

MARTINGALE
POSTGRADUATE FOUNDATION

Solve for X

WHERE ACADEMIA MEETS INDUSTRY



SUPPORTED BY

 Isaac Newton Institute
for Mathematical Sciences

 Newton Gateway
to Mathematics



ST JOHN'S COLLEGE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Why Martingale?

Access to education has the ability to open doors, challenge systemic inequalities and change an individual's life.

Specialist skills are becoming increasingly important in tackling global challenges across academia, industry, public and private sector roles. Many organisations highlight the need for upskilling within the workforce and are actively recruiting PhD graduates to address this gap.

Employees with a PhD can expect on average 26% higher wages compared to those with a bachelor's degree¹. Students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds, who are typically the first in their families to attend university, are

up to 15 times less likely to pursue postgraduate research compared to their more privileged peers².

Martingale aims to address these challenges, ensuring that talented people are supported to thrive and excel in research and industry.

With 70% of doctoral students leaving academia within three years of graduating, we recognise the importance of providing students with skills that will last a lifetime, whether that is within academia or beyond.

We have designed a pioneering programme for second-year PhD students, that will encourage interdisciplinary thinking and innovative problem-solving skills.

We believe that family income should not be a barrier to the pursuit of excellence.

Student loans often fall short of tuition fees, never mind the cost of living. This puts postgraduate study out of reach for many who cannot fund their studies through financial support from their family.

Martingale provides crucial support through:

- 📖 A fully-funded Living-Wage Scholarship to pursue a one-year Masters degree or a four-year PhD
- 📄 All tuition fees and research expenses, including a tax-free stipend for living costs
- ✉ Tailored support to apply for Martingale courses at our partner universities
- 👥 Membership of a pioneering community of future STEM leaders
- ★ Access to Martingale development programmes, including leadership training and connections with top academic and industry professionals

University Partners

Martingale is pleased to support Scholars across England and Scotland.

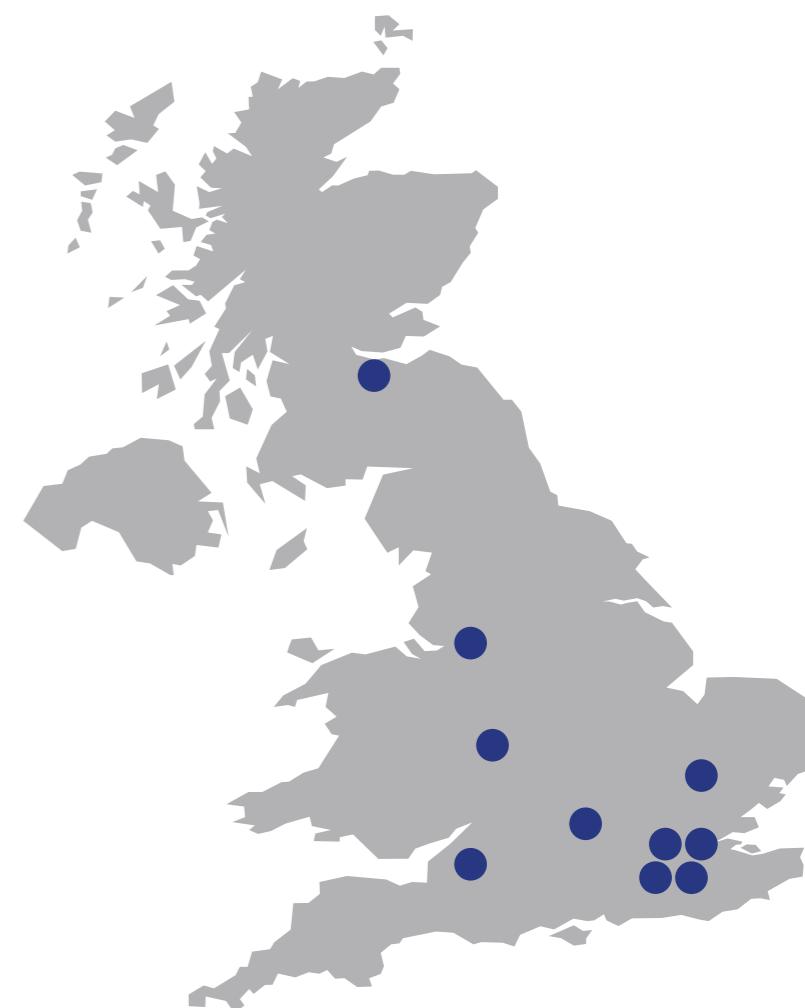
We work closely with our partner universities to deliver support throughout a Scholar's academic journey. This begins with a comprehensive support programme that tackles the hidden curriculum associated with the postgraduate application process. This includes a Showcase, bespoke online webinars and individual application support from our Programmes team.

Our high-quality development programmes provide the skills needed for a successful career and builds a sense of belonging among Scholars, forming a community that bridges institutions.

