

## Guidance & Qualifying Criteria for applicants - 2022

### Snowdon Masters Scholarships

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#### 1. Background

The Snowdon Trust provides financial awards to disabled students to access further and higher education in the UK.

Snowdon Trust breakdown barriers to education and employment facing disabled young people and adults, and where we cannot immediately break down the barriers we support, listen, and increase opportunities for disabled individuals. We campaign for disability inclusion and equitable experiences throughout education and employment.

The Trust was established by the first Earl of Snowdon (1930–2017) in 1981 to provide grants to enable disabled students to access education on an equal footing. During his parliamentary career, Lord Snowdon led a cross-party working group on the integration of disabled people. Among seven key focus areas, the resulting report found that too many bright, capable but disabled individuals were being denied the opportunity to go on to post-school education. Identifying the critical link between post-16 qualifications, employment, and socioeconomic integration, and motivated by his own experience having contracted polio as a child, Snowdon launched the Snowdon Trust grants programme to fund additional disability-related study costs that put disabled people at a disadvantage in the funding of their studies.

He hoped that true equality for disabled people would be achieved within twenty years and the Trust would close, but forty years on Snowdon Trust grant programmes are as much needed as ever. We will continue to provide support to disabled students and graduates until there is fair representation in leadership positions across all sectors. Find more information on the Snowdon Trust [website](#).

The Global Disability Innovation Hub (GDI Hub) is a research and practice centre driving disability innovation for a fairer world. GDI Hub are partners of the Snowdon Trust and manage the Scholarship application process.

#### 2. The Scholarship

The Snowdon Scholarship offers up to £30,000 of non-repayable funds to UK and internationally based disabled students applying for a **master's programme at a UK institution**. There are up to 12 scholarships available in 2022.

The scholarship is designed to support disabled students who are ambitious, talented and driven to effect change in their own lives and society at large.

The scholarship will:

- Financially support highly achieving and ambitious disabled students through master's programmes
- Connect those in receipt of the scholarship to a wider network of disabled individuals through the Disabled Leaders Network (see section 6)
- Provide the foundation for talented disabled individuals to lead by example, move into positions of leadership and influence change.

## 2.1 What can candidates expect from the scholarship?

In addition to the funding outlined below, applicants can expect:

- To be connected to others embarking on the scholarship and other members of the Disabled Leaders Network (see more below)
- Access to events and professional opportunities
- Opportunity to contribute to the Disabled Leaders Network, leading by example and affecting wider change

## 2.2 Details on Scholarship Funding Available

- Maximum funding available per successful student is £30,000 which comprises of;
  - An allowance whilst studying of £15,000 per student
  - Funding up to £15,000 towards course fees
- Available to full-time or part-time master's courses
- The level of support provided will remain the same for UK and overseas students – where fees are beyond the maximum funded level (of £15,000 towards fees), it is the student's responsibility to resource the remaining value

## 3. Qualifying Criteria

### 3.1 Essential Inclusion Criteria

To be eligible for the Snowdon Scholarship applicants must meet the following criteria:

- Applying for a master's programme at a UK institution
- The master's programme commences in the academic year 2022/23
- You experience one or more of the following impairments:
  - Physical impairment
  - Vision impairment/Blind
  - Hearing impairment/Deaf

- Specific Learning Difficulty e.g. Dyslexia, Dyspraxia
- Learning or intellectual disability
- Neurodivergence

### 3.2 Target applicants

The Snowdon Trust are seeking to award the scholarship to applicants who can demonstrate how the scholarship will create profound impact on their current circumstances, future influences, and opportunities. This includes how the scholarship supports individuals to overcome barriers that result from living with an impairment. Ideal candidates should have excelled within their chosen field of study and be able to demonstrate their ambitious drive to succeed now and into the future.

The Snowdon Trust are looking for applicants who can communicate a leadership mindset and have a willingness and potential to influence change. Leadership is viewed as a broad term that is not only demonstrated through positions of individual authority but the wider concept of what it is to be a leader and how the scholarship can support you to be an exemplar of leadership.

### 3.3 Exclusion criteria:

- Applications will be excluded from consideration if:
  - The institution stated is outside the UK
  - Any areas of the application are incomplete
  - Applications are not written in English or recorded in British Sign Language
  - The application is received after the stated deadline
  - The person applying has previously received a Snowdon Master's scholarship
  - Language in the application is inappropriate and/or offensive
  - The programme applied for is not a master's
  - The person applying does not have a disability that falls within the parameters listed above

## 4. How to apply:

- Applications will open on **Monday January 10<sup>th</sup> 2022** and will remain open for 12 weeks, closing on **Friday April 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 at 5pm (GMT + 1)**
- The full list of questions can be downloaded from [the webpage](#).
- You are advised to read the full list of questions and this guidance criteria prior to commencing your application.
- It is possible to submit your response to section 5 "The 4 Pillars" as text OR as an audio or video. You will indicate this on the same application form when you get to section 5:

### **Audio / Video submission**

- If submitting section 5 as an audio or video file you can upload the file to a location of your choice and insert a shareable link which reviewers can access.

E.g. An “unlisted” video on YouTube. Please ensure your file is accessible up until the beginning of May.

