

The Snowdon Trust Master’s Scholarship Overview

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2. Background

Since 1981, the Snowdon Trust has been making financial awards to Disabled Students in further and higher education, funding disability-related study costs that put disabled students at a financial disadvantage.

In 2016, we received a substantial legacy gift from Nina Finburgh. Nina devoted a large part of her life to empowering and enabling others. She was a talented performer but preferred to help others step into the limelight, teaching at stage schools including RADA and The Actors Centre. She believed in performance and dance movement as therapy and worked with various groups, including disabled people, young offenders and ex-servicemen and women.

Her final gift of enablement was a bequest to the Snowdon Trust, with which we have established the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship programme.

3. Target applicants

The Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship has been designed to identify and accelerate exceptional Disabled Students through higher education, creating the influencers of the future. Each candidate will bring something different to the programme. Successful candidates will demonstrate that they have some or all of the following attributes:

- Exceptional leaders, with the ability to create change within and beyond their academic field.
- Individuals that have shown excellence within their chosen subjects.
- Demonstrated leadership potential with a proven drive for success.
- Ability to create change and drive Disability issues.
- Proven achievements in academia, employment, or voluntary activities.

We know that leaders and pioneers often take unique career paths – we welcome applications from students who have recently completed an undergraduate course, and from those returning to study from the workplace or following a career break.

The scholarship is open to national and international Disabled Students, who have the qualities needed to create change. The Snowdon Trust are looking for applicants who can communicate their aspiration to become an exceptional leader, a role model, or a pioneer in their area of expertise.

Ideal candidates will also demonstrate how the scholarship will create profound impact on their current circumstances, future influences, and opportunities. This includes how the

scholarship will support them as a Disabled person to overcome barriers inflicted by society, including attitudinal, physical, social, emotional and many more.

If you are living with a disability and have a proven drive for success, we welcome your application. Please read our eligibility criteria for further details.

All Snowdon Trust Master's Scholars are encouraged to become part of our Disabled Leaders Network. A space for collaboration, engagement and debate, the Disabled Leaders Network will provide a platform for you to build relationships with other exceptional Disabled leaders, creating a hub of information, knowledge, and support.

The applicant – Am I eligible?

1. Our scholarship is aimed at elevating excellent Disabled Students. To be eligible, you identify as experiencing one or more of the following:
 - A learning difference (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, or AD(H)D)
 - A visual impairment uncorrected by glasses (e.g. blindness or partial sight)
 - A hearing impairment (e.g. D/deafness or partial hearing)
 - A physical impairment or challenges with mobility (e.g. climbing stairs or uneven surfaces), or dexterity (e.g. using a keyboard or laboratory equipment)
 - A social, behavioural or communication impairment (e.g. an autistic spectrum condition or Tourette's Syndrome)
 - A long-term illness or health condition which may involve pain or cause fatigue, loss of concentration or breathing difficulties – including any effects from taking associated medication.
 - Two or more impairments or conditions

If you identify with one of these health conditions or impairments, and additionally experience a mental health condition, challenge or disorder (e.g. anxiety or depression) you are eligible to apply.

We cannot accept applications from individuals who identify as experiencing a mental health condition, challenge or disorder (e.g. anxiety or depression) unless you also identify as living with one or more of the health conditions or impairments listed above.

We understand that disability is defined differently within different contexts, countries and by individual preference. However, we cannot provide an exhaustive list or reply to all queries about specific health conditions or impairments. If you believe, based on the information you have read, that you meet the inclusion criteria then we urge you to apply.

2. You are above 16 years of age. There is no upper age limit.

3. You are eligible to study in the UK. If you are an international student, it is your responsibility to ensure that you have the appropriate student or other relevant visa in place for the duration of your studies.
4. You may be an undergraduate looking to continue your studies into postgraduate training. You may also be a mature student, already in the workplace, looking to elevate your position through further study.

Your university – Is my university of choice eligible?

5. You are applying to a university or institution in The United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland).
6. You must have applied to your UK university before applying for a Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship.
7. You must have been offered a place at your chosen university by May 2023 to progress in the scholarship selection process.

Your course – Is my course of choice eligible?

8. Full master's courses such as MA, MSc, MRes/MPhil, LLM and MBA (180 higher education credits) are considered eligible for the Master's Scholarship. Please note that our funding remains capped at the same level regardless of the total course fees. The Scholarship offers up to a total of £30,000 divided between a contribution towards fees (up to £15,000) and an allowance /maintenance stipend (up to £15,000 divided between the terms).
9. Your course must be a full masters' course. The Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship cannot support an undergraduate course, nor a PhD level course.
10. Your course must be taught by a UK university or institution (in England, Scotland, Wales or Northern Ireland).
11. Your course may be taught in person, online, as distance learning, or as a hybrid of these modes.
12. Your course may be full time or part time in intensity.
13. Your course must begin in the academic year 2023/2024 to qualify for the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship funding (i.e. your course must start after July 2023 and before September 2024).
14. We cannot offer you a scholarship if you have already started your course. We cannot offer this scholarship towards the second year of your master' studies. Your course must be a new course that you will begin after the Scholarship has been awarded.

