

British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM and ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships

Frequently Asked Questions

**Please note – these FAQs relate to the upcoming
2024-25 Women in STEM Scholarships and
ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships**

Last updated: 19 February 2024

What does the Scholarship scheme cover?

The British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM and ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships include tuition fees, stipend, travel costs, visa, and health coverage fees.

How to apply

The details of scheme for academic year 2024/25 can be found on - [British Council Women in STEM Scholarships | British Council](#) and [ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships](#)
Please go through the list of universities specific to the country you belong to and make a **direct application on the university page**.

Does a copy of the application need to be submitted to the British Council?

No, your application does not need to be submitted to British Council. All applications must be made to the selected university directly by visiting the related pages and after reading the instructions carefully.

When is the deadline to apply?

Deadlines for applications differ according to the university. The earliest deadline is **late March and the latest on 30 April 2024**. Please ensure you check carefully on the website of your chosen university for full details of key dates and their application process.

Which masters are included in the scheme?

Each university has published a list of master's courses that scholars can apply to. Please refer to the web page of the university for the full list of programmes available.

Is there an age limit to apply?

No, there is no age limit for this scholarship.

Which are the eligible countries for Masters Scholarships?

East Asia: Viet Nam, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, and Timor-Leste

South Asia: Indian, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal

Americas: Brazil and Mexico

Wider Europe: Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Turkey, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia

How many scholarships are there?

There are over ninety-five scholarships available for courses starting in Autumn 2024.

Can women with children apply to the scholarship?

Women with children or caring responsibilities are eligible to apply, but for the 2024-25 academic year, are unlikely to be able to travel with their dependents. We cannot provide support for dependent travel or maintenance under the scheme. This is following recent guidance from the UK Home Office below:

International students studying in the UK will not be able to bring dependents with them on their student visa starting January 1, 2024. This includes spouses, civil partners, and children, except for those enrolled in postgraduate research programs.

The notification can be read here - <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa/family-members>

What special support is available for mothers?

Following recent changes to UK visa requirements, international students studying in the UK will not be able to bring dependents with them on their student visa starting January 1, 2024. This includes spouses, civil partners, and children, except for those enrolled in postgraduate research programs. We are no longer able to support mothers travelling with dependents under the scheme.

Do I need to complete IELTS to apply for this scholarship?

You do not need to complete IELTS to apply, but to be awarded a place on a course you will need to demonstrate the required level of English for your university. Please go through the instructions listed on the university webpage carefully before applying.

What IELTS level is required?

The level of English required is determined by the university you are applying to. Please contact the university directly to clarify the requirements for your course.

Is funding provided to pay for the IELTS proficiency test? If so, how do I access this funding?

Yes, you would need to cover the costs upfront, and then, if you are successful and able to register at the UK host university, the IELTS/English Language test costs can be reimbursed. Please check the exact process with your host university.

If I did my undergraduate degree in the UK, can I apply for the scholarship to do my master's degree?

No, this scholarship is only available for women that have not previously studied in the UK.

I completed an undergraduate degree 5 years ago and have been doing a job since then. Can I apply for these scholarships?

There is no time limit, we are looking for scholars who are active in the STEM field with relevant work experience.

Is a woman who already holds a master's degree eligible to apply for this scheme?

If you already hold a postgraduate qualification from your home country, you are still eligible to apply. You would be expected to demonstrate the added value that an additional postgraduate qualification would give you.

How long will the University take to respond since the process says we need to apply for admission first and then for the Scholarship?

This depends on each university. Please contact the university to ask them about their specific process and timelines.

Am I eligible to apply for any post graduate degrees (at the listed universities) with 14 years of education and around 13 years of professional experience in various industries?

There is no time limit on this. You must be able to demonstrate a career interest in STEM, financial need, and academic ability.

Can I apply to more than one University listed on your website?

Yes, you can apply to more than one university. If you are recommended for a scholarship at more than one university, the review panel will make the final decision on your allocation.

What are main criteria for selection, or which candidates will be given priority in the final selection?

While there are always exceptional cases because of the variety of academic paths, as an ODA funded programme the “British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM” and “ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships” sets *the first international experience* as one of the main criteria i.e., lack of previous opportunities for studying in the UK or other non-ODA countries. We also expect applicants to have no other possibility to study in the UK, including the resources to self-fund the degree.

Where is ODA funding coming from?

“British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM” and “ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships” are funded by FCDO funds for ODA countries. Therefore, this programme follows FCDO guidelines regarding eligibility criteria and type of master’s programmes.

How can I demonstrate case for financial support? What evidence should I provide?

We are not looking for financial statements as evidence which should prove that an applicant is in financial need. The universities will assess CVs and personal statements to identify the STEM career path of an applicant, and the likelihood that this is a first international study experience with no means of self-funding the degree.

After graduation, do I need to go back to my home country for minimum 2 years?

The spirit of the scholarship programme is based around returning home and giving back.

The eligibility criteria states that Scholars are also required to show in their application form that:

- They are active in the field with work experience or with a proven interest in the programme area they are applying for.
- They are willing to demonstrate commitment to capacity-building and socio-economic advancement through the benefits achieved after graduating from UK higher education and returning to their home country.
- They can demonstrate a plan and passion to engage other women and girls in STEM from their home country.

As with Chevening and Commonwealth Scholarships, the British Council will **not** be able to support your stay in the UK via Graduate route visa, following ODA funding rules. Therefore, you cannot apply for a Graduate route visa. You must return home for a period of at least two years following the completion of your scholarship. When you accept a Women in STEM scholarship and ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships, you agree to return home for two years at the end of your scholarship.

Can I apply for a post study work visa after my graduation?

No, you must return to your home country upon completion of your course in the UK.

Do you have any scholarship programmes available for other master's e.g., in business?

Information about other scholarships is available on the Study UK website <https://study-uk.britishcouncil.org/scholarships>

Will I get the opportunity to work while studying?

Usually, students can engage in paid part time work whilst studying in the UK. For more information, please visit the UKVI Website <https://www.gov.uk/student-visa>

Who can I contact regarding the scholarship?



For questions relating to your course of interest, please refer to the university in question - each university has a link and a named contact on [Scholarship Page](#) and [ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships page](#).

If you have questions about the scholarships, please contact the British Council by emailing WomenInStem.Scholarships@britishcouncil.org

Further questions about the ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM Scholarships, please contact the following:

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