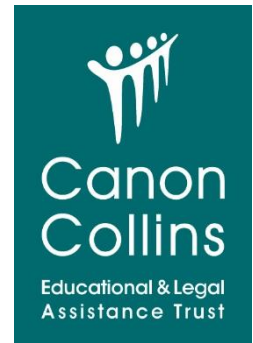


Canon Collins RMTF Scholarships for Postgraduate Study in South Africa in 2027

Guidelines for Applicants



General Information

Canon Collins invite applications for the postgraduate study in South Africa 2027. 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 2027, 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.

Are you eligible?

Applicants must:

- be a national of, or hold recognised refugee status in, one of the following countries: Angola, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe
- be ordinarily resident in one of the above countries;
- be applying for, or currently enrolled in, a Master's or PhD programme at a South African university;
- hold, or expect to obtain in the year of application:
 - a good Honours degree (minimum Second Class Upper Division or equivalent) if applying for Master's study; or
 - good Master's degree if applying for PhD study;
- demonstrate a sustained commitment to social justice through at least two years of active engagement in activities that contributed to addressing social, educational, economic, environmental, cultural, or human rights challenges in their community, country, or region. Such engagement may include, but is not limited to, community-based initiatives, advocacy, teaching or mentoring, public service, civil society or NGO involvement, social impact research, professional practice, or leadership in activities that promote equity and inclusion;
- be pursuing studies or research that contribute to understanding, responding to, or addressing a significant social justice challenge affecting Southern Africa;
- if applying for PhD study, have identified a supervisor (or prospective supervisor) who has agreed in principle to supervise the proposed research, and submit a draft research proposal as part of the application.

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. 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 Stage 1 supporting documents

will be considered for Stage 2.

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

- Copy of degree certificates
- Academic transcripts
- CV
- ID document (the following are acceptable: passport, birth certificate or driver's licence)

You may also need to submit:

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

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.

As part of the Stage 2 application, applicants will be required to provide:

- Two reference letters.
- Draft PhD research proposal (PhD applicants only)
- Sample piece of writing (Master's applicants only)
- If applying for **PhD** study, a letter of support from the supervisor (or prospective supervisor) who has agreed in principle to supervise the proposed research

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. Applications found to have used generative AI will be disqualified. Applicants may use standard spelling and grammar checking tools, provided these do not generate or rewrite content. 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:

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. Use AI
6. Repeat answers
- 7. Write in capital letters**
8. Attach unnecessary documents

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

References

You are not required to submit references as part of your Stage 1 application.

If you are invited to submit a Stage 2 application, you will be required to provide two reference letters. Ideally, one reference should be from your current or most recent academic supervisor and one 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 references that relate to your suitability for this scholarship.

If you are applying for PhD study, you should already have identified a supervisor (or prospective supervisor) who has agreed in principle to supervise your proposed research. As part of your Stage 2 application, you will be required to submit a letter of support from your proposed supervisor.

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 2027 Canon Collins Programme 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.

6. Commitment to social justice

Applicants must demonstrate a sustained commitment to social justice through **at least two years of active engagement** in activities that have directly contributed to addressing social, educational, economic, environmental, cultural or human rights challenges in their community, country or the wider Southern African region. Such engagement may include, but is not limited to, community-based initiatives, advocacy, teaching or mentoring, public service, civil society or NGO involvement, social impact research, professional practice, or leadership in activities that promote equity and inclusion. This experience may be paid or unpaid.

Applicants must provide evidence of this experience in their application. Applications that do not demonstrate the required minimum of two years' relevant engagement in social justice activities will not be considered.

This wording mirrors the eligibility criteria, makes the two-year requirement explicit, and clearly distinguishes it as a minimum requirement rather than something that simply strengthens an application.

Timetable

We will close stage 1 applications on the **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!