

MARTINGALE

POSTGRADUATE FOUNDATION

Academic Advisory Committee

Recruitment Pack
May 2025

Welcome

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in joining the Martingale Academic Advisory Committee (AAC). This is a unique opportunity to help shape the direction of a ground-breaking initiative supporting talented postgraduates from low-socioeconomic backgrounds to pursue world-leading research and study.

At Martingale, our vision is that family income is never a barrier to the pursuit of excellence. As we grow, we recognise the need for an expert, strategic Academic Advisory Committee to guide and inform our work, ensuring our programme remains rigorous, focused on excellence and future-facing.

The AAC will work closely with our team and provide insight to the Martingale Advisory Board, helping us to evolve our academic offering and maximise our impact across UK higher education.

We hope you'll consider applying to be part of this exciting journey.

Kind regards,



Cassandra Hugill
Chief Executive Officer
Martingale Foundation



'I'm most excited to start doing actual research, working with the most famous and eminent researchers in the field. I'm going to be studying quantum computing at Cambridge, looking into quantum algorithms.'

ORSON, 2023 MARTINGALE SCHOLAR



Martingale's Strategy

Access to education has the power to transform lives, challenge systemic inequalities, and create ripple effects that benefit entire communities.

As STEM skills grow increasingly vital for tackling global challenges across academia, industry, and the public and private sectors, postgraduate education must be accessible to everyone, regardless of income or background.

People from low-socioeconomic backgrounds are up to 15 times less likely to pursue postgraduate research compared with their more privileged peers¹. This disparity isn't just a missed opportunity for individuals, it's a loss for innovation.

Why don't students progress?

- Funding barriers: Student loans often fall short, covering neither tuition fees or the cost of living.
- Hidden curriculum: Without the right networks and guidance, talented individuals can struggle to navigate postgraduate pathways.

[Martingale](#) addresses these challenges head-on with a comprehensive [support programme](#) that combines financial freedom with tailored guidance. We empower students not just to access postgraduate education but to thrive when they get there.

With 110 Scholars supported across [ten university partners](#) since our launch in 2022, we have set an ambitious goal to expand our offer across STEM, aiming to support 200 new Scholars each year by 2030.

To support this ambition and growth, Martingale is making several changes in its governance. As well as recruiting a new Board Chair and members, Martingale will establish a new Academic Advisory Committee with eight representatives from across STEM, to help guide the strategic delivery of our mission.

The goal of the Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) is to uphold our focus on research excellence, ensuring that we are supporting talented people to do world-leading research. Members will be representative of the subjects Martingale funds, or intends to fund in the future, and have experience in supervising PhD students.

We are looking to appoint two academics from each of our four priority areas:

1. Mathematics
2. Computer Science
3. Engineering
4. Healthcare (pre-clinical)

1. Institute for Fiscal Studies: Family background and access to postgraduate degrees.

What We Fund

Martingale currently funds one-year Masters and four-year PhD Scholarships, providing tuition fees, a living-wage stipend, research costs and access to a holistic development programme.

Our [Scholarships](#) fund research in the fields of Mathematics and AI. We are actively fundraising to grow this support to expand into computer science more broadly, engineering and healthcare (pre-clinical research).

We have built a comprehensive recruitment campaign that finds talented people who would not otherwise consider postgraduate study. We apply a robust assessment process that looks at socioeconomic factors, with a particular focus on family income and academic attainment. This ensures we find highly talented individuals who would not be able to pursue postgraduate degrees without Martingale. We provide holistic support and training to Scholars throughout their studies via our comprehensive [development programmes](#).

What do we mean by 'low-socioeconomic background'?

When identifying socioeconomic background, Martingale considers a range of indicators including household income, parental occupation, type of school attended, eligibility for Free School Meals, experience of care, and refugee status.

Martingale particularly looks at the intersection between income and social class and takes a multifaceted approach to understanding the various, complex and interrelated factors which impact an individual's likelihood of undertaking postgraduate study.

