



democratising access to higher education

Workshop on Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships  
Saturday, 26 November 2022



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# 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



**Samia Mehraj**  
Master of Public Policy  
WHT Scholar 2022-23



**Sara Rahim**  
MSc in Economics for  
Development  
WHT Scholar 2021-2022



**Rai Sengupta**  
MSc in Evidence-Based Social  
Intervention and Policy  
Evaluation  
WHT Scholar 2021-22

# Overview - WHT Scholarships

- The Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme (WHT Scholarship) is an opportunity to pursue fully-funded graduate studies at the University of Oxford, combined with a comprehensive programme of leadership development, long-term mentoring and networking.
- Scholarship for university graduates and professionals from developing and emerging economies.
- The scholarship covers 100% of course fees and a grant for living costs (of at least £17,668). Awards are made for the full duration of your fee liability for the agreed course.
- The WHT Scholarships are not available for research programmes (MPhil and DPhil).



# Eligibility

- You must be making an application to **an eligible course** (see next slide) and must be ordinarily resident in one of the eligible countries.
- Need to demonstrate a **connection between your subject of study and your longer-term career objectives**, explaining how you see your professional work contributing to the improvement of public life in your country of origin or at a wider regional or international level.
- These qualities are assessed during the selection process, including using the **graduate application form, Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships Statement** and (if relevant) the **interview**.
- Candidates should be **intending to return to their country of ordinary residence** once their course is completed.



# Eligible Courses

- BCL Bachelor of Civil Law
- MBA Master of Business Administration
- MJur Magister Juris
- MPP Master of Public Policy
- MSc Advanced Computer Science
- MSc African Studies
- MSc Biodiversity, Conservation and Management
- MSc Comparative Social Policy
- MSc Contemporary Chinese Studies
- MPhil in Development Studies
- MSt Diplomatic Studies
- MSc Economics for Development
- MSc Education (Comparative and International Education)
- MSc Education (Higher Education)
- MSc Energy Systems
- MSc Environmental Change and Management
- MSc Evidence-Based Social Intervention and Policy Evaluation

- MSc Global Governance and Diplomacy
- MSc Global Health Science and Epidemiology
- MSc International Health and Tropical Medicine
- MSt Islamic Studies and History
- MSt Jewish Studies
- MSt Korean Studies
- MSc Latin American Studies
- MSc Law and Finance
- MSc Mathematical Modelling and Scientific Computing
- MSc Migration Studies
- MSc Modern Middle Eastern Studies
- MSc Modern South Asian Studies
- MSc Nature, Society and Environmental Governance
- MSc Refugee and Forced Migration Studies
- MSc Social Science of the Internet
- MSc Sustainability, Enterprise and the Environment
- MSc Water Science, Policy and Management



# Timeline

## November to January

- Applications must be submitted by the January deadline to the University of Oxford for the course to be considered for the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann scholarships.
- All applications are assessed by the University of Oxford and decisions are made by each department.
- Only candidates offered a place at the University of Oxford are eligible to be considered for a Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust Scholarship and Leadership Programme.

## March to June

- Candidates for the Scholarships and Leadership Programme are contacted by the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust and **virtual interviews for shortlisted candidates take place**.
- Assessment is based on the selection criteria here.
- The interview Selection Panel is made up of University academics from partner Colleges and Departments, and WHT staff/advisors and alums.
- In May, successful applicants are informed by the University of Oxford. Please note WHT-Chevening Scholarships are often not awarded until June.

## September/October

- Shortly before the start of the academic year, the new cohort of Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholars come together as a cohort in Oxford for an intensive few days as an Introduction to the Leadership Programme.
- This is a compulsory part of the Scholarship award and is covered by the stipend (living allowance).





# Application Process

## 1. Graduate Application form

You must select the Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme in the University of Oxford Scholarships section of the University's graduate application form and submit your application for graduate study by the relevant December or January deadline for your course.

## 2. Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships Statement

You must also complete a Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships Statement and upload it, together with your graduate application form, by the deadline. If you are applying for more than one graduate course, you must upload this statement with each graduate course application.



# Selection Criteria

- **Motivation and purpose**

- Explain the relevance of the proposed course of study to your future professional objectives - what are your career goals and how will the course support you to achieve this.
- Demonstrate excellence in your professional and any extra-curricular activities.
- You should also provide evidence to show your commitment to effecting social, economic or political change at the local, regional or international level.

- **Leadership potential**

- You should be able to describe your leadership skills with particular relevance to communication and interpersonal skills as well as aptitude for strategic thinking and teamwork.
- Consider also leadership qualities such as initiative, commitment, responsibility, originality, creativity and risk-taking.

- **Academic excellence**

- Indicators of high academic achievement will include: degree results, individual marks on student transcript, information on the student's overall position within their cohort, academic references, publications (if applicable)

- **Commitment to the Programme**

- Scholars are required to commit to all core requirements of the Leadership Programme.

# Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships Statement



## THE WEIDENFELD-HOFFMANN SCHOLARSHIPS AND LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Oxford-Weidenfeld and Hoffmann Scholarships and Leadership Programme

**Please note:**

You only have to fill in this statement once. If you are applying for more than one graduate course, you must upload this statement with each graduate course application.

