Canon Collins Human Rights and Social justice Scholarships for Zimbabwean scholars (Masters study in South Africa in 2021) Guidelines for Applicants



General Information

Canon Collins Trust invites applications for scholarships for Masters Study in South Africa in 2021, in the areas of human rights and social justice. We will provide funding towards your Masters level study in South Africa, an opportunity to enhance your academic and leadership skills through organised events, and a paid internship at a public interest law firm or an organisation working towards promoting human rights, transparency or good governance in Zimbabwe for six months after the completion of your study. These scholarships are generously funded by the Alan and Babette Sainsbury Trust.

Across all our scholarships, our activist-scholars demonstrate the potential to drive change towards just and equitable civil societies. This new scholarship will begin to build a cohort of carefully selected lawyers, activists and other professionals with commitment to work towards strengthening human rights and social justice in Zimbabwe.

Are you eligible?

Applicants must:

- be a resident national of Zimbabwe
- be applying for a full-time Masters course related to the areas of human rights, democracy and governance no longer in duration than 18 months at any South African university
- be in possession of a good first degree (minimum second class, upper division or equivalent) or about to graduate in the year of application
- be available to undertake a 6 months long internship immediately after the completion of study
- demonstrate commitment to apply your skills and qualification to contributing towards positive change in Zimbabwe
- Preference will be given to recent graduates and professionals in early stages of their careers committed to strengthening human rights, transparency or good governance in Zimbabwe.

Please apply <u>only</u> if you are eligible.

Application Process

When we are open for applications you will be able to access the **online application form** <u>here.</u> You will find full instructions online when you start a new form.

All sections of the form need to be complete before the system will allow the application form to be submitted. Information can be saved and the application form edited until the applicant chooses to submit. All applicants are required to upload the following supporting documentation:

- Copy of degree certificates, if available
- Certified academic transcripts
- ID document (the following are acceptable: passport, birth certificate, driver's license)
- Two recent payslips, if currently employed

Filling in the form

Please remember that someone else will read your application. Therefore:

Please do

- 1. Pay attention to grammar and presentation
- 2. Complete all sections
- 3. Attach all necessary documents
- 4. Submit your application in a timely manner

Please do not

- 5. Repeat answers
- 6. Write in capital letters
- 7. Attach unnecessary documents

Incomplete applications will not be considered.

References

We DO NOT ask you to attach references to your application form. However, if you are shortlisted we will ask you for two reference letters. You will need to be able to provide these quickly. Ideally, one reference should be from your current or most recent academic supervisor or lecturer, and one reference from an employer. If you have never been employed, we will accept a reference from voluntary work, or two academic references. You should ask your referees to write a reference that relates to your suitability for this scholarship.

Getting a place on your course

You must apply to the universities you wish to study at for a place on your chosen course(s). If you are offered a Canon Collins scholarship but fail to get a place in a course, we will withdraw the offer.

How many scholarships are available?

This scholarship is competitive and only two awards will be made for the 2021 academic year.

Selection Criteria

In selecting scholars, the Trust will apply a number of criteria including academic merit, leadership potential, financial need and the commitment to contribute to strengthening human rights, democracy, transparency and good governance in Zimbabwe.

Applicants will be assessed on the basis of the information that they supply on their application form against the criteria outlined below:

1. Academic Record and References

Applicants should have a minimum of an upper second-class (merit) undergraduate or Honours degree and excellent references. In some circumstances we might consider applicants with lower second-class degrees, providing that they demonstrate leadership potential and work experience relevant to their area of study.

2. Future impact

All applicants need to articulate how the scholarship and their studies will enable them to contribute to positive change towards an open and just society in Zimbabwe. We will prioritise applicants who clearly demonstrate commitment to advancing human rights, democracy, transparency or fighting corruption.

3. Work Experience

We favour applications where there is a demonstrable continuity between applicant's past study and career and their proposed course of study.

4. Leadership Competencies

Canon Collins places a great deal of emphasis upon the leadership potential of individuals. Applicants will be asked to demonstrate how they have developed their leadership skills in the workplace, academia or in their personal life. Priority will be given to those who can describe an occasion/s in which they have used their skills to formulate a shared vision or strategy, build strategic relationships and networks, support peers and mentor others, and/or deliver results.

5. Alignment with the Trust's priorities

We will favour applicants who most clearly demonstrate that their proposed course and future plans align with the Trust's priorities.

Timetable

We will open for applications on Friday 19 June 2020.

The deadline for applications is Monday 10 August 2020, at 3pm GMT.

Late applications will not be considered.

When will you hear from us?

Please do not email us to ask about the outcome of your application. All notifications will be by email so please make sure you provide an accurate email address.

We will be interviewing shortlisted applicants in October/November 2020. We will let you know the outcome of your application in November/December 2020.

We look forward to receiving your application. Good luck!