Snowdon Masters Scholarship Q & A

Full Transcript

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**Kate** 00:04

Okay, well, hello, everyone, and welcome, this is the students scholarship q&a for 2022. We thought we'd do this session just as a bit of a help to answer some of the queries that come through fairly frequently into our inbox. And it also just gets a chance to have a bit of a conversation meet some of the scholar winners from last year who've kindly joined Richard and Molly, they might be able to give some top tips about their the application process. Just a little bit of housekeeping. We do have British Sign Language available. Sarah Meeks is here who is signing if you are Deaf and using British Sign Language, please let yourself known to Katherine, who's in this call, or Sarah Meeks. And we will make sure that you can see her is visible throughout the session. This session is also being recorded, so if you want your video off, then please do otherwise, it's great if you can leave it on. So we can have a more of an interactive session, there will be a transcript of this recording as well. So you will be able to access that after. And if you want to ask some questions, please do use the chat function. And you can also raise your hand. I have put together some commonly asked questions just to help us with the run of the session. But if you have other questions that come up, then please please do put your hand up or message in the chat. And Katherine and Helen, who are both here, can can help as well. So just a bit of an introduction. I've said already. My name is Kate, I am the membership and engagement coordinator and I work for Global Disability innovation Hub. And we partner with the Snowdon Trust to manage the scholarship process. So I'm usually the person that's responding to your queries. And also here today we have Katherine. So Katherine, if you want to make yourself known to others.

**Katherine** 02:05

Hi, everyone. I'm Katherine Perry. And I'm the lead of advocacy and engagement at GDI Hub. I work really closely with our lovely Kate's here, who is trying to help you all the time. So yeah, lovely to meet you all. I hope this presentation answers all your questions.

**Kate** 02:21

And we also have Helen here from the Snowdon Tust. So Helen, did you want to say hello

**Helen** 02:33

hi, everyone. I'm Helen Saelensminde. I'm Chief Executive of the Snowdon Trust and we're really pleased to be working with with Kate and the team to be able to deliver these scholarships. And we really hope that they're an opportunity to really accelerate some of you through your studies. So yeah, I hope that this session answers all the questions you have, and we're really looking for great applications.

**Kate** 02:55

And it might be worth actually, at this point, I don't know if Richard, you want to say just hello and a wave so people know where you are. This is Richard, one of the previous scholar winners from last year. And Molly is also here as well.

**Molly** 03:12

Hi, everyone,

**Kate** 03:14

they both joined to offer some of their wisdom. Okay, so I don't want to spend too much time covering some of the basics which you can find online. But as you probably know, if you've come along the scholarship has been designed for disabled students accessing Higher Education recognising that there are many barriers that people face. And the Snowdon Trust just work to try and reduce some of these barriers and the scholarships is one way that they do this, so it's the the scholarship is for UK Master's programmes national, open to national and international students. The master's programme can be any area of study. And full or part time students are welcome to apply, there are up to 12 scholarships available. And it's important thing to remember that the start date of your application of your masters sorry, must be after the selection process selection process is complete in June, that's when the final possible 12 are awarded. And so it's important that your master's programme starts after this date. And you can apply through the GDI Hub website, the URLs here and I think that the majority of these bits you probably know as you, you would have seen all the information online. This year for the first time, there are two methods of application. So you can do that through video or audio, which could be about three minutes, three minutes in length, or you can do it through a text. So that's two different ways. And on the text application, there is also the option which I see people have been using which is great of adding in some supplementary material. So if for example, you're an artist, a dancer, you've produced some publications you can do alongside your text application, just pop in a short, a short clip URL that helps support, support it. There are four pillars of assessment. Again, all that information can be found within within the the website and the guidance criteria. So this I thought would be important moment talk a bit about Snowdon Trust and the different programmes they offer, just because there can sometimes be a little bit of confusion about the different opportunities there are. So thing we're talking about today is the national snowdon master scholarship. And that's the thing that the GDI Hub partnered with Snowdon on and manage that process. And Helen's here just to talk about the other bits that you can see on the screen here.

**Helen** 05:46

Thanks, Kate. And yeah, just to just to clarify on the other programmes, so we, we also run the snowdon scholarships with three specific universities. And that's simply because those are organisations that have a strong link with our founder, Lord Snowdon. And so if you are looking to apply for this master scholarship, but you go to, you're planning to study at the Royal College of Art, Royal Academy of Music or at Cambridge University, we ask that you submit your application through that institution. And it will still be scored against all the criteria in the same way. The other programme that we run is, is Snowdon Trust grants scheme. And that's administered through our own website, which is Snowdontrust.org. snowdontrust.org. And that's the grant programme, which is really about helping you meet disability related study costs. Any of the costs that you incur, that aren't met by a Disabled Students Allowance or any other means you're eligible to apply to apply to us for grant of up to 5000 pounds. And you can still apply for a Snowdon grant for disability related study costs, if you've also got the scholarship the two aren't. One doesn't preclude the other. But there's lots more information on our website.