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.



Solve for X

Solve for X is a five-day challenge where Martingale PhD Scholars come together in interdisciplinary teams to tackle complex industry problems and pitch their solutions.

Hosted by St John's College Cambridge and delivered in partnership with the Isaac Newton Institute for Mathematical Sciences and Newton Gateway to Mathematics, the Scholars work closely with industry partners to develop an innovative solution to real-world industry problems. Supervised by an experienced mentor, Scholars are encouraged to apply their academic skills to novel challenges and pitch their solutions to a panel comprising industry and academic partners at the end of the retreat.

Solve for X provides professional and innovative training and networking that ensures Scholars have the skills, confidence and networks that are essential for their career. This development and support is even more vital for students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds. A 2021 report from the Social Mobility Foundation showed that students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds earn half as much as their privileged peers post-graduation despite having the same degree. The Solve for X programme aims to provide the experience, confidence and tools to showcase their talent both within and beyond the academic sector. [Find out more about the programme on our website.](#)

We are seeking **innovative industry partners** that are tackling complex, open-ended problems in mathematics, tech and data science, to collaborate on our inaugural Solve for X Challenge from 29 June 2026.

We are especially interested in working with organisations that have a **focus on research, innovation and developing talent pipelines.**

'Solve for X equips Scholars with essential skills crucial for success in any career path, whether in academia, industry, public sector, or beyond. By fostering collaboration and empowering Scholars to address real-world challenges, this programme encourages the application of interdisciplinary knowledge.'

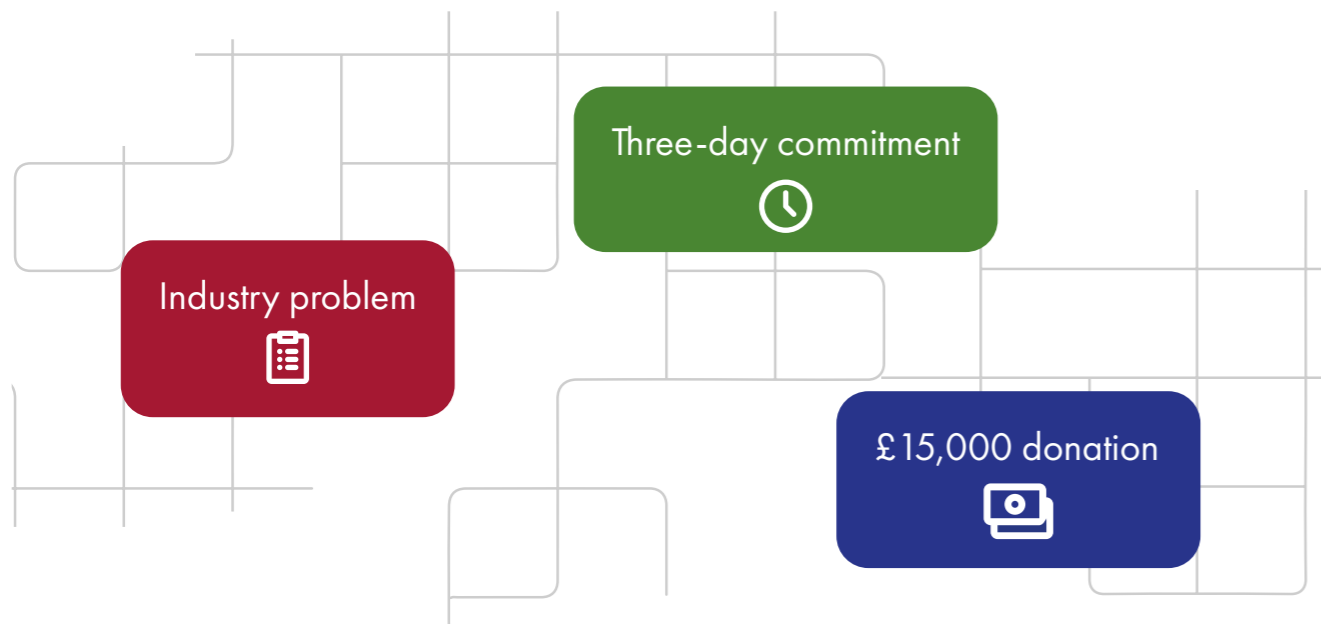
CASSANDRA HUGILL, CHIEF EXECUTIVE, MARTINGALE FOUNDATION



Industry Partnership

As an industry partner for Solve for X 2026, you would provide:

- An unsolved industry problem (*Martingale and INI will offer support to design and finalise a suitable challenge if required*)
- A key contact in your organisation to act as the industry lead and work with the team of Scholars over the week (*this can be a mid-career employee with supervisory experience*)
- A contribution of £15,000 in unrestricted funding for programme delivery
- A senior executive to participate in the judging panel (*optional*)
- An optional paid internship opportunity for a Scholar to implement the proposed solution



‘Solve for X provides an excellent opportunity for graduate students to practise essential collaborative skills and push boundaries via unfamiliar mathematical problems in a supportive environment. I hope the programme will have a transformative effect on the careers of many Scholars.’

