**Questions and Answers from the chat**

From the Q&A Zoom meeting on 15 January 2024.

Any references to personal circumstances have been removed.

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# Course

**Q:** **My course is part time, typically over 2 years, but I'm debating studying over 3**  **years, would this be accepted?**

**A:** Yes

**Q:** **As you need to talk about the course you are applying for in the application, what**  **do you do in the situation where you want to apply to more than one Master's course at the same time?**

**A:** We assume you are likely to be applying for similar courses within the same subject

area, rather than e.g. one in maths and another in fine art. Your general plans and ambitions should still be appropriate to discuss in relation to your planned area of study.

**Q:** **Do you need a commitment/offer from a uni at Stage 1 and 2 in order to proceed with a scholarship application? Are you eligible if you only have a conditional offer? Can you apply to the scholarship and a masters course at the same time?**

**A:** You should apply for your Master’s course at the same time as you are applying for the Scholarship. You cannot apply for a Scholarship and wait to find out the outcome before starting the application process for Masters courses.

You can apply for the Scholarship before you have received your university place offer. You do not need to have confirmation of your acceptance onto your course until the final stage of the Scholarship process. We will ask you for an update if your application is shortlisted for assessment by the Trustees of the Snowdon Trust.

No scholarship payments will be made without evidence of your course offer and your enrolment on your Master’s course. Payment towards tuition fees will be made directly to your university on receipt of an invoice.

**Q:** **If you have completed your PGCE, can you apply for the scholarship to turn it into a**  **masters?**

**A:** We will only fund a full Master’s Course. A “top up” or conversion course does not qualify for this award.

**Q:**  **If you are already studying a masters, is there any way you can still apply for the Scholarship when you’re halfway through?**

**A:**  No. You cannot apply for the Scholarship for a Master’s course which you have already started.

**Q:**  **You stated that this scholarship is primarily for first time masters. In what kind of circumstances will it be considered for a second master’s?**

**A:**  In exceptional circumstances, where the reason for studying a second master’s programme is directly related to disability. This might be because your disability has occurred since completion of a first master’s or because your health or condition has deteriorated such that you are no longer able to work in a previous role and need to retrain.

# Disability

**Q:** **In some of the questions it asks us to talk about our disabilities. If we have some of our disabilities diagnosed but some still undiagnosed, can we still talk about those undiagnosed ones if they impact our diagnosed ones/our education, etc?**

**A:**  Yes, absolutely. They are part of your experience.

**Q:** **In terms of evidence of disability status is a doctor’s record of diagnosis and a blue badge okay?**

**A:** Yes

**Q:**  **When it comes to people with autism, are they the kind of people with disabilities**  **you have traditionally offered awards to? It is very difficult for people to get onto master's courses for this cohort due the multiple social and processing issues.**

**A:**  Scholarship recipients have had a wide range of disabilities, and no particular group or diagnosis is favoured. We are more interested in understanding your experience of disability and barriers and how you plan to overcome these.

# The award funding

**Q:**  **Does the award have to be split into maintenance and tuition fees or can it be used entirely as a maintenance?**

**A:**  Yes, it must be split across the two payments. We'll only award a maximum of £15,000 towards maintenance costs. The other component must be used towards your tuition fees, and is paid directly to your university.

# International applicants

**Q:**  **When you say “…or studied undergrad in the UK” does this mean international students can apply if they studied their undergrad here [in the UK]?**

**A:** Yes

**Q:**  **If an international candidate has never lived or been to the UK, they are not eligible?**

**A:**  That is correct

**Q:** **Why are you no longer accepting international applications?**

**A:** We are a small UK charity. The Scholarship programme has grown significantly year on year and we cannot manage the increasing volume of applications without making some changes to the programme eligibility and process. The eligibility changes will be reviewed carefully before we open the scholarship programme for next year. We understand this is disappointing news for international students who do not meet the eligibility requirement. We cannot make any exceptions to the criteria.

# Mature students

**Q:**  **If a mature student is applying for this scholarship, but has struggled with employment and discrimination during this time, is there any advice on how to approach writing about experience in employment while applying?**

**A:**  We encourage you to tell us about all the disability-related experiences that have brought you to this point. You can include relevant details in your answers throughout the application form.

# Grants and other sources of funding

**Q:**  **Are there any other grants that I could apply for?**

**A:** The Snowdon Master’s Scholarship is our only financial award that can fund tuition fees. If you have disability-related study costs you may be eligible to apply for a Snowdon Trust grant when the scheme reopens in April 2024.

**Q:**  **Are there any other similar award schemes to Snowdon?**

**A:** We are aware that there are not many master’s level funding schemes. Your university may have specific funds available.