Martingale was established with a founding cohort of five universities: University of Cambridge, Imperial College London, King's College London, University of Oxford, and University College London, with the inaugural cohort of Scholars taking up their place in the autumn of 2023.

In 2023, Martingale expanded to University of Bristol, University of Edinburgh, and University of Manchester, enabling the 2024 cohort to enrol in courses at these universities. Last year we were also delighted to welcome University of Birmingham and Queen Mary University of London, as part of our expansion into AI.

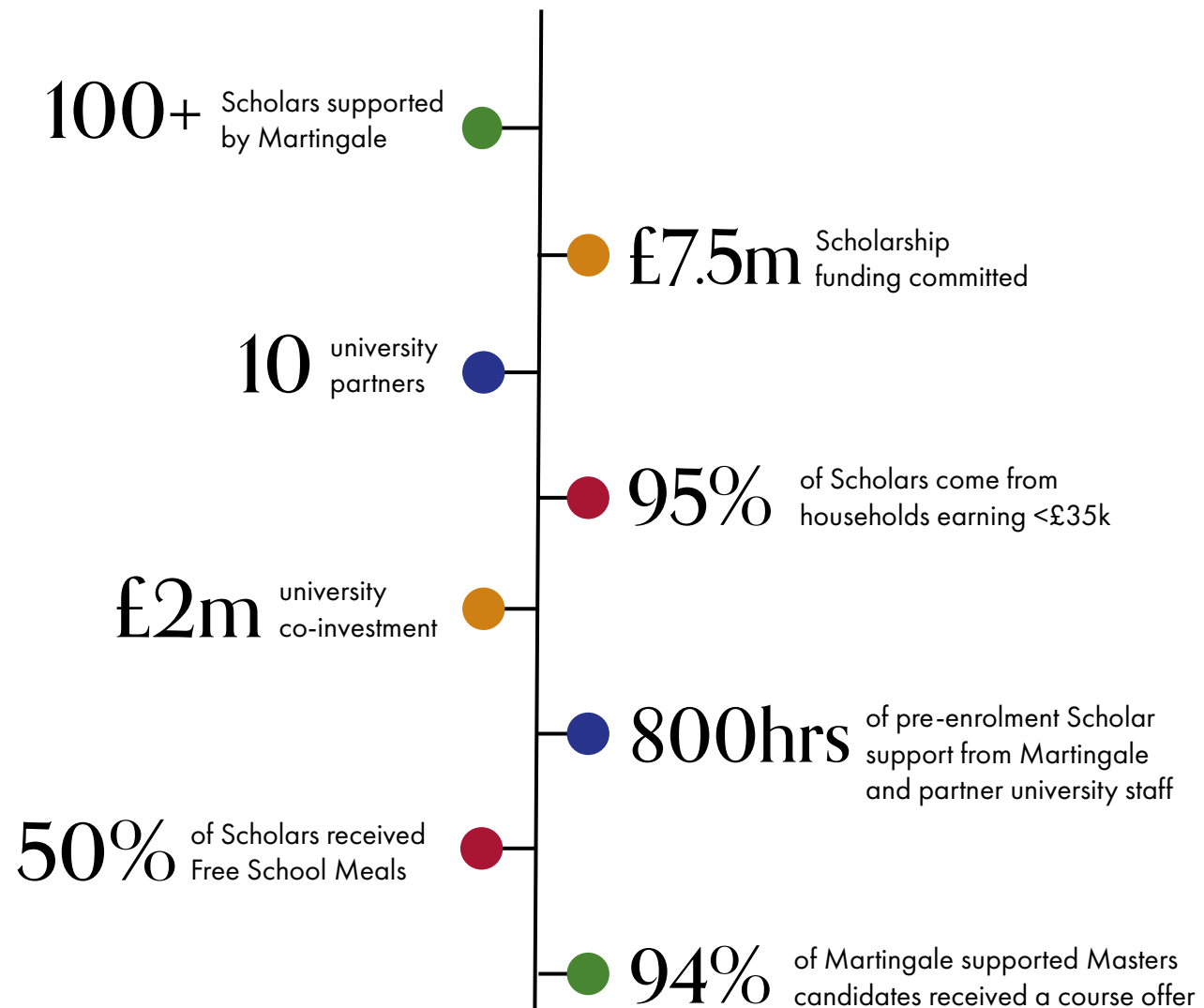


'It's quite clear that everyone at Martingale wants to give you the opportunity to do your best in the application process as it was very straightforward and well communicated.'