**Kate** 07:09

Thanks, Helen. Okay, so moving on, to our questions. So one of the questions that comes in quite quite frequently is about the type of master's programme. And as I kind of explained in the beginning, we know that there's been a big change with COVID. And now there's a lot of hybrid models of delivery, it's, it's fine. If you're doing a Masters, that's a distance learning masters or an online master's, as long as the university that it is linked to is in the UK, then you can apply that that would meet the eligibility criteria. We get questions around. Again, the main thing is around any type of master's programme is seen across any different subject area. Certain masters aren't seen favourably favourably over the other. So we welcome a real like, and we do get a real diverse type of master's programme that people are applying for. So that's something that's, you know, very, very open to, we get applications for PGCE's for example, people that want to go on to do teaching, as well as kind of law conversions. And as long as your programme is the equivalent of like a postgraduate Master's qualification, then yes, that would meet the eligibility criteria. So we would urge applications. And if there are kind of more specific queries that you're unsure of, please do feel free to contact but I just hope that more broadly, kind of tackle some of those frequently asked questions that we get through about the types of masters. Another quite common question we get in is if you've already started your master's programme, can you apply for your second year of funding, and this at the moment is not something that that is offered, as I kind of said in the beginning, your master's programme needs to be starting after the selection process has been complete. So again, that's just the way it is for this for this selection. If you're applying for multiple universities, then that is absolutely fine. We you can apply simultaneously, that you're applying for your course. And if you've got a few different universities that you're applying for, again, no problem, you can put a few different within your application, what will be important at the later stage, if you move through the selection process is then you make your you know your universities that your as your chosen one or the one that you've been accepted on known to us. So in the initial stages, we appreciate that you may not know and we also you may not know about, you know what university or if you've been accepted or not, but it will be important as you move through the later stages. How can the scholarship money be used? So we have some questions that kind of come in, often around, can it be used for kind of accommodation for for food, for visas? Now you get up to 30,000 pounds if you if you are one of the selected scholars, and 15,000 pounds of this goes towards your fees, and the other 15,000 is to be used whilst you're studying. And I don't know if Helen or even Richard, Molly, if you've kind of got any input about the process of receiving the money or about how it can be used in more specifics.

**Helen** 10:47

Yeah, I can come in there. So what we do is we divide that 30,000 pounds into two areas one is 15,000 pounds to towards fees. And we will ask that your institution invoice us for your fees. So if your fees are more than 15,000 pounds, we will pay the full 15,000. But we will pay the actual amount of your fees. If they are less than that, then the other 15,000 pounds will be will be allocated to you on a termly basis, following a short report telling us what you've been up to. But that's entirely up to you how you spend that money.

**Kate** 11:31

That's really helpful. Thank you, Helen. Sorry, I just couldn't find my mute button there that I think we've covered that if I'm applying for multiple universities. That's okay, you can do that in the initial beginning. I'm going backwards aren't I. Okay, so visa requirements, this is something we often get asked. And if you're an international student, it's your responsibility to look into this in terms of how the money can be used. You by the point that you are selected, you need to have a visa to be able to come and study in the UK. I don't know if, Helen, if you've got any kind of any additional thoughts around international students and visas?

**Helen** 12:23

No, as long as as long as you have the appropriate visas to be able to study at the UK institution. then that's fine by us. And I see that there's a couple of questions have been coming into the chat as well. There's no feeling from us that you you must stay in the UK after your studies or return to your country of origin after we don't have any stipulations around that at all.

**Kate** 12:48

Okay. That's great. And I think another question just came in that perhaps while we're talking around around the money element about working alongside the scholarship, is there any any issues of people who are taking a part time job? As well as receiving a scholarship?

**Helen** 13:08

No, not at all. I mean, the whole point of the scholarships is about really recognising people with really great leadership potential in the future and doing everything we can to help you to reach your ambitions and to know we're really not trying to make it restrictive, we're trying to be as helpful as possible. Yeah,

**Kate** 13:29

that's great. And Emily, that's just to reiterate, yeah, it's up to 15,000 for fees, and then 15,000 for living costs. So there is up to 30,000 pounds available per per scholar. So I think that hopefully is covering some of the money questions, but do keep them coming in. There's one around the programme start or the time you get the scholarship. And like you said, it's kind of the way the fees are paid is through an invoicing process through the university, isn't it? Alright, so please do keep the questions coming, though, and we will come back to them. So another question that we are being asked quite frequently is about people's specific disability or impairment. And this is obviously a bit more of a difficult question to answer in terms of we can't get back to every single person around their specific medical condition, disability, impairment. And what we would really encourage people to do is to have a look at the inclusion criteria. And after you've read that, it's about your how if you feel based on what you've read, that you would meet the eligibility criteria, and you will be able to explain the kind of day to day impact of living With your impairment to to the panel, then yes, we would encourage you to apply. As Helen's mentioned, this is about kind of more of about, you know, an inclusion and willing the application. And we just don't have the capacity to come back to every single individual about specific conditions. So we kind of want to put that back on you as applicants and say, if you feel that you've read it, we don't have a list an exhaustive list of any, you know, of conditions or impairments that might be within an eligibility criteria and those that aren't. So I think it's just about reading it, and thinking around whether the impact of living with your condition or disability on your day to day life, meets the criteria that's stipulated? So I know that it's a kind of broad answer, but that's because we don't have a black and white list. So another question that comes through is what medical evidence is needed? Do we need to demonstrate associated costs? And this answer is a little bit more straightforward. No, we don't need any medical evidence. And you do not need to explain or provide any kind of documentation of evidence about the cost associated. So sometimes people will send me in a kind of letters from, from the healthcare medical world, and it's not something we need to see. And so I hope that's encouraging, people this is again more about an inclusive process, as opposed to an expectation that, that there'll be a heavy amount of evidence to go alongside the application. And age limit is something we often get asked. And again, no, there is there is no age limit. And when you go through the process, it's important to kind of one of the questions is around your sort of future ambitions and your plans after the masters. And I think if you're somebody perhaps that's beyond a working age, it's just still really important to express how within your application how your masters is going to help you reach your kind of ambitions and your your future desires. So no age limit, just important during the application process to talk to that element. How many international international students are selected? Had this question come in a few times, and we don't have a set decision on this there is, you know, your applications are not judged by the country have residence within. But they're about the four pillars of assessment. So that's how your application is assessed. So the one thing that probably, I would say exists as a strong barrier for international students, is the fact that there are we recognise larger fees for international students coming to study in the UK. And the amount of money available from the Snowdon trust does not does not change related to this. So it still is only up to 15,000 pounds of your fees. So it's the responsibility of the international student coming to study in the UK to source any additional fees elsewhere. Another question that comes in, we, the scholarship process does not require any kind of English Proficiency evidence that might be something that is needed as part of your master's application to your specific programme, but for the scholarship, we don't need to see evidence of an English proficiency your your application needs to be written in English. And if you're doing a video or an audio application, then that needs to come in, in English as well. The deferrals for for successful applicants, we've had this question a couple of times, I think one of the current scholars as well had a query around this, of course, we recognise that situations might happen and things might change during the time that you apply for the scholarship. And then from the time you were a scholar and throughout your studies, but if Helen, did you want to kind of speak to this question about options for deferrals if challenges arise?

