



Mo Ibrahim Foundation PhD Scholarships Guidance Notes

Scholarship Information

The Mo Ibrahim Foundation has generously provided SOAS with two PhD scholarships per year for African students undertaking a full-time PhD programme in the field of Governance for Development in Africa.

The scholarship provides for fees for three years and an annual bursary of £16,000 per year. The scholarship also covers visa costs, HIS and TB (if undertaken), provided receipts are submitted to the Centre of African Studies office.

Candidates accept the scholarship offer on the basis of the funding conditions.

Scholarship Criteria

Domicile/Residency: Applicants must be domiciled (or permanent residents) in an African country. Preference will be given to scholarship candidates living in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Eligible Programmes: PhD Programme (Full-time) Research undertaken by scholarship applicants must directly address or be applicable to the issue of Governance in Africa.

The eligible PhDs are only those within the following departments:

- Development Studies
- Law
- Economics
- International Relations/Politics
- MA African Studies
- CISD (Centre for International Studies and Diplomacy)
- DEFIMS (Department for Financial and Management Studies)
- Distance Learning: CEFIMS(Centre for Financial and Management Studies), DEFIMS

Assessment: Scholarship candidates will be assessed based on their intended research, academic merit and references. SOAS is committed to accepting only those scholarship candidates who can demonstrate an ability to complete a PhD within three, or at most, four years.

Application Form

Section A – Contact Information

Please provide your name and contact information, including your Admissions Reference Number from the SOAS Doctoral School Office (you will find it on your unconditional offer letter)

Section B - CV

Please enclose a comprehensive CV with the application. CVs should be no longer than two A4 pages. It must include your email address and contact details.

Section C – Proposal and Unconditional Offer

Please enclose the research proposal that was sent to the SOAS Doctoral School Office as part of your application for a place on the PhD programme. In order to be considered for funding, applicants must first secure an UNCONDITIONAL OFFER for the PhD by applying directly to the SOAS Doctoral School.

Section D – Supporting Statement

Please explain how your intended research either directly addresses or may be applied to the issue of Governance in Africa. Statement must be no longer than two A4 pages (approx. 1000 words).

Section E - References

Applications for scholarship funding are separate from applications to the School for a place of study. Therefore, separate reference letters are required for a Mo Ibrahim Foundation Scholarship. Please provide one academic reference with your application. The reference should be able to comment on your previous research/study and how your intended research is relevant to the Mo Ibrahim Foundation Scholarship scheme. Preferably, referees should send their reference directly to ab17@soas.ac.uk, or if this is not possible post their references to the Centre office (address below).

Other Information

All applications, including reference, must be received by **31st March** of each year. Only complete applications will be accepted. Incomplete applications and applications that do not follow the guidelines above **will not be considered for a scholarship**. The Advisory Panel expects to have made a final decision on the Mo Ibrahim Foundation PhD Scholarships by May of each year. All scholarship candidates will be notified of the outcome of their application.

You should print out the Application Form, sign and scan it and email this along with CV and Supporting Statement in a single email to:

Ms Angelica Baschiera at ab17@soas.ac.uk.

Email applications are preferable, but if you are unable to send your application by email, please post it to:

Ms Angelica Baschiera
Centre of African studies
SOAS-University of London
Thornhaugh Street
Russell Square
London WC1H 0XG
United Kingdom