please make sure you provide an accurate email address.

We will be interviewing shortlisted applicants in November. We will let you know the outcome of your application in November 2025.

Good luck! We look forward to receiving your application.