

Tom Queba Scholarships for Social Change

Guidelines for Applicants

GENERAL INFORMATION

Canon Collins Trust in partnership with Tom Queba Memorial Fund and Pegasys invites applications for scholarships for Honours and Masters study at South African universities in 2027. We will provide funding for up to a maximum of two years and an opportunity to enhance your academic and leadership skills through organised events.

Across all our scholarships, our scholars demonstrate the potential to drive change towards just and equitable civil societies. The overriding requirement of the scholarship is that the proposed study contributes directly to social and/or environmental development, and particularly to the betterment of lives and livelihoods of the poorest people in South Africa.

We will award scholarships for social change within the following areas:

- **Justice**
- **Education**
- **Humanities and the Arts**
- **Sciences and Applied Sciences**

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

Applicants must:

- In terms of definitions provided in South African BEE law, be a black or coloured South African national residing in South Africa
- be under 34 years of age at the commencement of your course
- 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 Honour or Masters level at a South African university

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

APPLICATION PROCESS

We are now open for applications and you can access the **online application form** [here](#). You will find full instructions online when you start a new form.

The scholarship application process consists of **two stages**.

Stage 1

Applicants must complete and submit a short online application by **14 August 2026 at 16:00 SAST**.

Only applicants who:

- meet all of the eligibility criteria;
- have submitted a complete application; and
- have uploaded all required supporting documents

will be considered for Stage 2.

In stage 1, all applicants are required to upload the following supporting documentation:

- Copy of degree certificates, if available
- All academic transcripts

- ID document (the following are acceptable: passport, birth certificate or driver's licence)

Stage 2

Applicants who are successful at Stage 1 will be invited to submit a more detailed application in September 2026. Invitations will be sent by email.

Applicants shortlisted following Stage 2 will be invited to interview in **October/November 2026**. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their application by **mid-December 2026**.

All sections of the application form must be completed before the system will allow it to be submitted. Information can be saved and edited until you choose to submit your application.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Applications must represent your own work and your own voice. The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (such as ChatGPT or similar platforms) to draft, write or substantially edit any part of your application is not permitted. We reserve the right to reject any application where we believe AI has been used in preparing the application. Applicants may use standard spelling and grammar checking tools, provided these do not generate or rewrite content.

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.

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
5. Do not use AI tools to write or draft your answers

Please do not

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

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:

Incomplete applications and applications with outstanding documents will not be considered.

REFERENCES

We DO NOT ask you to attach references to your application form. However, if you are shortlisted we will ask you for two references as well as a supporting statement from your supervisor, if you are applying for PhD study. You will need to be able to provide these quickly. Ideally, one reference should be from your current or most recent academic supervisor, 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.

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.

SELECTION CRITERIA

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

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 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 close stage 1 applications on **14th August at 16:00 SAST**.

We will then open for Stage 2 applications in September. All successful candidates will be emailed directly with an invitation to apply.

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 2026. We will let you know the outcome of your application in December 2026.

We look forward to receiving your application. Good luck!