



democratising access to higher education

Workshop on Applying for the Felix Scholarship at SOAS University of London  
Thursday, 19 January 2023



# Outline

- Project EduAccess
- Meet your Panelists
- Overview
- Eligibility
- Timeline
- Application Process
- Assessment Criteria
- Online Application Form
- Interview
- Questions



# Project EduAccess

Access to higher education is a privilege most people from marginalised communities are systematically denied through cost, information and dispositional barriers.

**Project EduAccess** is a modest attempt to improve inclusivity in HEIs by removing these barriers for marginalized communities in South Asia.

We hope to achieve this by providing expert mentorship, support and guidance to learners in South Asia.

# Meet your panelists



**Muhammad Isa Hakim**

LLM Human Rights, Conflict and Justice  
SOAS University of London  
Felix Scholar 2018-19



**Apala Mandal**

MA in Migration and Diaspora Studies  
SOAS University of London  
Felix Scholar 2022-23



# Overview

- The **Felix Scholarship**, administered by the Felix Scholarship Trust, was founded to offer gifted underprivileged students from India the opportunity of furthering their postgraduate education by attending a university in the UK.
- Felix scholarships are offered at **three universities - the University of Oxford, the University of Reading and the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS)**, part of the University of London.
- The Scholarships are awarded on the basis of outstanding **academic merit and financial need**.
- For entry in September 2023, there are **6 Felix Scholarships** available to Indian nationals with first class degrees to pursue graduate studies at SOAS, University of London: 1 PhD scholarship and 5 scholarships for Taught Masters programmes. Applicants may apply for **any full time PhD programme or Taught Masters programmes**. Part-time programmes are not eligible.
- The Felix Scholarship covers the **full cost of tuition fees; living costs and a return air fare**.



# Eligibility

- Applicants must be **Indian nationals**, not currently living or studying outside of India.
- Applicants must **not have previously studied for one year or more outside India**.
- Applicants must have **at least a first class Bachelor's degree from an Indian University** or comparable institution. Priority may be given to applicants with a higher first class Bachelor's degree. Exceptionally those with an upper second-class degree at the Bachelor's level may be considered for PhD, if they hold a first class degree at the Master's level.
- Those who already hold **degrees from Universities outside India** are not eligible to apply.
- Those who **already hold a Master's degree** cannot apply for a Master's degree scholarship. Those who **already hold a PhD** cannot apply for a PhD scholarship. Those who have already taken up a scholarship to pursue PhD studies at an Indian University are not eligible for a Felix scholarship.
- **Felix Master's Alumni** who have obtained a distinction at Masters may apply for a PhD Felix scholarship.
- Graduates are **expected to return to work in their home country**.



# Timeline

**January 2023:** Candidates must submit the complete online application to their programme of choice and then submit an electronic application for the scholarship by 23:59 (GMT) on 29 January 2023.

**February - March 2023:** Candidates are likely to receive admission offers from their departments.

**March - April 2023:** The Scholarships Office will notify those who have been shortlisted by the SOAS Panel for the Felix Scholarship interview round.

**April - May 2023:** Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview with members of Felix Scholarship Trust.

**June 2023:** Successful candidates will be notified of the outcome by June. If you have not had a response to your application by the end of June, you should assume that your application was unsuccessful.



# Application Process

## 1. Apply for your Graduate Programme

Apply for your programme by **23:59 (GMT) on 29 January 2023**. Applicants must submit a complete online application for admission by this deadline. The panel will be considering your scholarship application TOGETHER with your online application for admission. Please note that complete application for admission can take up to 4-6 weeks to be considered by the department.

## 2. Apply for the Felix Scholarship

Apply for the scholarship by **23:59 (GMT) on 29 January 2023** by filling the Online Felix Scholarship application form, available here:

<https://www.soas.ac.uk/study/student-life/finance/scholarships/felix-scholarships>





# Assessment Criteria

- Candidates will be assessed on **academic merit**.
- **Financial needs** of the candidate will also be taken into consideration.
- Only those who have been **accepted for admission** will be considered for shortlisting by the SOAS Selection Panel.



# Online Application Form

- The online application form gathers data to assess your eligibility for the scholarship, academic merit and financial needs.
- All candidates are expected to explain what benefit they believe their course of study will bring to their home country.
- If you're applying for a PhD programme, you will be expected to describe the area of your proposed research in 450 words in a manner easily understood by a non-specialist.
- Applicants are also expected to provide information about:
  - Past and present employment
  - Educational qualifications
  - Posts of responsibility held at school/university/college or elsewhere
  - Main extracurricular activities and interests
  - Funds already firmly secured for fees and living costs for each year of their course (from own finances, parents/ guardians, the government, other scholarships, loans, etc.)



# Interview

- The interview and/ or selection process not only tests the candidate's **academic abilities** (in their chosen disciplines) but also assesses the **candidate's personality, financial need and suitability** for the **Scholarship**.
- Candidates are expected to be **aware of recent developments** that have occurred (both academic and general) in their areas of interest. They will also be expected to **elaborate on their research interests** in case they are applying for a research degree (like a PhD), or their course includes a research component (like a dissertation).
- Candidates must have a good command of both spoken and written **English**.
- Each interview lasts approximately **30 to 45 minutes**.
- The interviews will be held **online** by the Felix Scholarship Trust. Please note that these interviews are not conducted by SOAS.



# Stay Connected

[www.projecteduaccess.com](http://www.projecteduaccess.com)

[projecteduaccess@gmail.com](mailto:projecteduaccess@gmail.com)

Other ways to get in touch