Applications will be excluded from consideration if they do not meet the following criteria:

1. The university or institution applied to is within the UK.
2. The course applied for is a full master's course.
3. All mandatory areas of the application form must be complete.
4. The application must be written in English or recorded in British Sign Language (BSL). If you intend to submit as a BSL recording, please contact our office for details.
5. The application must be submitted by the stated deadline. There are no exceptions for extending the deadline. Please allow time for completing and submitting your application in advance of the deadline.
6. The language in the application must not be inappropriate and/or offensive.
7. The person applying must have a disability that falls within the parameters listed above.
8. You have not previously received a Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship. Please note if you have previously received a Snowdon Trust Grant, you are still eligible to apply for the Master's Scholarship.

4. What is the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship Award

The Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship aims to support Disabled Students who are ambitious, outstanding, and driven to create change in their own lives and society at large. The Scholarship is available to UK and international students applying for a master's programme at a UK university or institution. Please read the eligibility criteria for more details.

The Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship offers up to £30,000 of non-repayable funds. These are divided between a contribution towards course fees of up to £15,000 and an allowance of £15,000 divided between the terms.

The funds available towards course fees are capped at £15,000. If the student's course fees are beyond the maximum funded level (of £15,000), it is the student's responsibility to source and fund the remaining cost.

The allowance of £15,000 will be divided by the number of terms on the course. A proportion will be paid to the student each term. For example, a one-year master's course typically has three terms, so the student would be paid £5,000 each term. The student may decide how to use their allowance, there are no limits or expectations set by the Snowdon Trust on how the allowance is used.

There are up to twelve scholarships available in 2023.

5. How to apply

Applications open at the end of January 2023. We will confirm exact dates in January 2023.

We will post a link to our application portal on our website when we open for applications. Make sure you read through the eligibility criteria, application questions and guidance posted on our website before beginning your application.

It is possible to submit your answers to “The Four Pillars” questions as text or by sending us a link to an audio or video clip. Please read more details on how to submit an audio or video link in the guidance.

All applications must be submitted in English or British Sign Language.

If you are not able to access the application or guidance documents, please contact us on info@snowdontrust.org.

6. Selection process

All applications will be assessed against the criteria outlined below. Every effort is made to ensure that every application is given due consideration. There are three rounds of evaluation which are longlisting, shortlisting, and the final decision.

Longlisting:

At the initial longlisting stage, the Snowdon Trust team will review applications to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and rank them against The Four Pillars of assessment. Approximately forty applications will be taken through to the shortlisting stage.

Shortlisting:

During this stage, the forty applications will be reviewed by the Scholarship Selection Panel, comprising University Academics and Disability Experts. Each application will be reviewed by at least two selection panel members who will independently score the application. The full selection panel will meet to discuss and review the scores. They will determine which twenty applications will progress through to the final round.

Final decision:

The Snowdon Trustees will review the shortlisted applications and award twelve scholarships. The Trustee’s decision is final.

7. The Four Pillars of assessment

The Master's Scholarship is a springboard to propel you closer to achieving your aspirations. In this section we want to get to know you. We would like to understand your life journey until now. What qualities have brought you to this stage in your life. What have you achieved that you are proud of. How have you overcome challenges. What skills do you have that will help you pursue your goals. Why will investing in you be a good decision. How will this scholarship make a difference to you. How will you be able to influence change in the future.

The Four Questions in this section give you the opportunity to tell us about yourself. Please read the guidance below to help you understand what is required in each answer and to avoid repeating information. You may submit your answers either by text or by providing a link to a video or audio clip with your answers.

How to submit your answer

To submit your answer as text, use the text box after each question. It will have a maximum word limit. You may want to consider preparing your answer in a text editing programme such as Word or Google Docs and then copying and pasting your answer into the text box.

If you prefer to answer these questions using video or audio, please prepare one file in which you answer all four questions in order. The video or audio clip should not be longer than 6 minutes. You should upload the file to the web, for example on YouTube or Vimeo, and copy the link into the box on the application form. Please read the guidance notes if you need more information on how to do this.

How to answer the questions

This guidance will help you identify what types of answers we are looking for in each of The Four Pillars.

Pillar one: Impact

How would receiving the Snowdon Trust Master's scholarship help you reach your goals personally and professionally? Maximum text 1,000 words.

Prompts:

TRUST

- Please explain, why have you chosen your selected course of study. How will studying this course support your future ambitions?
- How would winning this scholarship make a difference to your current and future opportunities?
- What barriers have you faced or are you facing as a Disabled Student? How will this scholarship help you overcome those barriers?

Pillar two: Achievement

Tell us about your achievements which are relevant to the field of your study. Which achievement are you most proud of and why? Maximum text 1,000 words.

