

2026 Martingale Scholarship: Application Guidance

This guide is for candidates who are applying for a Martingale Scholarship to commence courses in Autumn 2026.

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.

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

Contents

2026 Martingale Scholarship: Application Guidance	1
1. The Martingale Scholarship Portal.....	2
a) How to register for a Martingale Scholarship Application.....	2
b) How to access the Martingale Scholarship Application Portal.....	2
c) Which sections of the Application Portal to complete.....	3
d) How to save your progress in the Application Portal.....	3
e) How to submit your application.....	4
2. Before You Start Your Application.....	5
a) Documentation required.....	5
b) Guidance on the use of AI in Scholarship applications.....	6
3. Completing Your Application.....	7
Personal Details	7
Application Part A: About Me	7
Part A, Section 1: Education History.....	7
Part A, Section 2: Personal Statement Questions.....	7
Part A, Section 3: Socioeconomic Background	8
Part A, Section 4: Financial Circumstances	9
Part A, Section 5: References and Documents	12
Part A, Section 6: Assessment Centres, Additional Support or Requirements.....	13
Application Part B: Scholarship Applications	13
Equality Monitoring Questions.....	14

1. The Martingale Scholarship Portal

To apply for a Martingale Scholarship, you first need to register for a Martingale Scholarship Application, and then complete an application in the Martingale Scholarship Application Portal.

a) How to register for a Martingale Scholarship Application

To register, please:

1. Go to the [Registration Form](#)
2. Enter your name, email address and phone number
3. Confirm your eligibility for Home Fee status
4. Select which Scholarship(s) you would like to apply for
5. Read and consent to the Martingale Privacy Policy for Applicants
6. Click 'Submit'

To avoid duplicating your account, please do not submit the Registration Form more than once with the same email address.

In the Name field, you should enter the name that you would like us to use in correspondence with you. If your legal name is different from your preferred or correspondence name, you can optionally enter this in the Legal Name field immediately below.

We strongly advise you to use a personal email address rather than a university email, as university filters can sometimes block emails and you also may lose access to a university email when you graduate.

You should select which Scholarship or Scholarships you are interested in applying for. You should select either Masters or PhD or both. Depending on which Scholarship type(s) you select, you should then see all available Scholarships at your chosen level(s). Please tick all Scholarships you are interested in applying for. This will create the relevant application(s) for you in the Portal.

Please note that creating an application to a particular Scholarship does not commit you to submitting it, so you can still select a Scholarship even if you are not sure about applying.

After you have submitted this sign-up form, you will be automatically redirected to the [Application Portal login page](#). Access to the Portal is via a link sent to you by email. Therefore, please double check that your email address is correct before submitting the Registration Form, otherwise you will not be able to log in and you will need to register a new account.

b) How to access the Martingale Scholarship Application Portal

You can access the [Application Portal](#) at any time once you have created your account.

To log in to the Portal, please enter the email address that you registered with. This will generate an email with a link allowing you to access your application. This link is personal to

you, and is active for 60 minutes; if your session times out, you can simply generate a new link by returning to the Portal Login page at any time and entering your email address.

Please ensure you log into the portal with the same email address that you used to register your application, otherwise the portal may malfunction or create a duplicate application.

c) Which sections of the Application Portal to complete

There are four main components of the Scholarship Application Portal:

1. Personal Details
2. Application Part A: About Me
3. Application Part B (at least one of the following):
 - B1: Artificial Intelligence Masters
 - B2: Mathematical Sciences Masters
 - B3: Artificial Intelligence PhD
 - B4: Mathematical Sciences PhD
 - B5: Engineering PhD
 - B6: Data Science in Healthcare PhD
4. Equality Monitoring Questions

All applicants should complete: Personal Details; Application Part A; Equality Monitoring Questions; and at least one Scholarship application in Part B (you may apply to multiple Scholarships).

d) How to save your progress in the Application Portal

Please click 'Save Changes' at the bottom of each part of the application any time you add or edit responses to any part of the form, otherwise you may lose your progress. You will need to save your progress for each part of the application form separately. We would therefore advise you to work on each component separately, to avoid losing progress.