**1. Personal Data:**

| Name & Surname | Date of Birth |
|----------------|---------------|
|                |               |

**2. Choice of graduate course and college at the University of Oxford:**

| Name and duration of chosen graduate course | Preferred college (if any) |
|---|----------------------------|
|   |                            |

**3. Please list the name and location of the universities you have attended to date, and the degrees and results you have received:**

| Name and location of the University | Years attended (MM/YY) | Degree obtained | Grade obtained |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------------|----------------|
|                                     |                        |                 |                |
|                                     |                        |                 |                |
|                                     |                        |                 |                |
|                                     |                        |                 |                |

**4. Professional experience: list your two most significant recent jobs**

|                        | Organisation, Country | Position | Time frame (MM/YY) |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------------------|
| I.                     |                       |          |                    |
| Main responsibilities: |                       |          |                    |
| II.                    |                       |          |                    |
| Main responsibilities: |                       |          |                    |

**5. Please provide details of all the other scholarships (both Oxford & non-Oxford) for which you have applied – this does not include scholarships that you will be automatically considered for:**

| Name of scholarship | Location |
|---------------------|----------|
|                     |          |

**6. Please answer the following questions in no more than 200 words per question:**

- Why do you want to participate in the Weidenfeld Hoffman Trust Leadership Programme? What value do you see in our Moral Philosophy Programme and Enterprise Challenge and other activities?
- How can one individual make a difference?
- Have you ever mobilized a group to achieve a common goal? How?
- What is the challenge facing your country that you want to help resolve?
- Outline your ideal career path over the next 5-10 years.

**7. How did you find out about this scholarship?'**

Oxford University website  Word of mouth  From a former scholar

Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Trust website  Other - please specify .....



# Weidenfeld-Hoffmann Scholarships Statement

In addition to providing your information about your educational and professional experiences, and Oxford application, applicants need to **answer the following 5 questions** in no more than 200 words per question:

1. Why do you want to participate in the Weidenfeld Hoffman Trust Leadership Programme?  
What value do you see in our Moral Philosophy Programme and Enterprise Challenge and other activities?
2. How can one individual make a difference?
3. Have you ever mobilized a group to achieve a common goal? How?
4. What is the challenge facing your country that you want to help resolve?
5. Outline your ideal career path over the next 5-10 years.



# Writing your answers

***1. Why do you want to participate in the Weidenfeld Hoffman Trust Leadership Programme? What value do you see in our Moral Philosophy Programme and Enterprise Challenge and other activities?***

- Read about what makes the WHT Scholarship Programme unique and different from other scholarships - see the ways in which the programme adds to your journey beyond just the financial support.
- Research, research, research on what these two activities are, for your interview, as well as your written application.
- Align the purpose of these activities to your passions, work or future plans.
- Relate it to your personal, educational, and professional background



# Writing your answers

## *2. How can one individual make a difference?*

- Free to make it philosophical, but an anecdote along with values etc will help your answer to stand out
- Use examples from real life: instances where changemakers have resonated with you and use that as a guide
- Move from the abstract to the real - exemplify your perspectives on this question with real-life people and stories (including your own examples)



# Writing your answers

## **3. Have you ever mobilized a group to achieve a common goal? How?**

- Crisp, clear and realistic. Focus on one aspect of work, activity, instead of focusing on 'bigger picture'.
- Could be an incident from your work, volunteer or academic experience.
- Inspect each word used in the sentence carefully before writing your answer. For instance, make sure you are writing about a 'common' goal and not something that affects only you or your professional.
- No feat is too small, even mobilising a small change in your university and office for a cause can be linked to substantial value
- Highlight your own efforts at mobilising people and initiating change - rather than instances of simply being part of a larger group - choose your examples wisely.



# Writing your answers

## ***4. What is the challenge facing your country that you want to help resolve?***

- Here your country does not need to be a country, could be your community, or state etc.
- You could focus on addressing the needs of a particular community that you resonate with, and link how by uplifting them and addressing their struggles, you contribute to overall upliftment in your country
- You may opt to describe the challenge/s using data/evidence - helps to highlight the extent of the problem and adds more depth to the essay
- You may also opt to link how addressing the particular challenge contributes to overall national goals and/or international goals (example, SDGs)
- Outline your vision and plan for addressing this challenge: you may not be in a position to take action now but it shows you have thought about it.





# Writing your answers

## ***5. Outline your ideal career path over the next 5-10 years.***

- A career path may have both your professional goals as well as other pursuits of your interest. The more specific the better but may sure it doesn't reflect inflexibility to adapt.
- You may mention concrete plans but don't be afraid to mention aspirations and goals that are out of your reach now, that you want to work towards
- Adding structure to this essay is important since it asks for a career path over a decade - you can segment the essay into immediate, short and long term career goals - and how they link with each other.
- Look for ways in which the course you are applying and the WHT scholarship will contribute to these career goals - so that there is coherence throughout all the essays.

# General Tips

- **Start early**

You'll need time to write your statements, proofread it, edit it, let it rest, revise it and pass it around for feedback. Give yourself **enough time** to do all this.

- **Answer the questions**

When you finish your first draft, **take a break** for a day or two; then return to the original prompt and **make sure your statement answers it.**

- **Write properly**

Proofread, proofread, **proofread**. Ask your instructors/ peers to give it a read-through. Upload it to Grammarly or the Hemingway App. Use all available resources to make sure your writing is comprehensive and accessible.

- **Show, don't tell**

Rather than just making simple descriptive statements about yourself or your skills, **show** this through examples of when you applied this skill or demonstrated a character trait.

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