

MARTINGALE

POSTGRADUATE FOUNDATION

2024 MARTINGALE SCHOLARSHIP

APPLICATION GUIDANCE

This guide is for students who are applying for a Martingale Scholarship to commence courses in September 2024.

Please read it carefully before beginning your application. This will help to ensure that you complete all sections correctly and have uploaded all necessary documentation. We also recommend browsing through the full application form before you start, to help you plan your time and to begin drafting your responses.

You do not need to complete the application in a single session. You can save your progress and return at a later date. To do this, just scroll to the bottom of the form and click 'Save application for later'. You can then enter your email address, and you will receive a link which will allow you to return to your application.

If you have any questions about the Martingale Scholarship, your application, or this application form, please get in touch with us at recruitment@martingale.foundation.

I. BEFORE YOU BEGIN

a) Eligibility criteria

You should meet all of the below eligibility criteria before proceeding. We have provided some more detailed guidance around each of the criteria in the table below.

If you are uncertain about your eligibility, please email us at recruitment@martingale.foundation as soon as possible before starting your application.

| Eligibility Criteria | Explanation |
|---|---|
| You qualify for Home Fee status at our partner universities | <p>Generally, you should qualify for Home Fee status if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• You are a British or Irish national; or you have Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR) or Right of Abode; or you have pre-settled or settled status under the EU settlement scheme; AND• You will have been ordinarily resident in the UK or Ireland for the full three years immediately prior to the start of your course (for courses starting in autumn 2024, this means you should have been resident in the UK or Ireland since <i>at least</i> 1st September 2021) <p>However, the above criteria are not exhaustive, and there are a number of other routes by which you may qualify for Home Fee status depending on your citizenship, residency status and family circumstances. You may also qualify if you have refugee status or you have humanitarian protection in the UK. Please consult the detailed guidance on fee status published by the UK Council for International Student Affairs to determine your expected fee status <u>before</u> you begin your Martingale application.</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>You have been to school in the UK or Ireland for at least three years between the ages of 11 and 16; or if not, for at least seven years between the ages of 4 and 18</p> | <p>The years do not have to be continuous. For example, if you spent five years in school in the UK or Ireland from age 5-10, and then another two years from age 14-16, you would still qualify.</p> |
| <p>You have completed your GCSEs or equivalent at a state-funded school, or if at a fee-paying school or college, you were supported by a substantial means-tested scholarship or bursary</p> | <p>If you went to school in England, Northern Ireland or Wales, this will be the school where you completed your GCSEs. In Scotland, it will be the school where you did National 5 qualifications, and in the Republic of Ireland it will be where you did your Junior Certificate.</p> <p>A ‘substantial means-tested scholarship or bursary’ means one which was awarded on the basis of your family income, and which covered 75% or more of the total cost of attending.</p> |
| <p>You have faced or are facing financial barriers, such as qualifying for a means-tested maintenance loan or grant that is above the minimum levels of support detailed from your regional or national funding body</p> | <p>Student financing bodies in the UK and Ireland are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student Finance England • Student Finance Northern Ireland • Student Awards Agency for Scotland • Student Finance Wales • Student Universal Support Ireland <p>All applications will be considered on a case-by-case basis, so if you face, or have faced, financial barriers please explain your circumstances in your application.</p> |
| <p>You will have achieved, or are expecting to achieve, a first or upper-second class undergraduate degree in mathematics or a closely related subject</p> | <p>If you have not achieved, or are not on track to achieve, a first or upper-second class degree, we may still consider your application if you have extenuating circumstances. If this applies to you, please outline your circumstances in the relevant section of the application form.</p> |
| <p>You are eligible to commence a master’s degree in the mathematical sciences at one of our partner universities from September 2024</p> | <p>This means that you should have completed your bachelor’s degree (or the bachelor’s component of an integrated master’s degree) before September 2024. If you are currently studying, this usually means you will be in the final year of a bachelor’s programme, or in the penultimate year of an integrated programme.</p> <p>The 2024 Martingale Scholarship funds a master’s in the mathematical sciences. If you already have, or are currently studying for a master’s (including if you are in the master’s year of an integrated master’s programme), you should explain in your application your reasons for applying for a second master’s and how this will help you achieve your goals.</p> |

b) Documentation needed for your application

Before you begin your application, please ensure that you have, or have requested, the following information and documentation.