**Helen** 19:50

Yeah, I think just as you've said, Kate, we absolutely appreciate that. Life sometimes happens in a way that means that you might have to defer. We'll, we'll look at that on a case by case basis. So if if you were successful in receiving the grant, you felt that you needed to defer it for a year. And we'd ask you to talk to us, and we'd see what we could we could do. And if at all possible, then yes, we would be able to defer it for you. Thank you.

**Kate** 20:21

Um, and then this is one of the kind of final pre questions that I've got, I think it's probably a nice question to lead on to some of the other scholars that we've, we have here today. And so how have past awardees contributed to the disabled Leaders Network, and have they remained involved with the network after completing their studies. So if you've had a look through some of the questions and criteria, there is a section that's around kind of commitment, and commitment speaks to the idea of contributing, you know, something back giving, giving back to, I guess, the wider movement, and that can be your local community that can be you know, your area of study, or that can be within this kind of capacity that we talked around within the Disabled Leaders Network. And this is, the Disable Leaders Network is something relatively new, established by the Snowdon trust and GDI Hub a few years ago, and that the network is about kind of connecting scholars that come through each year. And it has grown since then. So we do welcome people to join the Disabled Leaders Network who have applied to the scholarship, but maybe have not been successful in making it through the process. So the network is expanding and growing, and there'll be future kind of development from it. We're still sort of planning and plotting at the moment. And I think, isn't it the case. So we at present have a few different groups, we have a kind of a network, mostly is established on LinkedIn. And we run webinars throughout the year, as well as opportunities for people to kind of get involved in discussions, write blog posts, and kind of connect with each other. We have Richard, Molly and David here, which is great. David Maggs has also come who are three of the previous schlars, I might just stop sharing my screen now we can have a bit more of a discussion with some of the questions in the chat. And perhaps, Molly, Richard and David might be able to share a few thoughts around this. Okay, that's better I can see people now it's hard when you say the screen. So I don't know if speaking to that last question. If David, Molly or Richard perhaps just wants to answer about kind of how they found the process after perhaps being a scholar coming into the network, and if they have any reflections about the process. So David I'll go to you first

**David** 22:58

Yeah. happily so, so, hi, everybody. My name is David. I, I've recently joined the joined the programme I'm doing a MBA at Warwick business school, and was, you know, really, really lucky to get accepted onto the Snowdon Trust Scholarship. And so the process, you know, I was actually made aware of the scholarship through a friend of mine who's had been accepted onto it the year before. And, and the, the process for me, it was really, really straightforward, you know, the application was was explained to me by a couple of really helpful, helpful staff, it was really clear to what I had to put across in the application form. And then I found, you know, the the staff who work at the Snowdon trust really, really approachable and really, really helpful in explaining, you know, some of the, the eligibility criteria, and you know, what I could have what I could do to make my application strong. So, you know, if you're feeling hesitant in any way about applying to the programme, you know, just go for it, because you don't, you don't know what, sometimes you feel less confident in your shirt about what you offer. And I think, you know, when you think when you feel you could apply, you might as well so, you know, one piece of advice, just go for it, because you never know, to answer one question I've seen there that I know the answer to so I think there was a question about academic referees. If you finished university a long time ago, I finished university like 10 years ago, and obviously don't have any recent academic referee. So I just used two of my line managers at my last job, and they were happy to accept that as a referee. And if anyone's got any specific questions to me, please go ahead

**Kate** 25:03

Yeah, please does anyone and you can use the raise your hand function or feel free to unmute yourself. If anybody wants to ask David or one of the other scholars, any specific questions. we can move on perhaps I don't if Molly or Richard, do you want to go to who can I see first? Richard, did you want to say something? Following on from David?

**Richard** 25:27

Yeah, sure. Um, I was gonna say that. In terms of encouraging people to apply, it's pretty good odds. Because there are, what five scholarships each year.

**Kate** 25:40

Well, up to 12,

**Richard** 25:41

up to 12. All right. And then ther're only on average, about 200 people who apply?

**Kate** 25:48

Well, it at the moment, we've already received 200 applications so that it has gone up each year. Last year, there were 500. And this year, so far, we have received 200. And there's a month a month to go. So it's a fairly changing circumstance, I'd say

**Richard** 26:08

less than one in 10, which is definitely a lot less than buying lottery tickets.