JOEL, 2023 MARTINGALE SCHOLAR

Impact to Date

Since our launch in 2022, we have made significant progress in driving forward our mission to support talented people from low-socioeconomic backgrounds to pursue postgraduate study in world-leading universities.



About the AAC

The Academic Advisory Committee (AAC) will serve as a key advisory body to the Martingale Advisory Board. It will provide expert academic insight, challenge and guidance to ensure Martingale's work remains high-quality and forward-thinking.

The AAC will:

- Advise on the academic quality and rigour of Martingale's programmes.
- Review proposed research projects where there is uncertainty about the alignment with funding provision (e.g. interdisciplinary research projects).
- Provide expert advice on appointment of new academic partners, including departments, focal and landscape doctoral training programmes.
- Review and recommend developments to the Martingale programme and Scholar support offer.
- Monitor and advise on trends in postgraduate study, higher education, research and innovation.
- Support the development and review of selection processes and criteria.
- Input into wider policy and advocacy work where relevant.
- Serve as academic ambassadors for Martingale within the sector.

As a new part of Martingale's governance structure, we expect this committee to evolve over time and the responsibilities to be refined.

'Without Martingale, I wouldn't be able to do the things I'm dreaming about.'

ALEXANDRA, 2023 MARTINGALE SCHOLAR

Person Specification

We are seeking a broad group of individuals who bring a mix of academic insight, lived experience, and strategic thinking. We particularly welcome applicants with a strong understanding of the research landscape, informing the strategic direction of Martingale.

As part of this appointment, we will also appoint a Chair for this committee. The Chair will hold additional responsibilities and feed directly into the main Advisory Board. If this role is of interest, please outline your suitability in your application.

We welcome applicants who:

- Hold a senior academic leadership role within higher education in one of our four priority areas: Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering or Healthcare (pre-clinical research).
- Have a strong track record of supervising PhD students.
- Demonstrate a commitment to Martingale's mission of supporting postgraduate students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds.
- Bring analytical and strategic insight to complex educational and research issues.
- Are collaborative, curious, and open to innovation.
- Have experience of running a doctoral training programme (desirable).



Terms of Appointment

Term: Initial 3-year term, renewable once.

Time Commitment: ~1-2 days per quarter (including meeting attendance and prep).

Remuneration: Voluntary role, with reasonable travel expenses reimbursed.

Location: Hybrid (virtual with one in-person meeting annually, typically in London).

Please note that this role will also include optional attendance at occasional Martingale events, including the Welcome Dinner for new Scholars (October), Solve for X pitch event (July), and other partnership events.

How to Apply

To apply please submit:

- A CV demonstrating your research experience including PhD supervisory experience.
- A cover letter outlining your interest in the role, what you would bring to the committee, and any relevant experience (max. 2 pages).

Deadline:

Applications close at 5pm on Friday 25 July.

Applications can be sent to hello@martingale.foundation.

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for an online interview with a selection of the executive team and the Advisory Board.

Enquiries:

For further information, [sign-up to our upcoming webinar at 1pm on Wednesday 25 June](#).

For general enquires please contact hello@martingale.foundation.