| Item | Explanation |
|--|---|
| An up-to-date academic transcript | <p>An academic transcript is an official document obtained from your university. It will comprise a list of papers or courses you are taking (or have taken) during your degree, including results achieved. If you have already completed your degree, it should also include your final degree classification.</p> <p>It can take time to get a copy of your transcript from your university. Therefore, we recommend that you check as soon as possible what the procedure is at your university to request your academic transcript, as it can sometimes take several days or weeks.</p> <p>If you are unable to obtain your transcript before the application deadline, you can still submit your application without uploading it. However, please note that should you be shortlisted for a Martingale assessment centre, you will be required to submit your transcript before attending.</p> |
| Evidence of financial need | <p>We recommend letters from student financing bodies (Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Awards Agency for Scotland or Student Universal Support Ireland). The letter should relate to your current or most recent year of undergraduate study and should state the amount of funding that you have received.</p> <p>If this is not available, other acceptable evidence includes documentation relating to a means-tested scholarship or bursary that you are in receipt of, or from banks, tax offices or employers. If you are unsure of whether your evidence of financial need is acceptable, please contact recruitment@martingale.foundation before submitting your application.</p> <p>If you are unable to obtain the necessary documentation before the application deadline, you can still submit your application without uploading it. However, please note that should you be shortlisted for a Martingale assessment centre, you will be required to submit your evidence of financial need before attending.</p> |
| Names and contact details of two academic referees | <p>Your referees should be academics at your current or most recent university, who know you in an academic context. This might include a lecturer, tutor or supervisor. Your referees should be able to comment on your academic ability, including the quality of your academic work and your suitability for postgraduate study in mathematics.</p> <p>Martingale will request references from your referees directly, after you have submitted your application. Please ask permission before you submit your referees' contact details.</p> |

2. COMPLETING THE APPLICATION FORM

Section 1: Personal Details

All questions in this section are compulsory.

It is better to use a personal email address rather than university email, as university filters can sometimes block emails and you also may lose access to a university email when you graduate. We recommend that you update your email settings to add emails from the 'martingale.foundation' domain to your safe senders list.

Section 2: Main Application Questions

Compulsory questions are marked in the application form with an asterisk (*). Explanations for most questions are included in the form itself, but for some questions we have provided more detailed guidance or definitions below.

Questions 1-8: Education Details

This section is about your education history at school and university, including details of your undergraduate degree and any postgraduate qualifications you already have. Your answers in this section will be used to determine your eligibility for a Martingale scholarship.

Q6. If you have experienced or are experiencing extenuating circumstances that have affected your attainment at any point during your education or studies, please let us know here.

This section is optional. You can include details of any extenuating circumstances that have affected your academic performance, at any stage of your education. This might include, for example, medical conditions or family circumstances. You may wish to share grades from previous exams or qualifications here if relevant. We understand that everybody's circumstances are unique, and information provided in this section of your application will be taken into consideration on an individual basis.

Q7. If you have received any academic awards or prizes during any part of your university studies, please list them here.

Please only include academic prizes in this section. Awards that were means-tested (i.e. based on your financial need) should be mentioned in a later section of the form.

Q8. Which of our partner universities are you considering applying to?

You can select as many partner universities as you like. We encourage candidates to consider courses at all partner universities, and scholars-in-principle will be supported in applying to multiple universities. Expressing an interest in a particular partner university here does not commit you to making an application to that university but is useful for us to understand the spread of interest across our partner universities.

Questions 9-12: Applying for the Martingale Scholarship

This section is your opportunity to tell us why you should be considered for a Martingale Scholarship. We are looking for candidates who have the academic potential and the motivation to undertake postgraduate research, as well as an interest in contributing to the cohort of Martingale scholars.

We recommend you compose your answers to these questions in Word or a similar word processor and then copy into the application form when you are ready, to ensure that your answers are within the word limits.

Q9. Tell us about yourself and your background. (max. 250 words)

Please tell us about your journey to this point, and describe any experiences or skills, whether personal or academic, that are relevant to your application.

