SAID FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

**INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS**

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

The Said Foundation offers twenty postgraduate scholarships annually to outstanding individuals who demonstrate the potential to become leaders and innovators of change.

Scholarships are primarily offered for one year postgraduate courses but in exceptional circumstances it may be possible to consider applicants for two year courses.

The Foundation also offers, exceptionally, one or two PhD/DPhil scholarships a year at **Oxford and Cambridge universities only**. Priority will be given to candidates who hold a teaching post at a university in their home country and can clearly demonstrate the need for the proposed research in their home country. There are different eligibility criteria and a separate application procedure for Oxford and Cambridge awards. See “Information for Applicants to Oxford and Cambridge” which can be found on the Said Foundation website.

There are no restrictions on academic subjects but priority will be given to candidates who can demonstrate that their subject will enable them to contribute to the development of their home country.

Applications are restricted to the Foundation’s partner universities in the UK. A full list of partner universities can be found on the Said Foundation website.

Applications for study at universities outside the United Kingdom and applications for undergraduate studies cannot be considered.

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR 2017/18

-Applications are restricted to candidates who are Syrian, Palestinian (including Palestinians inside Israel), Lebanese and Jordanian;

**-**Priority is given to candidates who are resident in the Foundation’s target countries of Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. The Foundation will, however, consider Syrians residing elsewhere due to current circumstances in Syria;

-Priority will be given to applicants who have not previously had the opportunity to study outside of their home country;

-Only candidates with the equivalent of a UK 2.1 degree or higher will be eligible for consideration;

-Candidates are not required to have work experience but priority will be given to those who have some work experience and who can demonstrate that their studies will benefit their field of work on return to the Middle East. If the applicant lacks work experience the Foundation can consider experience gained from voluntary or community activities or participation in activities whilst at university;

-Applicants are required to demonstrate that they have the potential to be leaders in their field.

-Evidence that the applicant meets his/her proposed university’s English language conditions is required by the Foundation;

-Successful applicants are required to sign a binding undertaking to apply the skills and knowledge they have gained in one of the Foundation's target countries (Syria, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan).

## APPLICATION PROCESS

-Applicants must apply on line from **DATE TO BE ADDED** July 2016:

-Applications must be submitted by the closing date of 23.59 UK time on 1 November 2016;

-There are different eligibility criteria and a different application procedure for the Foundation’s scholarships at Oxford and Cambridge universities. See university websites and “Information for Oxford and Cambridge Applications” which can be found on the Foundation’s website.

-Due to the volume of applications, we regret that we are unable to provide feedback on unsuccessful applications.

**INFORMATION TO BE SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION**

You will be required to submit with your online application:

-an offer letter from a UK university for a postgraduate course starting in September 2017 or evidence that you have applied for a place on a postgraduate course at a partner university;

-a copy of your high school marks/certificate;

-a copy of your university transcripts and graduation certificate;

-a copy of your passport or national ID card;

-three references;

-a copy of your English language results. If you are invited to an interview you must provide evidence that you meet your proposed UK university’s English language requirements;

**-PhD applicants only**: in addition to three references, you must also submit a supporting statement from your proposed university supervisor or other academic/professional expert which supports the relevance of and need for your studies at the PhD level in your home country.

**SELECTION PROCEDURE**

- Applications are carefully considered by trustees and staff of the Foundation and external assessors;

-The Foundation bases its decisions on the candidate’s academic excellence, the usefulness of the subject to the applicant’s country, the applicant’s leadership potential, future career intentions and their practical ability to make use of the knowledge to be gained in the UK on their return to the Middle East;

-The Foundation conducts interviews for all candidates it has shortlisted;

-Interviews of shortlisted candidates will take place in in Lebanon, Jordan and Palestine in late February/early March. Syrian candidates may be asked to attend interviews in Lebanon or Turkey. In exceptional circumstances, candidates may be interviewed by Skype.

-The Foundation’s Board of Trustees makes its final selection by mid-April and successful scholars are informed by the end of April;

The Trustees’ decision is final and there is no right of appeal.

**OXFORD AND CAMBRIDGE APPLICANTS**

There is a separate procedure for applicants for Oxford and Cambridge. All Oxford and Cambridge applicants must complete the Said Foundation’s online scholarship application formby 1 November **and** theuniversity application forms (available on the university websites) by the following deadlines:

## University of Cambridge

Deadline: **DATE TO BE ADDED** *(or the course deadline, whichever is earlier).*

**University of Oxford**

Please see Oxford University’s application guide for information on deadlines.