**Kate** 26:14

Exactly! I could see you trying to quickly work out the maths there.

**Richard** 26:18

Yeah, so I came to this as a as a mature student. So in my application, I sort of included not just things I've done academically, but also things I was, I'd sort of done in life, generally, a lot of campaigning work and various other bits and bobs. So yeah, it isn't just what you done. It's also sort of who you are, and all the various different things, not just the sort of anything like that kind of just paints the overall picture of what your goals are, and what your plans are and what you plan on doing. And how you plan on contributing, I think it's probably the most important thing is your your vision for the future. And what you plan on doing with it, like what's going to make you different doesn't mean everyone needs money for the Masters, but like what makes you special in terms of your specific need and what you're going to do with it? I think that's like, that's the thing to focus on, I think.

**Kate** 27:12

Yeah, brilliant. Thank you, Richard. I think that's really true. Definitely there is that need to express and demonstrate, I guess your plans into the future and how you might like not not in a real kind of tangible sense, give back. But I guess that wider vision and that wider kind of contribution. I can see someone with their hand up staz. Did you want to ask a question, or you can type it in the chat?

**Staz** 27:43

Hi, yes, please. Hi, my, my internet's a bit unstable. Sorry. My question is, I already have one offer for one course. But I'm also in applications for others. And although my aim is the same for both courses, both courses are very different. How does that affect the application if there's two different courses with the same aim? And also, if I was successful for the second one, and took that one up instead of the other? Does that affect the application, please?

**Kate** 28:14

Okay, so you have in your application, your state that there's the two different courses? But are you just asking that? How would you speak to those courses? If both quite different within this?

**Staz** 28:27

Because Because I'm very focused in what I ultimately want to do. But the the way I would take it, depending upon which of those two would be have to be different, if that makes sense.

**Kate** 28:36

That makes sense, I think probably the best thing to do is is speak to that focus. And, you know, the fact that you maybe have this overall aim, and there's potential two paths of getting there from either the Masters, I would, you know, I'd encourage you just to talk about the overall aim for you and how the higher education pathway will get will get you there. If that if that helps. Helen, I don't know if you had anything else to add on on top of that.

**Staz** 29:12

Thank you.

**Helen** 29:13

I agree with you. I think we've had applications like that previously from from students who are still deciding which of the pathways they're going to take to get them to their ultimate ambition. I think you can do that through your application. As long as you've got the the you've been accepted on the course you've ultimately decided on by the time it comes to award the scholarship then we're very happy that it's still a live journey through the application process.

**Staz** 29:43

Wonderful. Thank you very much. Thank you.

**Kate** 29:47

I'm just aware we hadn't I just want to say a quick hello to Molly because Molly is also here from a previous Scholar before we jump to the questions I just thought I'd let Molly make herself known to people because people might want to contact her directly.

**Molly** 30:00

So, hi, everyone. I'm Molly Lawson. I'm studying classics at Cambridge, and I did my undergraduate in history at Lancaster. Everyone's given some really great advice already. I was just gonna say that I, I applied to one of the alternative routes I applied through Cambridge. So if anyone has any questions about that, specifically, I'd be more than happy to answer.

**Kate** 30:23

Great, thank you, Molly. Emmanuelle, I can see you've got your hand up.

**Emmanuel** 30:29

Hi, good afternoon to all Hi, Kate. Hi, Helen.

**Kate** 30:36

Oh, you've gone, you've gone back onto mute Emmanuel. I'm just gonna see if we can unmute you there.

**Emmanuel** 30:43

Now it's better. Now. I can he Hi, good afternoon to all Hi, Kate. Hi, Helen, once again. It's wonderful to be with you guys, people like minded, who are who are making a very nice ecosystem for people with disabilities to grow and flourish. I am a doctor myself with disabilities. So I was searching for a group of them similar to yours. And because as you know, there are so many barriers for us to achieve, to be more successful in a profession life as well as our personal life. So my question is that if someone is successful for a scholarship, does the trust help them to achieve professional exams? And second, what opportunities do we give be given by the trust to supplement the course fee? For example, if I'm an international student, so my course fee will be like almost triple correct? So if I clear licencing exam in UK for for a doctor for for for a GP, for example. So would I be given work opportunities or placements to supplement my my course fee? And secondly, I have completed my diploma in some medicine from University of Edinburgh. So am I eligible to apply for Masters now? Thank you.

**Kate** 32:10

Thanks Emmanuel did did you What was the last point you said was that you'd already completed a master's at Edinburgh. Was that right?

**Emmanuel** 32:18

Not a Masters is its a postgraduate diploma,

**Kate** 32:21

post graduate diploma. Okay. Um, so I think I'll just go to that point first, because that raises something that has come up before, if people have got a diploma or a master's already, are they still eligible? Yes, you are still eligible. We don't discount people that have already got a master's. So that hopefully answers that query. In terms of the question around your medical exams, this scholarship is very much specifically for the master's programme. It's for those postgraduate qualifications attached to a university and there is just up to the 15,000 pounds available for costs fees. So I'm afraid that when it comes to kind of the additional costs that international students may face, this scholarship might not specifically cover all of that.

**Emmanuel** 33:17

Mam if there's no travelling involved than... Hello,

**Kate** 33:29

hello, sorry, I lost I lost you there for a moment.

**Emmanuel** 33:32

Mam, there's 15 for travel and 15 for post. Correct.

**Kate** 33:36

There's 15 for fees 15,000 pounds available for fees and 15,000 pounds available for living costs.