You will be able to return and edit your responses at any time by returning to the portal page to generate a new login link via email.

Important Notice: To protect your personal data, access to the Portal typically expires after 60 minutes, even if you make edits within that time. Therefore, please ensure you regularly save your progress in all parts of the application, to avoid losing your progress. To be safe, we strongly recommend saving your changes at least every 30 minutes. We also advise you to compose your answers to the personal statement questions offline and paste them into the application portal when ready, to ensure you do not lose what you have written if the Portal does time out. If your session expires, you can return to the Portal simply by logging out and entering your email to generate a fresh login link.

e) How to submit your application

When you have finished completing your application, you then need to submit Part A and each Part B Scholarship which you are applying for. **Each part of the application must be submitted separately.**

To do this, please:

1. Check that you are happy with all of your responses, and that you have completed all questions marked with an asterisk (*), as you will not be able to make further edits after you have submitted
2. Scroll to the bottom of each section in the Portal that you have completed and tick the 'Application Complete' box
3. Click 'Save Changes' at the bottom of each relevant section
4. Refresh your page or log out of the Application Portal to submit the application

Once you have submitted your application(s), you will no longer be able to edit your responses. However, you will be able to view read-only responses for any submitted applications, which will appear at the bottom of the Portal.

2. Before You Start Your Application

a) Documentation required

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

Item	Explanation
Up-to-date academic transcript(s)	<p>An academic transcript is an official document obtained from your university. It will comprise a list of papers, modules 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>Please include transcripts for all degrees you have completed, or are currently studying for. For example, if you have an undergraduate and postgraduate degree, please upload transcripts for both degrees.</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>
Student finance letter of entitlement (if your most recent year of <u>undergraduate</u> student finance was 2022-23 or later)	<p>If you have a letter of entitlement from student financing bodies (Student Finance England, Student Finance Wales, Student Finance Northern Ireland, Student Awards Agency for Scotland or Student Universal Support Ireland), please upload this. 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. 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</p>

	<p>should you be shortlisted for a Martingale assessment centre, you will be required to submit your evidence of financial need before attending.</p> <p><u>If you finished your undergraduate degree before summer 2023</u>: you do not need to submit a letter of entitlement, but we may request further documentation or evidence of your current financial circumstances and/or run a financial background check to verify your circumstances.</p>
<p>Names and contact details of two academic referees</p>	<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 your chosen discipline.</p> <p>Martingale will request references from your referees directly, if you are shortlisted for an assessment centre. Please ask permission before you submit your referees' contact details.</p>

b) Guidance on the use of AI in Scholarship applications

Before you start your application, please familiarise yourself with Martingale's guidance around the use of Artificial Intelligence tools in the Scholarship application and selection process:

Applicants must ensure that their responses are truthful and represent their own original work. While applicants may use AI tools to assist with tasks such as checking spelling and grammar, AI-generated content should not be used to substantially produce answers.

Applicants may also use AI to help prepare for their Martingale interview, such as generating potential interview questions. However, candidates are prohibited from using AI tools, including generative language models, during the interview itself, whether it is conducted online or in person.

Upon submitting your application, you will be required to confirm that your responses are accurate, your own original work, and that any use of AI was limited to reviewing or making minimal edits.

3. Completing Your Application

Please read the following information carefully as you work your way through the application form, to ensure that you complete all parts of the application correctly.

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.

Personal Details

Please enter your personal details in this section. You can continue to edit these details, even after you have submitted the main parts of the application, for instance if your address or phone number changes.

You cannot edit your name and email address in the form, as these are tied to your account. If you need to change either of these fields, please contact us.

Application Part A: About Me

Part A, Section 1: Education History

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 and suitability for a Martingale scholarship.

Q5. 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 question 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.

Part A, Section 2: Personal Statement Questions

This section is your opportunity to tell us in your own words why you should be considered for a Martingale Scholarship.

In **Part B** of the application, you will also have the opportunity to tell us about your academic interests and motivations for wanting to do a Masters or PhD.