- If you are submitting as an audio or video file we ask that your file is no longer than 3 minutes, however, if you need more time due to accessibility reasons please contact [k.mattick@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.mattick@ucl.ac.uk)
- During the 3 minutes you must demonstrate how you meet “The 4 Pillars”

### **Text**

- If submitting your answers to section 5 as text. Please complete all the questions in this section.
  - On the “Achievement” pillar, you have the option to add a shareable link to supplementary material which you believe adds value to your text based answer. For example, a photograph of artwork or a link to publications or a link to a short recording of a performance.
  - If you are sharing a link to supplementary material please note this should be maximum 2 photographs and a 1 minute recording.
- If neither of the options above are accessible to you and you need to submit your application in a different format please contact [k.mattick@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:k.mattick@ucl.ac.uk)
  - When you have reviewed the questions and finished reading the guidance criteria and are ready to apply, please complete the online application form [found here](#).
  - On submission of your application, you will be prompted to download a copy of your application for your records. Please do this.
  - You will receive an automated email to notify you of its receipt.
  - All applications need to be submitted in English or British Sign Language.

## 5. Selection process and anticipated timelines

### 5.1 Selection process

Once applications are received, 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, longlisting, shortlisting and final.

#### **Longlisting:**

At the initial longlisting stage, applications will be reviewed by the GDI Hub internal team to ensure they meet the eligibility criteria and assessed against the 4 pillars of assessment. Approximately 20 applications will be taken through to the shortlisting stage.

#### **Shortlisting:**

During this stage the 20 applications will be reviewed by academics from across three UK universities to determine the applications that will progress through to the final round. This

process involves each application being reviewed by two academics who will independently score the application out of 5 for each of the pillars of assessment, providing a total score out of 20. An average of the will be calculated and in May, all academic reviewers will meet to discuss and review the scores.

### **Final decision:**

The shortlisted applications will be reviewed by the Snowdon Trustees who will determine the final awardees.

## 5.2 The 4 pillars of assessment

All applications, at each stage, are evaluated against the following key assessment pillars.

These are:

- **Impact**

*Evidence of the impact the scholarship will have in creating opportunities and fulfilling individual potential. This includes how the scholarship supports individuals who face additional barriers related to living with a disability.*

Prompts:

- Value of funding to support disability related barriers to higher education
- The possibility to reach individual potential
- Opportunities created for candidate to pursue career opportunities

- **Achievement**

*Evidence of high achievement, dedication and application within the chosen field of study.*

Prompts:

- Academic achievements e.g., exceptional results, awards, papers, presentations
- Artistic achievements e.g., exhibitions, performances, awards, tours
- Application of study e.g., engagement in subject area, work experience, fields of interest, talks, blogs, membership, and career aspirations
- Dedication to field e.g., personal development, non-traditional pathways, complimentary activities/engagement including events, volunteering, societies and groups

- **Potential**

*Evidence of the potential for leadership. Leadership here embodies leading by example, positions of leadership or influencing change.*

Prompts:

- Leadership roles e.g., university responsibilities, workplace, championing disability
- Driving change e.g., challenging status quo, taking initiative or involvement in campaigns, volunteering

- Leading by example e.g., subject specific leadership, mentoring or excellence within chosen field, ability to be prominent achiever, inspiring others with achievements

- **Commitment**

*Evidence of a commitment to influencing positive, inclusive, change beyond the master's that brings benefit to individuals, groups and/or society at large.*

Prompts:

- A vision of how the candidate's skills and qualifications could bring benefit to others
- A clear scope of ideas that demonstrates commitment to something bigger than themselves
- A passion for disability justice and advocacy
- Previous examples of using advocacy skills to effect change
- Commitment to support others e.g., becoming a role model, mentor, campaigner, fundraiser etc for and beyond the scholarship programme.

### 5.3 Anticipated timeline:

Please note:

- All applicants will be notified in May if their application has been longlisted and moving to the next round.
- In order to move through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> shortlisting round, you must have received a secured place on your chosen master's programme when you are contacted in May.
- We will only contact your referees if you have successfully moved through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> round in May.

The table below provides details of how an application will move through the process and anticipated times you will hear about the progress of your application.

Timeline	Date
Applications open	Monday 10 <sup>th</sup> January
Virtual drop in Q & A via GDI Hub webpage	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> February 12:30pm – 13:30pm (UK time)
Application deadline	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April at 5 p.m (GMT + 1)
<b>Long-listing: Initial review by GDI Hub internal team</b>	

Applicants informed of outcome	First week of May
<b>Short-listing: Second review by panel of academics from across 3 Universities</b>	
Applicants informed of outcome	Third week of May
References requested	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> May
Deadline for references	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June
<b>Final: Third review and final decision by Snowdon Trustees to determine the awardees</b>	
Applicants notified	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June

*\*GDI Hub and the Snowdon Trust will aim to deliver on these timelines as stated. However, we withhold the right for these dates to change if situations occur that are beyond our control.*

## 6. 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 and mentor 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.

## 7. Additional Information

### 7.1 Data and information

The information provided in this application form will be reviewed by the Disabled Leaders Scholarship judging panels (Snowdon Trust Board of Trustees and Global Disability Innovation Hub Academic Board) and representatives of the Snowdon Trust and Global Disability Innovation Hub.

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

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

### 7.2 Future contact

The Global Disability Innovation Hub and Snowdon Trust would like to keep in contact with all 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.

### 7.3 Promotional activities

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