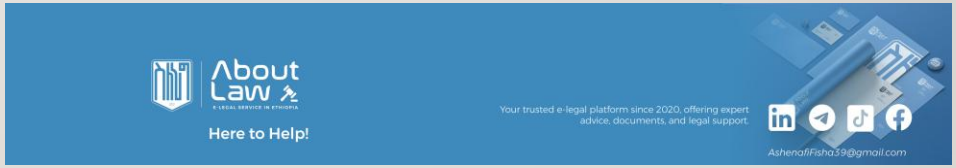
ABOUT LAW'S SCHOLARSHIP & ADMISSION ORIENTATION

- FROM APPLICATION TO ARRIVAL
- PREPARED BY: **AWOKE MITKU TAMRAT**
- **CANDIDATE, MASTER IN ECONOMIC LAW @SCIENCES PO**
- **MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLAR**



INTRODUCTION

- Importance of international education for personal and national development.
- Why scholarships matter — access, exposure, equity, and opportunity.
- Common destinations: Europe (Erasmus+, DAAD, France, UK), North America, Asia (Japan, Korea, China), Africa (AfDB, AUC, Mastercard Foundation).
- Difference between admission (entry) and scholarship (funding).

WHERE & HOW TO START?

- Once you find an opportunity that fits your interest and quality, make sure that the link takes you to the official portal of the scholarship or university.
- Vague and difficult question to answer as I receive it regularly from friends
- Interest to learn abroad is the key here
- Simple Google search can bring the result – Thanks to Globalization
- Prompts to find scholarships on Google:
  - Fully funded global scholarships for African students (https://scholarshiproar.com/fully-funded-scholarships-for-african-students/)
  - List of Fully Funded Scholarships 2026-2027 for African Student Applicants (https://daadscholarship.com/list-of-fully-funded-scholarships-2026-2027-for-african-student-applicants/#google_vignette)
  - You can also use links: scholarships.af, opportunitiesforafricans.com, DAAD.de, Erasmus+, mastercardfdn.org, and/or University portals.

TYPES OF SCHOLARSHIPS

- **By Funding Source**: Government (Chevening, DAAD, Eiffel, MEXT, Fulbright, CSC), University (Sciences Po, Oxford, Harvard), Private (Mastercard Foundation, Gates), Development Banks (AfDB, World Bank, ADB), Embassy Programs.
- **By Coverage**: Fully-funded (tuition, living, travel, insurance), Partially-funded.
- **By Degree Level**: Undergraduate, Master's, PhD, Short-term exchange/summer school.

- Always know that scholarship and admission for specific program are different:
- **Scholarship**: relates to your financial support (tuition fee and/or stipend)
- **Admission**: acceptance to the program of study (might be through scholarships or self sponsorship)

ADMISSION PATHWAYS

- **Regular Admission**: Direct application to universities.
- **Joint / Partnership Admission**: Erasmus Mundus, DAAD, Mastercard Foundation.
- **Conditional Admission**: Admission before requirements (e.g., language tests).
- **Deferred Admission**: Admission postponed to a later date.

RESEARCH & KNOW YOUR SCHOLARSHIP

- Information you need to know about your scholarship
  - Fully funded or partial scholarship?
  - Its focus - Africa? Europe? The US? Or Global? Is Ethiopia eligible?
  - Eligibility criteria?
  - Eligible programs of study? Is my program of interest eligible?
  - Its objectives? Mission? Values?
  - Requirements and required documents?
  - Application procedures? Is separate application required? If so, should I apply first to the scholarship or the program?
  - Evaluation criteria? How is my application going to be assessed by the recruitment team?
  - Can I make a strong application and be a top candidate provided that its requirements and my situation?
  - Deadline?

