



In partnership with



Scholars Program

Call for Applications for Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa for the September (Fall) 2024 Intake

Scholarship Overview:

United States International University-Africa (USIU-Africa) has partnered with the Mastercard Foundation in its global Scholars Program. This initiative will offer academically talented youth from Africa facing financial, gender, displacement, or disability constraints an opportunity to access world class university education.

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa will provide full-cost scholarships to young Africans who are first-time undergraduate degree-seeking applicants. By completion of their studies, scholars will be required to lead changes in their communities and contribute to meaningful transformation across the continent, having been equipped with internationally recognized and locally applicable qualifications.

The scholarship targets African youth who are either, Young Women, Refugees/ displaced Youth, Persons with Disability and Young Men with the following qualities;

- Academic talent
- Commitment to giving back to their communities
- Leadership potential

*****Priority shall be given to registered Refugees/Displaced youth and Persons with Disability.***

Eligibility:

To be eligible for the scholarship applicants must;

1. Be 29 years and below at the time of application
2. Meet the minimum university entry grade of a C+ and above or its equivalent as set by the Kenya Commission for University Education. Applicants interested in courses in the school of Pharmacy and Health sciences must have a mean grade of B- or its equivalent and at least a C+ or B- in the cluster subjects of English, Mathematics, Biology and Chemistry. International applicants must meet the equivalent.
3. Must be interested in any of the approved 13 undergraduate degree programs for the Scholars Program at USIU-Africa as follows:

School of Science and Technology (SST)

1. Bachelor of Science in Applied Computer Technology
2. Bachelor of Science in Information Systems and Technology
3. Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering
4. Bachelor of Science in Data Science and Analytics

School of Pharmacy and Health Sciences (SPHS)

1. Bachelor of Pharmacy
2. Bachelor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics

School of Communication, Cinematic and Creative Arts (SCCCA)

1. Bachelor of Arts in Animation
2. Bachelor of Arts in Film Production and Directing

Chandaria School of Business (CSB)

1. Bachelor of Science in Finance
2. Bachelor of Science in International Business Administration
3. Bachelor of Science in Accounting

School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS)

1. Bachelor of Arts in International Relations
2. Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
3. Have proven record of leadership involvement and community give back engagement.
4. Demonstrate socio-economic disadvantage.

More information about the above highlighted degree programs can be found at the university website: <https://www.usiu.ac.ke/undergraduate-programs/>

Application process:

- a. Interested applicants can fill in the application form attached in this call for applications. The same can also be downloaded from the website on this link: <https://www.usiu.ac.ke/scholars-program>. Application forms can also be picked from the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program office at the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension, 2nd floor.
- b. Before filling in the application form, please read through all the instructions and required information.
- c. Submit complete application together with other supporting documents required by email ensuring that the scanned copy of the scholarship application form and all the required documents are scanned in PDF format. Clearly name while sending with your name and nationality as the email subject to: mcfsp-applications@usiu.ac.ke or drop your application at the Scholars Program Office, located in the School of Graduate Studies, Research and Extension building at USIU-Africa

APPLICANTS ARE ADVISED TO SEND ONLY ONE COMPLETE APPLICATION. DUPLICATE AND INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE REJECTED. PLEASE NOTE THAT CANVASING WILL LEAD TO AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

Important dates and deadlines:

- Release of call for applications - **Monday, September 25, 2023.**
- Application Deadline - **Friday, November 24, 2023 at 11:59pm (East Africa Time)**

***If you do not hear from us by this date; **Tuesday April 30, 2024**, please consider your application unsuccessful. Due to the large volumes of applications received, we are unable to give personalized feedback to all the applicants.*

Note;

- The Scholars program will communicate to applicants through email and phone contact. Applicants should ensure that the phone numbers and email addresses provided are accurate and active in order to receive important information and feedback.
- After the selection process, successful applicants will be invited for a virtual or in person interview conducted by independent panels.
- Applicants who will be discovered to have provided false information during any stage of the application and selection process will be disqualified. Any attempt to influence the selection process will lead to automatic disqualification.
- The Scholars program at USIU-Africa **does not work with any agents or intermediaries** in the application and selection process. **There are absolutely NO charges, fees or “facilitation” required** at any stage of the application and selection process.

Benefits of joining the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program:

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars at USIU-Africa will receive holistic support which includes:

- a. Tuition and functional fees;
- b. Laptop and library books;
- c. Reasonable accommodation and meals;
- d. Medical insurance;
- e. Stipend;
- f. Transport to and from home once a year;
- g. Access to leadership training;
- h. Access to entrepreneurial training;
- i. Psycho-social support, career counselling and mentorship;
- j. Disability needs will be reasonably catered for.