Prompts:

- We want to hear what you have already achieved in your field of study. Things that you have worked hard at, that show your determination and that are reasons to celebrate.
- The following list is not exhaustive but gives you an idea of the things we would like to know about if they are applicable to your field. Tell us:
 - o about your academic achievements e.g., exceptional results, awards, papers, presentations
 - o about your artistic achievements e.g., exhibitions, performances, awards, tours
 - o about your application of study e.g., engagement in your subject area, work experience and volunteering in your subject area, talks, blogs, memberships, roles with responsibilities
 - o about your dedication to your field e.g., personal development, non-traditional pathways, complimentary activities, engagement including events, volunteering, societies and groups
 - o if you are a role model in your field e.g., patron to a society, ambassador for a cause, received a certificate of recognition, awards, presentations, exhibitions
 - o if you are a pioneer in your field e.g., awards, presentations, exhibitions, titles
- Tell us about your favourite achievement and why it means the most to you.

Pillar three: Potential

In what ways do you have the potential to become an exceptional leader, or a role model, or a pioneer, in your area of expertise? How do you intend to you use your skills to make a difference in society? Maximum text 1,000 words.

Prompts:

- We want to understand your potential and ambition to make the world a better place.
- What qualities make someone an exceptional leader, a role model, or a pioneer?
- What qualities do you have that can make you an exceptional leader, a role model, or a pioneer? How can you use your qualities and skills to drive change?
- Can you give us examples of how you have demonstrated these qualities and skills e.g., in roles of university responsibilities, in the workplace, championing Disability
- How do you plan to drive change? E.g., challenging status quo, taking initiative or involvement in campaigns, advocacy, volunteering, subject specific leadership, mentoring or excellence within your chosen field, your potential to be a prominent achiever, inspiring others with achievements

Pillar four: Commitment

How do you see yourself engaging with and contributing to the Disabled Leaders Network? How would you help develop the Disabled Leaders Network to increase its reach and impact? Maximum text 500 words.

Prompts:

- How could your skills, qualifications and experience bring benefit to others – individuals, groups, or society at large?
- Do you have any experience of being part of an advocacy group? What was your role? How did you contribute to changes e.g. at an organisational or community level?
- What potential do you think the Disabled Leaders Network has to drive change?
- How do you think the Disabled Leaders Network could achieve maximum impact?

8. What is the timeline for the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship?

This is the anticipated timeline for 2023 scholarship applications. Exact dates will be confirmed in January 2023.

January 2023: Applications for the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship open.

February 2023: Virtual drop in Q&A session. Join us to hear from some current/ previous scholarship awardees and ask questions. The session will be recorded and available for you to view later.

End of March 2023: Deadline for submitting applications.

Early May 2023: We will inform applicants who have been longlisted (40 applicants). We will also inform applicants who have not made it onto the longlist.

End of May 2023: We will inform applicants who have been shortlisted (20 applicants).

End of June 2023: Final decision on the Scholarship awards will be announced (up to 12 applicants).

9. Disabled Leaders Network

All eligible applicants to the Snowdon Scholarship will be invited to join the Disabled Leaders Network (DLN). The DLN is an established network of skilled and knowledgeable Disabled Students and Graduates from diverse disciplines and backgrounds who are commonly driven to support one another, create change and would like to benefit from on-going support and information sharing.

The DLN is an exclusive network for building capacity within a cohort that are recognised for their brilliance and are driven to develop and share skills amongst themselves. The network is led by its members but supported by the Snowdon Trust and the Global Disability Innovation Hub who help in running a calendar of activities and are the main point of contact for members.

10. Additional Information

Data and information

The information provided in the application form will be reviewed by the Scholarship judging panels and representatives of the Snowdon Trust.

The data collected will be used to assess applicants for the Snowdon Trust Scholarship. Personal data will not be shared with external parties, beyond the parameters of the selection process.

The Snowdon Trust will be in contact with applicants during the selection process via email. If any applicant would like to be contacted via a different method, please specify during the application process.

Future contact

The Snowdon Trust and the Global Disability Innovation Hub would like to stay connected with scholarship applicants, to keep you informed about future projects and opportunities. During the application process we will ask for permission to send you email newsletters and to contact you about relevant opportunities and events. You may unsubscribe at any time.

Promotional activities

Candidates will be asked if they might be willing to help inspire others and promote future scholarship opportunities. This will not affect the selection process.

How competitive is the Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship?

The Snowdon Trust Master's Scholarship is highly sought after. There are up to twelve scholarships available in 2023.

The number of applications we receive has been growing each year. In 2022, we received around 600 applications.

Typically, 40 applicants will be longlisted. These applications will be reviewed by our Selection Panel.

From the longlisted applicants, 20 will advance to our shortlist.

The Snowdon Trust Board of Trustees will review the shortlisted applications and award twelve scholarships. The Trustee's decision is final.

Due to the high number of applications we receive, we regret that we are unable to provide individual feedback to unsuccessful applicants.