**Emmanuel** 33:43

Yes. So if no travel is involved, the the whole Master's course online, so could the both the amounts be clubbed together? Possible?

**Helen** 33:53

Shall I come in Kate? we will pay up to 15,000 pounds for fees. We will then give you if you're studying on a one year course we will give you the other 15,000 will be paid to you in three termly amounts of 5000 pounds. How you spend those that 15,000 pounds, it's entirely up to you, if you wanted to also use it to cover your fee costs. That's entirely your decision. We don't ask you to tell us how you're spending that money.

**Emmanuel** 34:29

Okay thank you mam. you my second, third question is that, for example, can we stay connected with the Snowdon Trust even if we don't get selected for the scholarship?

**Helen** 34:42

Yes, absolutely. Sorry, Kate, I'm taking those.

**Kate** 34:45

please do!

**Helen** 34:46

Yes, absolutely. We've we're very keen to see if it will be valuable to join the disabled news network. And as I say, none of it. None of any scholarship awards precludes you from Applying for a Snowdon grant if you're eligible to do so absolutely stay in touch

**Emmanuel** 35:07

Would there be an a session to explain the four pillars, which are needed to be addressed in application, or to just give a brief enlightenment? What should be there and what should not be or it could be any length.

**Kate** 35:25

Emmanuel, what we might do is move on to some of the other questions, but I think we'll definitely come back to the four pillars. I think that probably on the others come up. And if we don't get to cover that in this session, then I'm very open to people emailing me to get some more specifics around that. So, shall we, Zrinka I know, You've had your hand up there for a while. So would you like to ask your question?

**Zrinka** 35:51

Hello. Can you hear me? Yeah.

**Unknown** 35:55

Okay. My question is, if I have applied to more than one scholarship, if I get more, just because I have applied to my faculty scholarship for international students, if I get that scholarship, can I also get Snowdon? Or does the day like the cannot be add up?

**Kate** 36:24

I don't know Helen, do you want to come in on that one? If other sources of funding does that ever,

**Helen** 36:30

We'd want to be sure that we're obviously not double funding anything. So if you if you've, if you've got funding for your fees elsewhere, then we wouldn't want to add something on top of that. But at the same time, we also really respect the fact that you're searching for to lots of places for funding. And we were grateful for you to do that. Because it means that our funds can go further. So I would say, talk to us, you if you have some but not all of your funding from another source, and then talk to us and see what we can do.

**Kate** 37:01

Thank you, Amelia, I'll come to you next.

**Amelia** 37:12

Hello, can you hear me? Yeah. Great. Thank you. Thank you for this. I just had a couple of questions. The first I lost my internet for some of it, So I'm not sure if you've answered this. But the first one is just whether distance learning courses are, you'd be eligible. And the second is just to the your scholars that are here just a bit more about the network and what they do as part of that. And then what they sort of how they get together, if possible. Thank you.

**Kate** 37:42

Thanks, Amelia. So yes, distance learning. You can you eligible. Yeah, we welcome applications from different course deliveries. In terms of the network, I will absolutely hand over to the other members, I'll just give a quick overview, that at the moment, the network is very much in its infancy. And we It began in 2019 By bringing together the scholars so that at that time might have been about eight or 12 people, then, in the following year invited more scholars to the new intake of scholars. And then last year, we increased it as well to be as somebody mentioned, just then, and Helen mentioned to be more people, the wider kind of group who'd come through the application process as well may not have been successful. So we're developing plans for it. And I will hand over to Molly, Richard and David just to speak to how they found it so far. But it's definitely something that's currently in development. And we're really open to new people coming in and helping helping shape that. We want it to be very much led by led by members. But anyway, I'll be quiet and hand over to David, Richard or Molly, if any of you want to take that.

**David** 39:02

I'll go first. Hi, Amelia. So, to your first question, so I'm on a distance learning course, at the moment, so rest assured, it's eligible, and it you know, it's it's exactly the same as any other degree, you know, it's something you'll get that you can put in your application for, as to your your second question. So, there's, I mean, it's a really fascinating network to be a part of, as, as Kate said, you know, it's in its infancy. So there's still lots for us to do. We've got a couple of events coming up in the near future, we're all going to sort of get together. So there's one happening at the House of Lords, which was a pretty cool thing to be invited to go and do a reception, you know, just just gives us all a bit more confidence and credibility in the stuff that we're kind of invited to. other than that, there's, you know, we've got a WhatsApp group where we can sort of, you know, discuss stuff, you know, people post some of the academic work they've been they've been working on and, you know, share ideas on that and things like that. And and yeah, you know, it's a really cool things to be part of, because there's so many different types of academic study going on that. I mean, I'll be honest, I didn't even know were subjects that you could do. So it's a really, it's a really diverse thing to be a part of. So, you know, look forward to being a part of it if you're accepted onto the scholarship.

**Amelia** 40:37

Thank you.

**Kate** 40:40

We're just going to jump to some of the other questions if that's okay. And we'll definitely come back to Richard and Molly as well if at the end, so Divinegift David Usman, that's how your name's Brittany, you there to ask your question. I don't know if he can we can come back to Divinegift. We will come back to you if we don't hear from you in a moment Aminat Usman, are you there to ask your question Hello.

**Aminat** 41:27

Yes, please. To ask if the scholarship require dependents

**Kate** 41:38

if the scholarship will require

**Aminat** 41:41

it, if it will foot the bill of dependents to if one can take your dependents.