Any queries can be directed through e-mail to mcfsp-enquiries@usiu.ac.ke or phone no: **+254730116218; +254730116500; +254730116303; +254730116521; +254730116107; 254730116148; +254730116552; +254730116536** or in person.



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APPLICATION FORM FOR SEPTEMBER (FALL) 2024 INTAKE FOR THE MASTERCARD FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM AT UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY-AFRICA (USIU-AFRICA)

Dear Applicant,

USIU-Africa appreciates your interest in the Scholars Program made possible by the partnership of Mastercard Foundation and USIU-Africa. By completing this application, you are taking the first step in a process that will allow us to learn more about you, your achievements, and your goals as a potential Scholar of this Program. We encourage you to read the application guidelines before filling the form. The application form is **NOT FOR SALE** and **NO PAYMENT IS REQUIRED**.

Completed application and supporting documents should be sent to mcfsp-applications@usiu.ac.ke by **Friday, November 24, 2023**. Our selection committee will review all applications carefully and nominate finalists for interviews. All finalists will be interviewed either in person or virtually. Communication to the selected Scholars will be done by **Tuesday April 30, 2024**.

A completed application should include the following:

1. Scholarship Application letter stating the following:
 - a) Personal Background including family financial position.
 - b) Why you chose USIU-Africa.
 - c) Where you see yourself after graduation.

NB: The application letter should be sent as an attachment alongside the other documents.
2. Copies of academic documents (final high school certificates);
3. Recommendation letter from your high school teacher, head teacher or sponsoring organization. The letter must be current, official, stamped and signed.
4. One recent Passport size photograph;
5. A copy of your Birth certificate, National Identity Card or Passport and/or refugee travel document;
6. A copy of refugee identity document (where applicable).
7. A copy of disability registration document/card (where applicable).

Applicants are advised to complete every section of the application form. INCOMPLETE applications will NOT be evaluated.

Complete applications should be delivered in person/emailed only ONCE. Duplicate applications or several emails from the same person will lead to disqualification of the applicant. Applications sent to another email address other than the one provided will not be evaluated

DEADLINE:

All applications must be received by **Friday, November 24, 2023 at 11:59pm (East Africa Time)**. We strongly encourage earlier submissions.

****Please read carefully all the instructions and gather all the necessary supporting documents before filling the application form. You must provide a valid email address and a phone number where you can be reached. Your handwriting must be legible in order for your application to be processed.**

A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please enter your name and all information as it appears on official documents such as an identification card, birth certificate, or passport.

Name; First: _____ Middle: _____ Last: _____

Other name: _____

Gender: F M Nationality: _____ Birth: Date: ____/____/____
Day Month Year

Marital status; Single: _____ Married: _____ No of children(if any): _____

Age at the time of application: _____

Country of Birth: _____

Country of Citizenship: _____

Country of residence at the time of application: _____

County/Region: _____

Place of residence at the time of application: Urban Rural Peri-urban

Do you have a passport? Yes No *Passport No: _____

*If you have a passport, please attach a copy of it to this application.

Passport Issued by (Country): _____

Your Email Address (write in captital letters): _____

Mobile Phone (Including Country Code): _____

Permanent Physical Address: _____

Primary language spoken: _____

Other Languages: _____

B: CATEGORY OF SCHOLARSHIP

Please tick from the list below the category of scholarship you are applying for

- Young Woman
- Young Man
- Refugee/displaced youth
- Youth with disability

How did you learn about the scholarship? _____

- A virtual/physical information session by the Scholars Program team
- Friends/Relatives
- Former high school teacher
- Partner organization
- Website/social media page
- Mastercard Foundation Scholars
- Program beneficiary
- USIU-Africa staff

For refugees kindly provide the following information:

1. Refugee status: _____
2. UNHCR Number: _____
3. Do you live in a camp or as an integrated refugee: _____
4. If camp, please name the camp: _____
5. If integrated, please give details of residence and contact details of persons responsible for your integration. _____

For Internally Displaced Youth, Kindly provide the following:

1. Letter from relevant government authority stating reason and nature of displacement.

For persons with disability, kindly provide the following information:

1. Nature of disability (please describe briefly): _____
2. Are you registered with any disability organizations? Yes No
If yes which one? _____
3. Please attach your disability registration form/card
4. Please indicate any special accommodation needs that you may require _____

C. ACADEMIC INFORMATION

State the degree program you are applying for _____

Your program of choice must be among the 13 sponsored programs (Refer to the Call for Applications)

Name of High/Secondary School: _____

Physical Address:(Location): _____

Date of Graduation: _____

High/Secondary school exam system (e.g. WAEC, GCE, KCSE, etc): _____

Grade (s) Obtained: _____

School Type (mark all that apply): Government/Public Independent/Private

Have you ever applied to, placed by the government or admitted to a tertiary institution? Yes No

If you answered yes, please provide additional information in the table below:

Name of the Institution	Date applied/ admitted	Duration of studies	Qualification Obtained

If you were admitted/placed by the government but did not attend or you attended but did not graduate, give reasons and attach evidence:

Who paid for your High/Secondary school education?