What makes your application stand out? Tell us about how you go above and beyond. This could be in your academic studies through awards, prizes, competitions or involvement in student unions or societies. This could also be through internships, part time work or supporting people around you.

Q10. Why do you want to pursue a postgraduate degree in the mathematical sciences? (max. 250 words)

Please explain your motivation to apply for a master's. You may also wish to include your career aspirations, and your commitment to mathematics beyond the course requirements.

Q11. What is your prospective research topic for a PhD, or a general area of study you are interested in pursuing at postgraduate level? (max. 300 words)

Please describe the research topics or areas that interest you. How have you engaged with them so far and how do you imagine pursuing them further as a PhD student? If you already have a PhD research question in mind, please outline it here.

Q12. Why do you want to be part of the cohort of Martingale Scholars? (max. 100 words)

Please explain why you want to be a Martingale Scholar, and describe any extra-curricular, professional or voluntary activities that you have undertaken (such as student societies, research internships).

Questions 13-19: Information related to your socioeconomic background

Your responses in this section will be considered as part of our application assessment process, to enable us to prioritise candidates for whom family income has been, or would be, a barrier to postgraduate studies.

We use the information collected in this section to contextualise applications, and to prioritise candidates according to level of financial barriers faced.

Please note that we may ask for proof or evidence of any of the answers you provide in this section, should you be shortlisted for the next stage.

Q13. Do you come from a single-parent household?

This means you lived in a household with only one parent, guardian or caregiver who was primarily responsible for supporting you before the age of 18.

Q15.a) If you were on any needs-based bursary or scholarship during your schooling years, please provide details here.

For instance, a 16-19 Bursary. Please do not include Free School Meals in your answer to this question, as this is covered elsewhere in the application form.

Q16. Please select all of the below statements that apply to you.

You can select multiple options from this drop-down menu, so please select all options that apply to you. Definitions of some of the individual items can be found below:

- *I was eligible for free school meals at any point during my schooling years:* This means you have received free school meals in England, Northern Ireland, Wales or Scotland at any time. It also includes receipt of funding via the School Meals Scheme in the Republic of Ireland.
- *I am care-experienced:* This means you have spent time in local authority care for at least three months or more, including foster care, residential care, kinship care as a formal

agreement with the local authority or living at home under the supervision of the local authority.

- *I have been an informal carer e.g. unpaid/non-professional carer for a family member, friend or neighbour:* You are caring or have cared for a friend or family member who, due to illness, disability, a mental health problem or addiction, cannot cope without your support.
- *I am estranged from my parents or guardians:* You have no relationship with, or support from, either of your parents – the situation is permanent, and you have had no contact or communications with your parents, step-parents, guardians or carers for at least a year. You will have been assessed as independent by Student Finance or funding bodies during your undergraduate study.
- *I have been considered statutorily homeless:* This means you have qualified for assistance under your local authority's 'main homelessness duty'.
- *I am a refugee, stateless person or asylum seeker:*
 - *Refugee:* You have fled your country and are seeking protection because of a fear of being persecuted due to your race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, or political opinion. You have been given permission to stay in the UK and granted official 'refugee' status.
 - *Stateless person:* You are not recognised as a citizen of any country and unable to live permanently in other country.
 - *Asylum seeker:* You have applied for refugee status and are waiting to find out if it has been granted. You must have left your country and be unable to go back due to fear of persecution.

Q17. Have you received any needs-based bursary or scholarship during your undergraduate studies?

Please only include bursaries or scholarships that are needs-based or means-tested. This means that they should be based on (or predominantly based on) your level of financial need, rather than scholarships based on your academic performance.

Questions 20-22: Supporting documents and references

Documents must be uploaded in PDF format.

Academic transcript and evidence of financial need

Please refer to Page 3 of this guidance document for more information about your academic transcript and acceptable forms of evidence of financial need. If you are unable to provide these documents before the application deadline, you should proceed with your application submission without them. However, please note that should you be shortlisted for a Martingale assessment centre, you must submit your documentation before attending.

Diversity and Inclusion Questions

Your answers in this section will not be used as part of the assessment of your application. These questions are for diversity and inclusion monitoring purposes only. If you do not wish to provide this information, you may leave any question or this whole section blank.