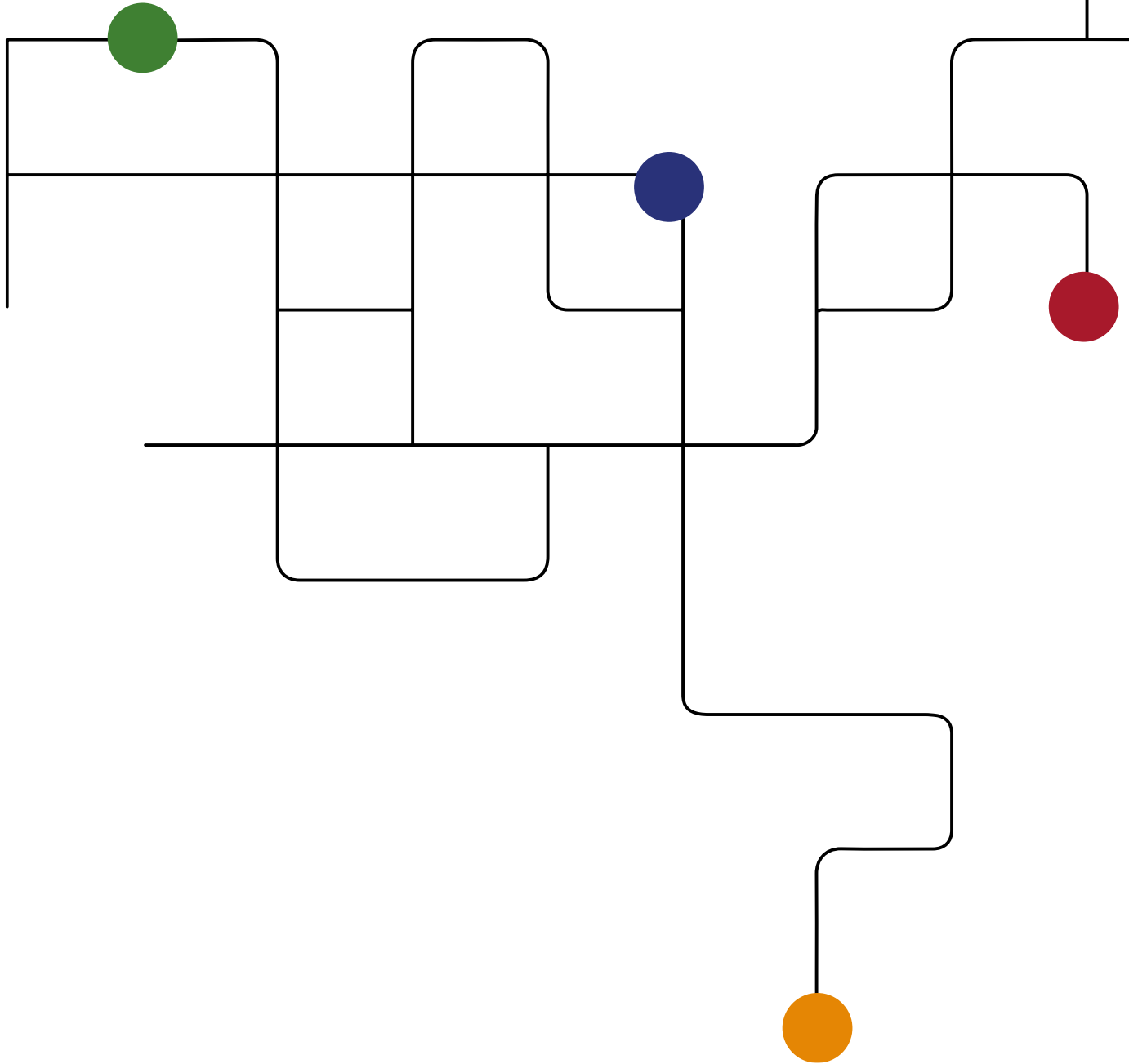
For specific questions related to the committee, please contact Cassandra Hugill, Chief Executive, cassandra.hugill@martingale.foundation.

'Thank you for your support in helping build a world where opportunity is accessible to all.'

CASSANDRA HUGILL, CEO MARTINGALE FOUNDATION

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✉ hello@martingale.foundation

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