**Kate** 41:49

So I understand so if there's a personal assistant or a carer or a family member, is that what you're asking? Yeah, yes. Yeah. Okay. Um, so I don't have had an if you want to come in on this about the fee, I guess it goes relates back to how the money can be used.

**Helen** 42:11

Yeah, I mean, I think across all the questions about money, it's split into two sections, 15,000 pounds towards your fees, we will pay all of your fees if they are less than 15,000 pounds. And we will pay a contribution of 15,000 pounds if there are more than that. The other 15,000 pounds, which is a Stipend to you which will be paid. If it's a one year course we'll pay it in three instalments during that year. If it's a two year course, we'll pay it in six instalments across the two years, and how you spend that money is entirely up to you. We don't need to see receipts, we don't need you to tell us how you're going to spend it. That's there entirely to help you to get the most out of your studies.

**Aminat** 42:55

Okay, thank you.

**Kate** 42:58

Thank you. Um, but we're gonna come on to another question Akosua?

**Akosua** 43:05

sorry, I didn't turn my mic on. Um, I had a question because I would be an international student. So I was wondering, I already asked Molly, but I'm just asking you again. How exactly does the visa process work? Like, do I need to have the visa before I can get the monies into the school I've been accepted to? Or is it just kind of like, once I get it, everything works out it? So that's really rambling? I'm sorry. It's like 7am here.

**Kate** 43:32

Oh, well, thank you for joining. Um, I, in all honesty, I don't have a firm answer for it. Helen, do you know about the visa process and how that's worked with?

**Helen** 43:44

Well, I mean, essentially, the visa processes is something that's between you and your university. So we're not going to be too worried about it. We're going to pay out for your scholarship once we've got an invoice from your university. So presumably, we won't be able to have that until your visa is sorted out for your study there. So, so we're completely independent of that. And so, no, nothing about visas is going to influence us one way or another. As long as you are accepted onto your course. Then, then we're happy.

**Akosua** 44:19

Okay, thank you, ma'am.

**Kate** 44:24

Samira, are you there to ask your question? Yes.

**Samira** 44:28

Hi, good afternoon. It's amazing to be a part of this session. I just wanted to ask that. At the moment. I don't have any experience. I've only done an MBBS degree and post internship I could not, you know, go forward with study due to my circumstances. And I'm a full time caregiver to my sister who's a dialysis patient. So my question is that I don't have a prior experience. So can I apply for the scholarship? Will I be eligible?

**Kate** 44:56

Um, so if and when you talk about prior experience, is that related to your academic background? Have you previously studied?

**Samira** 45:06

Yes, I have done my Bachelor's, and I've done my internship only in 2015 16. That's it. Nothing else does.

**Kate** 45:15

Yeah, so the, to be eligible for the scholarship, the main kind of one of the main criterias is that it's, you know, a master's programme you're applying for. So if you would meet the requirements for the your your decided masters, then, you know, in terms of how that would meet the scholarship requirements, then it would probably be fairly, fairly equal in that. When we look at achievement, it's not always about the kind of the the academic or professional background. If you've had kind of, you know, voluntary roles or various other positions, then then that also feeds into this idea of previous experience. By the fact that you've done a bachelor's and you have worked, and you also have a caregiving role. That sounds like you've got a wealth of experience. So, you know, we would we would encourage applications from from that area. Sure.

**Samira** 46:10

Yeah. But caregiver role is like, I'm taking care of my eldest sister, that's unlikely, not professionally, or like, not like taking Salary, obviously, it's my sister. So that's all I have no, like work experience. I mean, and no, I can't make progression in the career. So that is, I was thinking if I can apply for the scholarship, or no, that is the only reason.

**Kate** 46:34

Sure, so yes, if you've, if I'm just kind of reiterating my previous point, if you're eligible to apply for your master's programme, and you, you know, secure a place with on your master's programme, then you would also be eligible to come on to the scholarship if you meet the other criteria.

**Samira** 46:51

Thank you so much.

**Kate** 46:52

Thank you. Okay, is there anyone else with their hand up? Aminat, I can still see you have your hand up. But I don't know if that's from previous or if there is the question if you're able to speak now. Okay, any other hand hand up? I can have a little look in the chat elsewhere. Otherwise, I know that we've had, we've still got 10 minutes left. So please do use this. Oh, staz, your hands come up again. Is that a new question?

**Staz** 47:26

Yes, please, if that's okay. Yeah. It's relating to the neurological want, you know, the requirement. So when you state that can that be mental health, which actually combines with the neurological, so because of the Mental Health deficit actually, isn't biological but creates neurological problems that affect studies with that count?

**Kate** 47:50

So when it comes to the criteria, I guess, kind of going back to the idea of but how it impacts your experience day to day. So if you have an have a physical presentation or neurological symptoms, because of your condition, then it would be important your application to clarify that I didn't know if, Helen, if you wanted to kind of speak to some of the areas around eligibility.

**Helen** 48:17

Yeah, it's, we're aware that we want to try and make it as simple as possible. But there's, there's no easy way of making it completely clear, because the Snowdon Trust was set up 40 years ago as a charity that supports people with physical, physical disabilities. But we know now that that, as a term doesn't quite cover all of the types of disabilities that are supported through Snowdon Trust grant programmes. So I think the easy way to say is that, that we recognise that there are lots of organisations set up to support people with mental health impairments. And so we, we don't specifically support people with a mental health impairment as an eligible criteria on our programmes. However, we recognise that that might be one of a range of disabilities experienced by somebody. And yeah, I mean, really, at the end of the day, I think it really comes down to, as Kate says, if you can explain the impact that that has on your life, and your ability to study and the things that you're going to go on and be able to do without support, and that puts you in a strong position.