DR MILLA KIBBLE, DEPUTY DIRECTOR,
ISAAC NEWTON INSTITUTE FOR MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

Partnering with Martingale

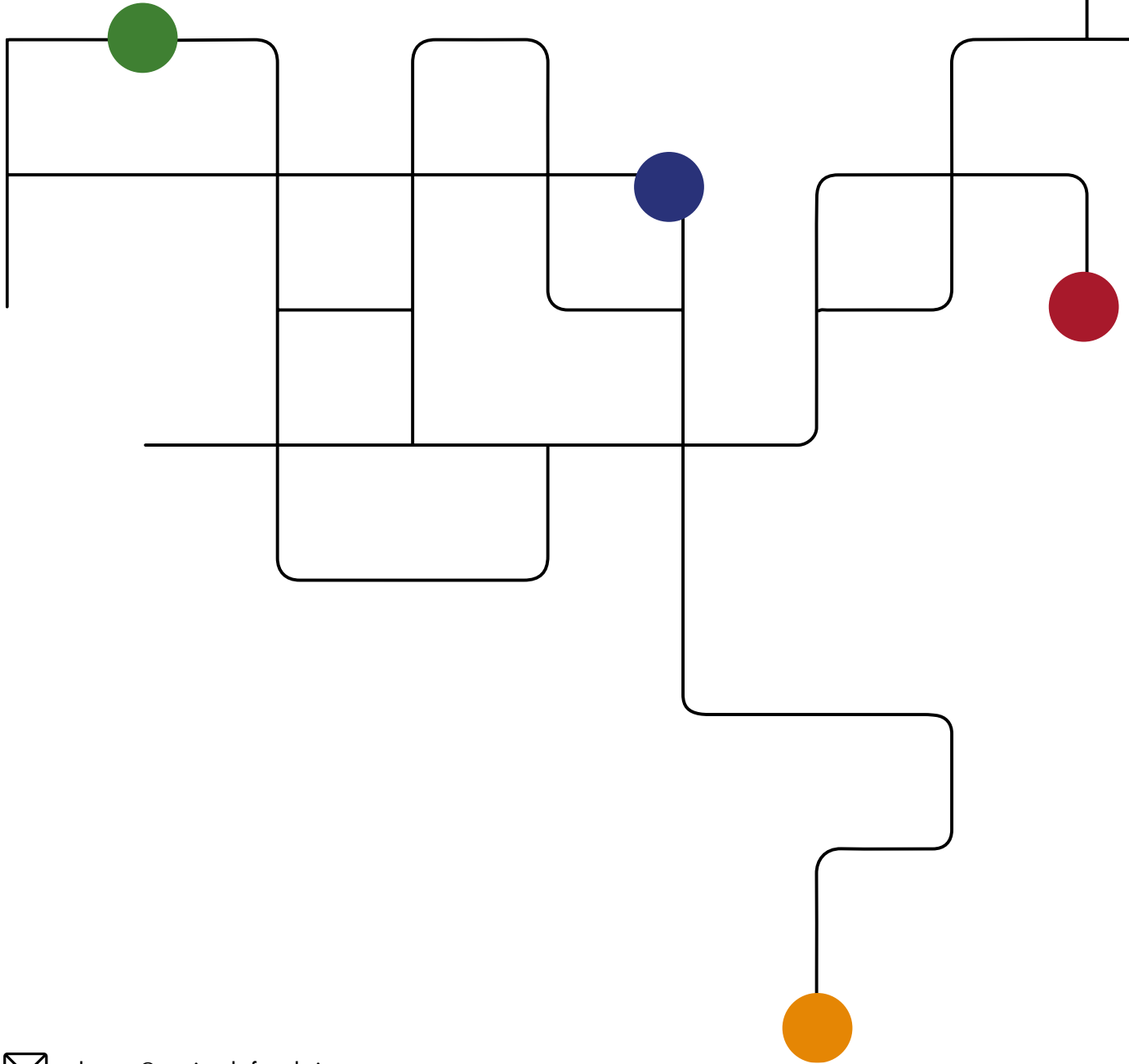
As a Solve for X partner, you would receive:

- Access to a cohort of exceptional mathematicians studying at leading UK universities
- Branding and recognition across our website and social media, including recognition at the pitch event and in our Impact Report
- Innovative potential solutions to a challenge you are currently tackling
- Contributing to a fast-growing charity supporting talented students from low-socioeconomic backgrounds to succeed
- Professional development opportunities for your team, particularly in collaborations between academia and industry
- Invitation to our pitch event, joined by university partners, key stakeholders and wider industry



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All parties will be subject to a due diligence process.