

Windle Trust International

UK Postgraduate Sponsorship Programme Selection Criteria

Meeting the minimum criteria is in no way a guarantee of sponsorship due to the large number of eligible candidates and limited available funds. These criteria reflect currently identified development priorities and may change in the future.

General criteria

Overall: Priority is given to applicants of particular merit taking into account academic ability, need, development impact, leadership potential and personal qualities.

Status: Applicants should be refugees, internally displaced or be otherwise affected by conflict.

Origin and location: Applicants should be from the countries of East, Central or the Horn of Africa and be resident in Kenya, Uganda, Sudan and South Sudan.

The programme is open to Ugandan candidates who demonstrate a clear, long-term link with the following regions of Uganda that have been affected by or are emerging from conflict: West Nile, Karamoja, Acholi, Lango, Teso regions. In practical terms applications will be considered from Ugandan candidates who were born in the districts of these regions and/or have lived or worked there for at least three years.

The programme is open to Kenyan candidates from Garissa and Turkana who have demonstrated leadership and personal commitment to reducing marginalization and conflict and the underlying causes of these in the following counties in the Arid region of Kenya: Garissa, Turkana, Baringo, Isiolo, Mandera, Marsabit, Samburu, Tana River and Wajir. In practical terms applications will be considered from Kenyans who:

- were born in Garissa or Turkana counties and
- are currently working in one of the above Arid region counties and
- have demonstrated leadership and personal commitment to reducing marginalization and conflict and the underlying causes of these in the above counties of the Arid region

Academic ability: Applicants must be academically qualified to undertake the proposed course with success, and they must meet the normal entry requirements.

Language ability: Applicants must be capable of studying effectively in the language in which instruction will take place.

Commitment and leadership: Applicants must demonstrate the potential, initiative, will and commitment to put what they learn into practice in future for the benefit of their wider community and region. A previous track record of community involvement will be considered favourably.

Specific criteria

Academic qualifications: Applicants should have an excellent first degree, with a minimum grade equivalent to a British upper second (2:1) undergraduate degree or above.

Please note the following requirements:

- For the purposes of eligibility applicants with degrees graded “First Class”, “Second Class, Upper Division”, “Distinction” or “Very Good” are considered to be the equivalent, with the exception of medical degrees that are not classified.
- Non-medical degrees that are ungraded or unclassified must have achieved a minimum GPA of 4.0 out of 5.0 or 3.2 out of 4.0 to be considered.

- Degrees graded “Second Class Lower Division”, “Good”, “Third class” or “Pass” are not eligible.
- Candidates with degrees from Sudanese Institutions (other than medicine, dentistry and pharmacy) are required to have a BA/BSc *honours* degree.

Work experience: Applicants for postgraduate sponsorship are required to have at least two years of professional or volunteer experience relevant to the subject they wish to study.

Age: Applicants for postgraduate study should be under forty years old.

Location of study: Most of the postgraduate study opportunities available are in the UK. Applicants are only considered if they can satisfy the trustees that they are committed to returning to Africa after their studies.

Duration of courses: Priority is given to applicants for postgraduate programmes up to one year in length.

English Language ability: Due to requirements for admission to universities in the UK, applicants short listed for placement on the UK programme will be required to sit an IELTS test and achieve a score of 6.5 or above.

Additional information

Equal opportunities: Applicants are welcomed from all religious backgrounds and ethnic groups. Efforts are made to award scholarships proportionately amongst the different ethnic groups, but there is no quota system.

Exceptionally disadvantaged applicants: The Trust is keen to encourage applications from women and individuals from other particularly disadvantaged groups. This includes those who are resident in the refugee camps and settlements, those who have lost close family members to war or conflict, as well as those who are particularly vulnerable such as people with disabilities and those who have themselves been victims of violence. The trustees are, in appropriate cases, willing to consider additional support for these applicants, such as pre-study programmes.

Subject of study: Preference is given to subjects that offer a high probability of future employment and are of direct value to development. However, the trustees do not exclude the support of students whose fields of study have a more general application to Africa’s needs.

Course costs: The Trust works in partnership with universities and a variety of donors to share the overall cost of sponsorship. Due to limited funds available the Trust may be unable to sponsor candidates on courses with very high fees.

Family members: In order to spread the benefits of sponsorship as widely and equitably as possible, the Trust will not knowingly sponsor more than one member of a family in any one year.

Dependants: The Trust is unable to support dependants or other family members of sponsored students. The Trust requires assurance that the student has adequate arrangements in place for the care of their dependants while they are studying.

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