

British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM



Frequently asked questions

February 2025

1. What do the scholarship schemes cover?

The British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM includes tuition fees, a living stipend, travel costs, visa and health coverage fees, refund of an IELTS English language test (if needed), and study related costs such as essential travel within the course, materials, thesis binding etc. (depending upon the university and MSc course).

2. How to apply

Details of the scheme for the 2025-26 academic year can be found via:

<https://americas.britishcouncil.org/programmes/scholarship-women-in-stem/2025>

Please go through the list of universities specific to the country you belong to and make a **direct** application on the university page(s).

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

No, your application does not need to be submitted to the British Council. All applications must be made **directly** to your selected university/universities by visiting their pages and reading their instructions carefully. Any applications sent to the British Council's mailbox will not be forwarded to your chosen university for consideration.

Please make sure that your application is made through the universities directly.

4. When is the deadline to apply?

Mexico	Brazil
University of Essex: April 15, 2025.	Imperial College London: April 4, 2025.
Durham University: April 30, 2025.	

Please ensure you check carefully on the website of your chosen university for full details of key dates and their application process.

5. Is there an age limit to apply?

No, there is no age limit for this scholarship scheme.

6. Which master's are included in the scheme?

Each university has published a list of master's courses which you can apply to. Please refer to the university's own website for the full list of programmes available.

7. Which countries/territories are eligible for the scholarships?

Americas: Brazil and Mexico.

8. Can women with children apply for a scholarship and bring dependants to the UK?

Women with children or caring responsibilities are eligible to apply but we cannot provide support for dependent travel or maintenance under the scheme. This is following recent changes to UK visa requirements and guidance from the UK Home Office as 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>.

We are no longer able to provide support for dependent travel or maintenance under the current scheme.

9. What are the eligibility criteria for the scholarships?

- You must be or identify as a woman.
- You must be a passport holder and permanent resident of one of the eligible countries listed.
- You must meet the entry requirements of the UK university for the course you are applying for, including academic equivalents and English language requirements.
- You must have completed all components of an undergraduate degree at the time of submitting an application for the scholarships – British Council can consider final awards pending on a case-by-case basis.
- You must demonstrate a case for financial support/socio-economic need.
- You must not be in receipt of financial support or funding towards your study programme in the UK from any other source and you should not be able to privately fund your UK studies.
- Preference should be given to candidates:
 - who have not had any international exposure prior to this scheme
 - who have not previously studied at degree level or higher in the UK or recently lived in the UK – distance learning at a UK university or study at a UK branch campus in another country will also be considered as studying in the UK.
- You must indicate your preference for a course and institution in the case of applying to multiple institutions.
- You must be motivated and academically able to follow and benefit from a UK postgraduate taught course.
- You must be active in your field with work experience or with a proven interest in the proposed subject area.

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- You must be willing to demonstrate future contribution to capacity-building and socio-economic advancement in your home country through the benefits achieved after graduating from a UK university.
 - You must demonstrate a plan and a passion to engage other women and girls in STEM within your home country.
 - You must agree to maintain contact with the British Council and act as an ambassador for the UK. You should engage with activities as a Women in STEM alumnus during and after your studies in the UK.
 - You must agree to your personal data being shared with the British Council for purposes of assessment and promotional activity, as a condition of applying for the scholarship.
 - You must agree to return to your home country for a minimum of two years after your scholarship award has ended.

10. How many scholarships are available?

There are 10 scholarships available for courses starting in autumn 2025 in Mexico, and 5 scholarships available in Brazil.

11. Do I need to complete IELTS to apply for the scholarships?

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 university webpage(s) carefully before applying.

12. What IELTS level is required?

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

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

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

14. If I did my undergraduate degree in the UK previously, 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.

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

There is no time limit for you to apply. We are looking for women who are active in the STEM field with relevant work experience.

17. Am I eligible to apply with e.g. 14 years of education and 13 years of professional experience in various industries?

There is no time limit for you to apply. You must be able to demonstrate a career interest in STEM, academic ability, and a financial need, as outlined in the eligibility criteria.

18. I already hold a master's degree. Am I eligible to apply?

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

19. How long will the university take to respond, since the process says we need to apply for admission and the scholarship?

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

20. Who will lead the selection process and how will this be communicated?

The selection process will be led by the UK university partners. For any query about your application, you should contact the respective department at the university that you have applied to. The British Council would not have a response to queries related to admission processes.

21. Can I apply to more than one university listed on the 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.

22. What are the main criteria for selection and which candidates will be given priority in the final selection?

While there are always exceptional cases because of the variety of academic paths among applicants, as an ODA funded programme the **British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM** sets “first international experience” as one of the main criteria, i.e. lack of previous opportunities of 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 course.

23. Where is ODA funding coming from?

British Council Scholarships for Women in STEM are funded by Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funds for ODA countries. Therefore, this programme follows FCDO guidelines regarding eligibility criteria and type of master’s programmes.

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

We are not looking for financial statements as evidence to prove that you are in financial need. The universities will assess CVs/resumes 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.

25. After completing the master’s, do I need to go back to my home country for a minimum of two years?

Yes. The spirit of the scholarship programme is based around returning home and giving back. You are required to show in your application form that:

- you are active in your field with work experience or with a proven interest in the proposed subject area
- you are willing to demonstrate future contribution to capacity-building and socio-economic advancement in your home country through the benefits achieved after graduating from a UK university
- you can demonstrate a plan and a passion to engage other women and girls in STEM within your home country.

As with Chevening and Commonwealth Scholarships, the British Council will **not** be able to support your stay in the UK via a 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 completion of your scholarship. When you accept a Women in STEM scholarship or ASEAN-UK SAGE Women in STEM scholarship, you agree to return home for two years at the end of your scholarship.

26. What are the conditions under which I can stay in the UK after completing the course?

You can stay in the UK only if you are able to secure a fully-funded scholarship offer in any UK institution.

27. 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>

28. Will I be able to work whilst 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>

29. 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 on its respective British Council Women in STEM [country page](#).

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