

Canon Collins Scholarships for Postgraduate Study in South Africa in 2026

Guidelines for Applicants



General Information

Canon Collins invite applications for the postgraduate study in South Africa 2026. We will provide funding for up to a maximum of two years for Masters and PhD with the ability to reapply for a third year. Continued funding depends upon satisfactory progress and academic reports.

In 2026, we will be making awards only to those studying in three areas:

1. **Justice**, which includes Climate Justice, Law, Economics and Politics
2. **Education** policy and practice
3. **Humanities**, which includes Literature, History, Anthropology and the Arts

Please only apply if your programme of study falls into one of these disciplines.

Interdisciplinary courses and doctoral studies may sometimes defy easy categorisation. Applicants are urged to use their judgement in assessing whether to apply. But applications that clearly do not fall within these areas (for example MBAs, medical sciences, sports sciences and applied sciences) will not be considered for an award.

In 2026, climate justice will be a priority. Climate Justice related scholarship applications may be in a science or applied science field as long as the application can demonstrate its relevance to climate justice related matters.

Are you eligible?

Applicants must:

- be a national of, or have refugee status in, one of the following countries: **Namibia, Zimbabwe, South Africa, Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Eswatini, Zambia**
- be normally resident in one of the above countries
- be in possession of a good first degree (minimum second class, upper division or equivalent) or about to graduate in the year of application
- be studying or applying to study at a South African university
- For PhD-level applicants, you must have already identified and secured a potential supervisor at a South African university at the time of your application.
- Priority will be given to applicants completing their studies in 2026 or 2027

Please apply **only** if you are eligible.

Application Process

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

Please note that we have a strict AI policy in place. Any applications found to be using generative AI will be disqualified. For more 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
- CV
- ID document (the following are acceptable: passport, birth certificate, driver's license)
- Two reference letters
- PhD proposal if applying for study at PhD level
- A supporting statement from your proposed supervisor if applying for study at PhD level
- A sample piece of writing for if applying for Masters level study

You may also need to submit:

- Proof of refugee status, if applicable
- Two recent payslips, if currently employed

Filling in the form

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

Please do

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

Please do not

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

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

References and supporting statements

We will ask you to attach references to your application form. One of these references should be from one of your current or most recent lecturers, and one reference from an employer. If you have never been employed, we will accept a reference from voluntary work, or two academic references. You should ask your referees to write a reference that relates to your suitability for this scholarship.

If you are applying for PhD, you must submit a supporting statement from your primary PhD supervisor, or your potential supervisor. This statement should provide an informed assessment of your academic performance, research capabilities, and potential for future success. It should include a brief description of your doctoral project, highlighting its originality and significance within your field. The statement should offer a clear endorsement of your research and your suitability for the scholarship. The letter must be on institutional letterhead and signed.

Sample Writing Requirement for Master's Applicants

If you are applying for Master's level, you are required to submit a sample of academic writing, with a minimum length of 500 words. This should be a piece that best demonstrates your ability to think critically, construct a clear and coherent argument, and engage with academic sources or concepts relevant to your field of study. The writing sample may be an excerpt from a recent essay, research paper, or project completed during your undergraduate or postgraduate studies. It should reflect your analytical and writing skills, as well as your capacity to work at a postgraduate level.

Getting a place on your course

You must apply to the universities you wish to study at for a place on your chosen course(s). If you are offered a scholarship but fail to get a place in a course, we will withdraw the offer.

How many scholarships are available?

There is no set number. The Trust makes awards on the basis of available funding and suitable applicants. It is, however, highly competitive. Please apply only if you meet all the criteria.

Selection Criteria

In selecting scholars, the Trust will apply a number of criteria including academic merit, financial need and the potential to contribute to education in southern Africa.

Applicants for the 2026 Canon Collins Scholarship 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 have a minimum of an upper second-class (merit) undergraduate or Honours degree and excellent references.

2. Future impact

All applicants need to articulate how the scholarship and their studies will enable them to contribute to open and just societies in southern Africa.

3. Work Experience

We favour applications where there is a demonstrable continuity between applicant's past study and career and their proposed course of study.

4. Leadership Competencies

Canon Collins places a great deal of emphasis upon the leadership potential of individuals. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how they have developed their leadership skills in the workplace, academia or in their personal life. Priority will be given to those who can describe an occasion/s in which they have used their skills to formulate a shared vision or strategy, build strategic relationships and networks, support peers and mentor others, and/or deliver results.

5. Alignment with the Trust's priorities

We will favour applicants who most clearly demonstrate that their proposed course and future plans align with the Trust's priorities.

Timetable

We will open for applications on **Monday 4th August 2025**.

The deadline for applications is at **15:00 BST on Tuesday, 2nd September 2025**.

Late applications will not be considered.

When will you hear from us?

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 October/November 2025. We will let you know the outcome of your application in December 2025.

We look forward to receiving your application. Good luck!