**Staz** 49:31

Thank you, because mine could be considered neurodiverse, because it's a half a bracket between the two. So it's affecting the brain, but it's considered mental health. And there's currently debate about that, which is why it's so hard to get it diagnosed and detected. So it kind of I was I was like, does it come under the neurodiversity because it's currently classed as mental health but affects the brain. And that was Yeah,

**Helen** 49:52

I think. All I can say is that that's the best thing to try and emphasise in your application. Yeah, And the challenge we have is that you know, Kate and I can advise you. But ultimately, neither one of us is involved in the decision making process. So there's always that bit of somebody else's subjectivity that we can never quite eliminate. So I would say, you know, focus as much as you can on on the neuro diversity. And as long as you can, you can demonstrate the impact that that's had, but more importantly, the impact you're going to make in the future, I think. that stands you in good stead,

**Staz** 50:33

thank you so much. Thank you. Thanks.

**Unknown** 50:36

Hello, sorry for interfering. I have a mental health issue for I know, from 2004. And I would like to know, you have mentioned that there are so many other charities who are working on it. Could you please write those names? Because I don't know, for anyone in the UK, except you because I'm not a UK citizen. Thank you.

**Kate** 51:09

Sure, we can definitely share some resources. I don't know if there's anyone here who wants to jump in and knows some on top of their head, but we can share resources after. And okay, so precious Henry, you have your hand up? Did you have a question?

**Precious Henry** 51:29

Yes. Good afternoon, ma'am. Thank you very much for. Can you hear me mam? Okay, thank you very much. Um, just a very quick one. I didn't really get your response on this term study, like, one studying online? Would that be approved? And then the second one, for your transcripts? Well, the school the institution send a transcript direct to you, or the student, or the applicant is going to send the transcripts while applied for the stuff that's for the university I wouldn't know.

**Kate** 52:10

Um, so the first question, yes, distance learning does count. And you can apply if it's distance learning, as long as the university is UK. And the second question about the transcript, can you just repeat that for me?

**Precious Henry** 52:26

Okay, I think I will read out one to two or 10. More to that have their first question. Then my second question. Let me leave that on the transcript. I think if the school I'm applying to that I will ask that to. But then my second question for the scholarship is about the dependents. i It wasn't clear to me what was a response to the person that asked previous to? Yeah, thank you.

**Kate** 52:56

So you just wanted the response. So the 15,000 pound living cost, which is what Helen was speaking about previously, you know, that money can be used at your discretion, how is needed for you to be able to complete your studies/ Okay. Okay. All right.

**Precious Henry** 53:15

Thank you. All right.

**Kate** 53:18

So Molly, you've got your hand up. And I know you've been busy typing away in the chat. So thank you very much for answering some people's questions but I don't know if you want to say something there.

**Molly** 53:29

Yeah, no problem. I was just raising my hand for Mar because they can't raise their hand in the thing. So I was just making sure that they got a chance to speak.

**Kate** 53:36

Oh, thank you. Okay. So who are we passing that question over to?

**Mar** 53:41

Oh, hello, thank you Molly. Um, I've got a question. I think, well, I have ADHD. Am I eligible to apply? Or is it? No?

**Kate** 54:03

Do you mind repeating it? Sorry, Mar I didn't quite catch the whole question.

**Mar** 54:07

Sorry. Yeah. I have ADHD. Am I eligible to apply

**Kate** 54:14

Ah ADHD? Did you say?

**Mar** 54:16

Yes,

**Kate** 54:17

yes. ADHD within the kind of criteria that's been set on the website would be considered something that comes under the neurodiversity and people often identify in that way. So yeah.

**Mar** 54:30

Okay. I've got another question. Okay. Sorry. I might get a different entrance at the RCA for the academic year of 2023 2024. Could I still apply for the scholarship next year? Well, not next year. I mean, for for the next round, not this one.

**Kate** 54:57

Yeah. So if you're if you're if you're if you're getting A deferred entry for the following year, then you could apply for the scholarship for that for that round. Okay. Would that be right? Yeah. All of the kind of dates are on the FAQ. So if you have any query about when your masters needs to start to be eligible for this round, then that is within the FAQs. Now, I'll make sure I reshare that Alongside this, realising we're running out of time, and that people who've been really patiently waiting, I'm Maria, did you have a question?

**Maria** 55:29

Hi, thank you. I'm just I was I was you solved most of my questions. I was driving to work, it's 7:30am here. But I was wondering if, if I accepted if I get a scholarship. Do you provide any help to find accommodation? Because I would be taking my service dog? A so I know it's a difficult thing to to find accommodation when you have a dog. So I know you don't actually do it. But do you have any resources? Or can you provide any support to help? Find accommodate for a service dog, for example here in Mexico I am not even able to take it to work. So because it's not allowed.

**Kate** 56:26

Yeah, thank you for your question. And this is something that's come up in the past. Helen, I don't know we've had the kind of query before from other scholars haven't we around accommodation challenges. If there is, I mean, this is probably a good platform as well for people to share resources. And I don't know if there's anything that the Snowdon T rust have kind of developed from from the challenges that have been found before.

**Helen** 56:50

Now. I mean, I think what what I would say here is that we can't give you any specifics help through the Snowdon scholarship but the disability unit at the university you're applying to, should be able to help. What we can do is if you if you find when it comes to a plot to finding a sorry, feedback, when it comes to finding accessible accommodation, if the costs are greater than than you can afford then you can also apply to the Snowdon Trust for a grant to help you with some of those costs. That's a separate thing to the scholarship. But if you were to get the scholarship, you can still apply for a grant.

