



democratising access to higher education

Workshop on the Oxford and Cambridge Society of India Scholarships
Friday, 5 May 2023



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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 panelist



Ushni Dasgupta

MPhil in Archaeology
University of Cambridge
OCSI Scholar 2020-21



Overview

- The Oxford and Cambridge Society of India (OCSI) Scholarships are partial scholarships for undergraduate (first or second), graduate and research study undertaken at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge. These are equal opportunity scholarships.
- The award includes the financial award, letter of support from the OCSI for other scholarship awarding bodies, complimentary lifetime membership of the OCSI, and mentorship.
- The OCSI is offering the following scholarships for 2023-2024:
 - OCSI K.K. Luthra Memorial Scholarship worth INR 2,50,000 (Rupees Two Lacs and Fifty Thousand).
 - OCSI Anita Banerji Memorial Scholarship worth INR 2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lacs).
 - OCSI Nirmal Luthra Memorial Scholarship worth INR 4,00,000 (Rupees Four Lacs).
 - The Emmanuel College Cambridge (India) Scholarship worth INR 2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lacs), tenable at Emmanuel College, Cambridge.
 - One scholarship worth INR 1,00,000 (Rupees One Lac) tenable only at St. Hilda's College, Oxford.
- The trust also raises additional funds and grants, and candidates are also eligible for the same.

Eligible Courses of Study

- Generally candidates applying for any subject/discipline at Oxford and Cambridge are eligible. However, preference is given to those pursuing graduate and research-based programmes (including post-doctoral research).
- Proposed course **MUST** be one of the following levels of study:
 - Research leading to the PhD degree
 - One-year post-graduate courses (e.g. MPhil, LLM, Diploma, CASM or Part III Maths, MBA, PGCE etc.)
 - Taught and research based graduate programmes of various durations (including M. Sc., engineering, medicine)
 - Second undergraduate degree as an Affiliated Student/Senior Status
 - Undergraduate degree programme



Eligibility

- The OCSI scholarships are open to all Indian citizens who are resident in India at the time of application.
- Applicants must **NOT** be more than 30 years of age on 1 September of the year of application.
- Applicants should be a **graduate of an Indian university/school**. Thus, students who are already enrolled at Oxford/Cambridge, or those currently in study programmes abroad, would be at a disadvantage, other things being equal.
- Applicants must have **applied and secured admission to study a full-time course at the University of Cambridge or the University of Oxford**.
- Candidates are required to **present proof of admission before grant of the scholarship, and proof of having taken up residence at Cambridge or Oxford before the scholarships funds are released**.



Timeline

- Application forms are available on the OCSI website by March every year.
- The deadline for submitting the online application form is Monday, May 15, 2023.
- Shortlisted candidates for interview will be notified by mid-June 2023. Interviews will be held in mid-July 2023. Further details of the interview (including mode - online/offline - and timings) would be intimated to shortlisted candidates.
- Successful candidates will receive award offers by Monday, July 31, 2023.

Application Process and Form

- Applications for the scholarship must be made **online**. The application portal can be accessed here: <http://www.oxbridgeindia.com/apply-for-scholarship-2/>.
- The **application form** requires you to provide the following information:
 - **Personal Details** (including photograph)
 - **Details of proposed course** (along with a **copy of the offer letter**)*
 - **Academic Information** (including **marksheets/certificates** and details of grades in Class XII, Bachelor's, Master's and any other degrees completed)*
 - **Proposed study plans** (including details of the proposed course of study, choice of university, etc.)
 - **Finances** (details of self-funding, loans, other scholarships/fee waivers, etc.)
 - **Internship/Work/Research Experience** (discuss any internships/research undertaken and how they relate to your study plans)
 - **Future Plans** (indicate your short- and long-term goals, and how will your work contribute to India's future and/or make a difference)
 - **Voluntary work experience**
 - **Extracurricular** (or any other information that you would like to provide to the committee)

*Please upload clear, scanned copies of the supporting documents in PNG, JPG, PDF, DOC, DOCX format.



Selection Process

- Candidates are **evaluated** on the following three criterias:
 - **Soft skills**, including presentation, clarity of thought, demeanor, and confidence.
 - **Hard skills**, including unique proposition in the field of study, impact on society in general, likely impact on India, academic competency and extracurricular activities.
 - **Financial means** - While not an overriding criteria, it will be given due deference at the time of awarding any scholarship.
- Scholarships are awarded on the basis of the **candidate's academic and future potential**, including their commitment to making a difference in society, particularly in India.
- Shortlisted candidates for interview will be expected to be academically first-rate. They should be able to provide a convincing argument for their choices of proposed course of study and university.



Interview

- The interview is a **general interview**, with a focus on the candidate's suitability to the Committee's selection criteria.
- The interview can be conducted **online/offline**.
- The Interview is conducted by a **panel of 5-6 members** from the OCSI Executive Committee.
- **Interview questions** focus on (but are not limited to):
 - Tell us about yourself
 - Your proposed study plans (choice of course and university)
 - Your academic and professional accomplishments (how do they align with your future plans, etc.)
 - Likely impact of your work on the current/future scenario (how will you contribute to India's development, etc.)
 - Your future career plans (short- and long-term goals)
 - Expected expenses during the course of your study and your finances (they would want to know details of self-funding, loans, fee waivers, etc.)
 - Additional queries based on your application form



Stay Connected

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Other ways to get in touch