- Guardian (s) (Related to the applicant)
- Guardian (s) not related to applicant
- Parent
- Scholarship (attach recommendation letter from sponsor/ proof)
- Sibling (s)
- Sponsor (s)
- Other

If other; state who paid fees: _____

Applicant Name: _____ **Phone/Email:** _____

D. FAMILY INFORMATION (Contact person in case of emergency)

Section 1: Parents or Guardians

Parent/Guardian #1

Surname: _____ First: _____
 Other names: _____ Relation to you: _____
 Occupation (mandatory): _____ Estimated income per month: _____
 Highest Level of Education Attained: _____
 Mobile Phone (include code): _____ Email: _____
 Country of Residence: _____ Physical Address: _____

Parent/Guardian #2

Surname: _____ First: _____
 Other names: _____ Relation to you: _____
 Occupation: _____ Estimated income per month: _____
 Highest Level of Education Attained: _____
 Mobile Phone: _____ Email: _____
 Country of Residence: _____ Physical Address: _____

Section 2: Siblings: Please list the Names, Level of Education, genders and ages of any brothers/ sisters you have, even if they don't live in your household. If you need more lines please attach a separate page at the end.

Full Name	Gender (M/F)	Age	Highest level of education/ degree attained	Occupation/Employment/ Monthly income

Applicant Name: _____ **Phone/Email:** _____

E. SHORT ANSWER QUESTIONS

(Write your essays only within the spaces provided)

LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

1. Describe a previously held leadership position, activities, or experiences: (i.e. positions where you guided or led a group of people, a project, or a cause in which you were involved)

2. State any Awards and Honors received: (i.e., academic award; Outstanding Leadership award, Community service award etc. (Attach evidence)

3. What are you passionate about and how will your program of study contribute to your passion?

Applicant Name: _____ **Phone/Email:** _____

F. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program vision is that Scholars will use their education to create change and improve the lives of others.

Describe the voluntary/community activities and experiences you have engaged in the past

Describe your aspirations for social change and how you plan to achieve social change through your program of study

Applicant Name: _____ **Phone/Email:** _____

G. ACTIVITIES

Please list up to three of the most important activities in each category (in order of importance to you) that you have participated in during the past three years, either through your secondary school or independently/in your community. Complete only the sections relevant to you. (Attach evidence)

Leadership at School Level:

Activity	Role	Number of years
Example: Student Government		
1.		
2.		
3.		

Community/ Volunteer Experience:

Activity	Role	Number of years
Example: Poultry farming		
1.		
2.		
3.		

Business and Entrepreneurship workshops:

Activity	Role	Number of years
Example: Science Congress		
1.		
2.		
3.		

Athletic, Artistic and Musical Competitions:

Activity	Role	Number of years
Example: Music festival		
1.		
2.		
3.		

Is there any additional information you would want to share with us to support your application?

H. CERTIFICATION PAGE

I, _____ hereby certify that all information contained in this application is truthfully and accurately presented and is my work alone and give my permission to USIU-Africa to obtain any verification deemed necessary to process my application. Finally, I acknowledge that completing this application form does not guarantee scholarship.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Application submission guidelines

1. Read carefully through the application guidelines on the Call for Applications document before submitting your application.
2. Go through your application and review to make sure you have all the required documents and your form is completely filled before submission. Incomplete forms will not be evaluated.
3. Submit only 1 application. Multiple submissions will lead to automatic disqualification.
4. When submitting your application, all documents must be scanned in PDF format and named accordingly then sent as an attachment(s) on email.
5. Do not convert your application form to word document when you download. Print the form, fill it and then scan into pdf format. PDF editor is acceptable.
6. The subject of the application email should be your name and nationality.
7. Use the provided email address to send your application; mcfsp-applications@usiu.ac.ke. Any application sent to a different email address will NOT be evaluated.
8. If your sibling or immediate family member is a beneficiary of the Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program at USIU-Africa, you are NOT eligible to apply.

Note:

Submitting a complete application does not guarantee award of scholarship

CONTACT DETAILS

Mastercard Foundation Scholars Program
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Nairobi

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