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION OVERVIEW

- Identify program → Check eligibility → Prepare documents → Apply for admission → Apply for scholarship → Interview → Offer → Visa → Travel.
- The procedure may differ from scholarship to scholarship
  - Application through admission without applying for the scholarship (eg Berkeley to MCF & Oxford for MCF and other scholarships)
  - Application through admission, but by submitting scholarship application documents on the admission portal (e.g. Sciences Po)
  - Separate application for admission and scholarship
  - First scholarship, then admission (e.g. Equity & Merit Scholarships at the U of Manchester)
  - First admission, then scholarship

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Differs from scholarship to scholarship – there is no uniform eligibility criteria for all scholarships
- General and common eligibility criteria:
  - Academic performance (GPA, ranking).
  - Year of graduation.
  - Field relevance and work experience.
  - Leadership and community involvement.
  - Age limits and language proficiency (IELTS, TOEFL, DELF).
  - Citizenship criteria for specific programs.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Depends on the scholarship

- **Academic**: Degrees, transcripts, certificates.
- **Personal**: Passport or ID, CV, photo.
- **Supporting**: Motivation letter, recommendation letters (2–3), research proposal (for PhD or for research masters).
- Some scholarships require proof of income (MCF at Sciences Po)
- Language test results, extracurricular and leadership certificates.

STEP-BY-STEP APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1. Self-assessment: Define goals, strengths, and timeline (6–12 months early).
- 2. Research: Explore official websites (DAAD, Erasmus, scholarships.af, MCF).
- 3. Document Preparation: Verify, translate, standardize details.
- 4. Apply for Admission: Upload PDFs, respect deadlines and time zones.
- 5. Apply for Scholarships: Use correct portal and instructions.
- 6. Interview Prep: Understand program mission, practice responses.
- 7. Selection & Offer: Respond promptly and meet conditions.
- 8. Visa & Pre-departure: Prepare documents, attend orientation.

WRITING STRONG DOCUMENTS

- Before writing anything, read the scholarship's website and understand what its objectives, mission and values are.
- Align your required documents with the scholarship's objectives, mission and values
- **Motivation Letter**: Introduction, academic background, professional experience, community activities or leadership roles, goals, fit, and closing.
- **Research Proposal**: Title, background, objectives, methods, impact.
- **Recommendation Letters**: Request early; discuss with your recommenders before they write the letters, give them your CV so that they can highlight your qualities,, choose professors/supervisors familiar with your work, and who know you closely and for a long time.

HOW TO PREPARE A STRONG CV AND A PERSONAL STATEMENT?

- Explore the objectives, mission, values, requirements and focus/target areas of the scholarship and program you are applying
- Read what the prompt or essential components for the personal statement and the CV are
- Tailor your CV and personal statements with the focus of the scholarship and the program of study
- Connect the paragraphs while writing your personal statements
- Make sure that your personal statement, CV and all the information in the application form are consistent and non-contradictory
- Follow a holistic approach in drafting your personal statement: Connect previous studies, short term trainings, professional experiences, your leadership experiences and skills, your career goals etc
- Clearly provide convincing responses why the university, why the scholarship, why the program, why this time questions
- Mention some professors and try to show how your area of study and career goals align with their research areas (usually used for application for admission)

STRATEGIES TO STAND OUT

- Start early and plan well.
- Write high-quality essays; tailor each application.
- Show leadership, social impact, and development commitment.
- Network with alumni for insights – always feel free to ask advice after doing your part.
- Apply widely to increase chances –diversify applications.

COMMON MISTAKES

- Late or incomplete applications.
- Generic or reused motivation letters.
- Ignoring word limits or formatting rules.
- Weak recommendations.
- Typos and grammar issues.
- Not aligning goals with scholarship mission.

AFTER SELECTION

- Accept the offer and meet all requirements.
- Arrange travel, housing, and insurance.
- Engage with student and alumni networks.
- Fulfill scholarship reporting duties.
- Share your experiences and give back to your community.

FINAL ADVICE

- Start preparation one year in advance.
- Stay organized using a tracking sheet.
- Seek feedback from mentors and alumni.
- Keep improving English or other required language skills.
- Be confident and persistent — believe in your journey!