



ResearchPath
Academia

Chevening Scholarships

Complete Application Guide — 2027–28 Cycle

Prepared by ResearchPath Academia

[Source: chevening.org/scholarships](https://chevening.org/scholarships)

Official application portal: chevening.org/apply

1. What Is Chevening?

Chevening Scholarships are fully-funded, one-year UK master's degree awards for outstanding emerging leaders from around the world. They are funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and partner organisations.

The scholarship covers tuition and living costs, allowing scholars to focus on their studies, build professional networks, experience UK culture, and return home equipped to drive positive change.

Related award types:

- Standard Chevening Scholarships — see participating countries at chevening.org/apply
- Chevening SIDS Scholarships (Small Island Developing States)
- Chevening ASEAN Scholarships

2. Key Dates — Application Timeline

Stage	Date
Applications open	4 August 2026, 11:00 UTC
Applications close	6 October 2026, 11:00 UTC
Eligibility sift begins	From October 2026
Reading committee assessments	Mid-October 2026 – January 2027
Interview shortlist announced	Mid-February 2027
Interviews take place	March – April 2027
Results announced	From mid-June 2027
Deadline to submit unconditional UK university offer	8 July 2027, 17:00 BST
Studies begin in the UK	September/October 2027

Note: Deadlines are in UTC/BST — check the equivalent time in your own time zone before submitting. Dates above are for the next open cycle (opening 4 August 2026).

3. Eligibility Criteria

You MUST:

- Be a citizen of a Chevening-eligible country or territory
- If applying from an ODA-eligible country, be resident there (not necessarily your citizenship country), showing clear intent to support that country
- Commit to returning to your home country (country of award) for at least 2 years after the scholarship ends
- Have at least 2 years' work experience (2,800 hours), acquired after completing your undergraduate degree
- Hold an undergraduate degree that qualifies you for a UK master's program, completed at least 2 years before the application deadline (certificate needed by interview stage)
- Apply to 3 different UK university courses, and receive an unconditional offer from at least one by the relevant deadline

You are NOT eligible if you:

- Hold British or dual British citizenship (exceptions: British Overseas Territories citizens; BN(O) holders applying from Hong Kong)
- Hold refugee status in a country not eligible for Chevening
- Are currently resident in the UK (excluding British Overseas Territories)
- Are, or were within the last 2 years, an employee (or immediate relative of one) of a government department, the British Council, a partner UK university, or their subsidiaries
- Previously studied in the UK on a UK government-funded scholarship (Chevening Fellows may reapply for a Scholarship after 5 years since completing the fellowship)

Note: Already having a master's degree does NOT disqualify you from applying for a second one via Chevening.

4. Documents & Materials You Need to Prepare

Document	When Needed / Notes
Personal & biographical details	At application — entered directly into the online system
Three UK master's course choices	At application — must be 3 different courses (use the course finder)
Names & contact details of 2 referees	At application — professional or personal contacts, NOT friends/relatives
Four essay/application answers	At application — see Section 5
Two reference letters (in English)	If shortlisted — upload ≥7 working days before interview; non-English letters need a notarised English translation in the same file
Undergraduate degree certificate	If shortlisted — official certificate/diploma proving degree + grade. Transcripts NOT accepted; original document, no translation required
Photo ID	If shortlisted — uploaded with other documents before interview

Unconditional offer letter from a UK university	After a successful interview — submit by the offer deadline (8 July 2027)
---	---

Reference Letter Requirements (for your referees)

- Written in English (or original + notarised English translation)
- Addressed to the British embassy/high commission in the applicant's country/territory
- Must include referee's contact details, how long/in what capacity they've known the applicant, and when they last had contact
- Should cover the applicant's leadership, networking, personal/interpersonal qualities, and ability to complete a demanding UK master's programme

5. Application Criteria — The Four Key Questions

Your application is assessed on four essay areas:

1. Leadership & Influencing Skills

Provide examples with clear, tangible results — e.g., driving change in your community/organisation, improving outcomes for others, solving a specific challenge, or successfully implementing a project.

2. Networking / Relationship-Building Skills

Show how you've built strong professional relationships and how that collaboration led to measurable outcomes.

3. Course & University Choice Rationale

Explain (focusing on your first-choice course) how it connects to your background, career goals, and the impact you hope to make. Link it to UK priority areas:

- Promoting growth and prosperity
- Building climate resilience
- Strengthening security and stability
- Supporting more inclusive and effective societies

4. Career Plan

Present a clear, realistic short-, mid-, and long-term career plan with measurable goals, showing genuine commitment to addressing shared global/local challenges.

Integrity notice: Use of AI to generate application answers is strictly prohibited. Chevening uses detection tools for plagiarism, fraud, and AI-generated content. Applying is completely free — never pay anyone for application help.

6. Step-by-Step Application Process

- 1. Check your eligibility (see Section 3)
- 2. Choose 3 UK master's degree courses and apply to them soon after submitting your Chevening application
- 3. Prepare your referees and education documents (names/contacts at application; letters + certificate later)

- 4. Submit your online application during the open window (4 Aug – 6 Oct 2026), via your country's application page
- 5. Wait for an interview invitation — if shortlisted, you'll interview at a British embassy or high commission
- 6. Secure an unconditional offer from a UK university and submit it by the deadline if your interview is successful

7. Useful Links

Topic	Link
Main Scholarships page	https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/
Apply (select your country)	https://www.chevening.org/apply/
Who can apply	https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/who-can-apply/
Eligibility criteria	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/eligibility/
Work experience requirements	https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/who-can-apply/work-experience/
Application timeline	https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/application-timeline/
Application criteria (essay questions)	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/application-criteria/
Preparing your application (6-step guide)	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/prepare-your-application/
References guidance	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/references/
Find a course	https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/find-a-course/
Online application system guidance	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/online-application-system/
Common application errors	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/common-errors/
Interview guidance	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/interviews/
University applications guidance	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/university-applications/
Strengthen your English skills	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/strengthen-your-english/
Eligibility 'Are you ready?' quiz	https://chevening.org/resource-hub/guidance/are-you-ready/
FAQs	https://www.chevening.org/faqs/
What does a Chevening award cover?	https://chevening.org/faqs/what-does-a-chevening-scholarship-cover/

Why study in the UK	https://www.chevening.org/scholarships/why-study-in-the-uk/
---------------------	---

Compiled from official Chevening.org pages, August 2026. Always verify current deadlines and country-specific requirements on the official website before applying.