**Kate** 57:34

Okay, thank you. So we've come to half past one, there are a few people still with their hand up. So what I will do, I don't want to keep people any longer, I'm happy to stay on the call for a couple more minutes. But if people do need to leave, you know, David, Sarah, Molly, thank you so much for coming along. I'm happy to stay just for another few minutes to kind of get a few more of those queries. In terms of the recording, I will make sure that this session, I can get it onto our website. So the main, the same place that you go to find all the information, I'll upload it there. And I'll kind of relook at it myself and pull out some of these questions that have come into the chat. And make sure that we have a bit of a stream about answering any of these FAQs, our contact form and my email address can also be found on the website. So please do get in touch that way. But I'm just going to make sure that I'm just giving people the opportunity to leave bang on time if they need to. But like I said, I'm happy to stay for another few minutes. So Ellen, you've you've had your question your hand up there.

**Ellen** 58:40

Yeah, hi, I actually I put my question in the chat, but I don't think it's been looked at but it was, uh, I know that you've spoken about the fact that if you're doing a part time master's, and you're uneligible to apply if you're already studying, but I just wondered if there was any exceptional circumstances where that could be looked at, because I think that I've met the criteria very much. But I just have started my master's already.

**Kate** 59:07

Okay. Helen I don't know if you want to take that one.

**Helen** 59:12

Hi Ellen I'm sorry. It's really frustrating. I know. But we can't take applications for the scholarships from somebody who's already started their master's. You can check if you've got if you if you're eligible for grants, then we can still support you through that scheme. But no, the the criteria is clear. With scholarships for people who haven't yet started their masters.

**Ellen** 59:36

Okay, thank you anyway.

**Kate** 59:40

Um, okay. Abula. Did you want to ask your question?

**Abula** 59:47

Yeah. Hi, can you hear me? Yeah. I'll say My question was the same as Ellen's but basically minds, I think where I started, but I had to interrupt due to some reasons. So Do I understand that you have to be eligible for both? The two? But would you be would I be eligible to get one of them? At least? If I was to carry on for next year?

**Kate** 1:00:13

And when you say one, when you say one of them, do you mind just explaining?

**Abula** 1:00:18

So in terms of you know, how there's a 30,000 pound Grant that you guys provide Would, So if it's not, for example, to pay off the tuition fees, Could it be for supporting throughout the studies?

**Kate** 1:00:35

Okay, I see. I see. Okay Helen, I don't know if this this is just again, probably a yes and no answer.

**Helen** 1:00:44

Yeah, I mean, the scholarship is, is the 30,000 pound award for the fees and, and living costs. And that is, that is the the, the award, we don't break it up. So if you have, if you're going back to an MA or a master's programme that you've already started, then it wouldn't be eligible, if you're having to restart our programme, then that would be different. And obviously, you would be eligible in that sense. But we can, you're eligible to apply for a Snowdon grant. Alongside if you've got disability related study costs that aren't met.

**Abula** 1:01:22

Thank you.

**Kate** 1:01:25

I'm just dropping my email into the conversation here. So people can have that. And I'm going to kind of round up the session here, I don't know if any maybe final reflections from David or Molly, before we close, thank you very much both for staying a little bit longer. So any final words of wisdom from from either? Yeah, I just

**David** 1:01:50

go on Molly

**Kate** 1:01:52

Sorry, I should have named one of you, I know it's my fault.

**Molly** 1:01:57

I would just say, really think about what you've done in the past. And don't let yourself diminish your own achievements and make sure to include them in your application. And also, just if you're wondering about it just apply, there's absolutely nothing to be lost. I didn't for a second think I was going to get the scholarship. And I was so so pleased when I did. So please do just make sure to apply if you can.

**Kate** 1:02:24

David, over to you.

**David** 1:02:26

Yeah, I mean, I looks like Molly and I are in exactly the same position, when we both applied, I thought, you know, oh I am probably not eligible, or I'm probably not the kind of person they're looking for, or I probably don't have as much, you know, experience in the kind of things that they want, etc, etc, etc. And you know, all of the all of the self doubt that you might have or you might not have that is is consistent for anybody who's applied to the scholarships before. So don't let that stop, you absolutely apply. And the best of luck to everybody.

**Kate** 1:03:00

Definitely. Second, both of that. So thank you everybody, for coming. It's been really great to have a conversation about this. And hopefully that's helped with some of the queries. I know, there probably be some there might even be more after this session. But do email me. And please, please do just have a look through the FAQ, we do update them with the questions that come through. You know, and because we do have quite a lot, it might not be that I can't get back to you straight away. But but just keep an eye on monitor that see if the queries are there. And Molly, you know, and David have both kindly kind of shared some details if you do want to reach out to them. But yeah, thank you don't know if Helen if you wanted to to kind of share any last things before we finish the session.

**Helen** 1:03:43

Oh, just to say, you know, to reiterate everything actually, that Molly and David have said and for being such brilliant co host on this call. But yeah, we really want to hear from you. If you if you have big plans for your future, then we really want to help you get there. So. So tell us about it in your application form. And we're really looking forward to being able to work with as many of you as possible in the coming year. So yeah, best of luck and keep at it.

**Kate** 1:04:12

Yeah. All right. Thank you, everybody. Um, please do Yeah, send me an email.

**kate** 1:04:18

Take care. Bye.

**Emmanuel** 1:04:21

Thank you awesome session.