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. Please ensure your answers are within the word limits, as you will not be able to save your application form in the Portal if they are over.

Q1. Tell us about your academic and/or professional career and achievements to date. (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? What are you proud of having achieved or overcome? This should include reference to any academic achievements such as awards, prizes, competitions or publications. This could also be through involvement in student unions or societies, internships, part-time work, volunteering or supporting people around you.

Q2. How would a Martingale Scholarship help you achieve your ambitions? What opportunities do you feel being a Martingale Scholar would open to you? (max. 250 words)

Tell us about your ambitions and how being a Martingale Scholar will help you achieve them. This may include academic, personal or career ambitions. Explain why you want to be a Martingale Scholar, how you would hope to benefit from the Scholarship, and how you would contribute to the Martingale community.

Part A, Section 3: 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.

Q4(a) Were you eligible for Free School Meals at any point during your schooling years (whether claimed or not)?

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.

Q4(b) If you were eligible for Free School Meals at any point in your schooling, for how many years in total were you eligible?

You should give the total number of years you were eligible, even if they were non-consecutive. For example, if you were eligible for two years between the ages of 7 and 9, and for another two years between the ages of 13 and 15, your answer should be '4'.

Q5. Please select all of the below statements that apply to you.

Definitions of some of the individual items can be found below:

- *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.

Part A, Section 4: Financial Circumstances

As with Section 3, 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.

As part of our assessment of applications, we assess the recent financial circumstances of applicants. For most students who have completed undergraduate degrees in the UK or Ireland within the last three years, undergraduate student finance information is a simple and consistent way of doing this.

However, if you have not received undergraduate student finance from one of the UK or Irish national or regional funding bodies, or if you completed your undergraduate studies more than three years ago, we may request additional information to learn more about your circumstances.

Guidance for Question 1 (undergraduate student finance)

For the purposes of this question, please only include details of undergraduate student finance. This usually includes student finance you receive for the Masters component of an integrated Masters, but does not usually include student finance for a standalone Masters degree. Please answer this question with reference to the current or most recent year of undergraduate student finance for which you have a letter of entitlement or other evidence which you can upload.

Please complete Questions 1(a)-1(d) if:

You have received undergraduate student finance (including loans, grants or bursaries) from one of the following: Student Finance England, Student Finance

Northern Ireland, Student Awards Agency Scotland, Student Finance Wales or Student Universal Support Ireland

AND

the most recent academic year you received undergraduate student finance was 2022-23 or later.

If you completed your undergraduate degree earlier than this, or you did not receive undergraduate student finance from one of the UK or Irish national or regional funding bodies, you do not need to complete Questions I(a)-I(d), but you should complete the other questions in this section.

For Question I(a), please ensure you enter the correct figure. Please ensure that you are entering figure for most recent year of undergraduate student finance, not postgraduate student finance, unless you are in the final year of an integrated Masters and your student finance comes from one of the funding bodies in the table on the following page.

Guide to responses for Q1(a)

If your undergraduate student finance came/comes from...	... please enter the following figure in your response to Question I(a)
Student Finance England	Your <u>maintenance loan</u> amount for the year
Student Finance Northern Ireland	Your <u>maintenance grant</u> amount (not maintenance loan amount) for the year
Student Awards Agency for Scotland	Your <u>young student bursary</u> amount (not your loan amount) for the year
Student Finance Wales	Your <u>maintenance grant</u> amount (not maintenance loan amount) for the year
Student Universal Support Ireland	Your <u>maintenance grant</u> amount for the year. Please disregard the '£' sign on the form, and enter the value in euros. Please do not convert the value into pounds.

If you do not enter the correct figure, we may not be able to assess your application correctly. If you have any questions, or you are unsure about which figure to enter, please contact us at recruitment@martingale.foundation.

Guidance for Question 2 (household income)

The most recent financial year refers to the financial year from 6 April 2024 – 5 April 2025.

For the purposes of this question, please include all taxable income, including income from savings, investments or property (for example dividends or rent), in addition to salary or income from employment.

Depending on your circumstances, you may also need to include your parents' or your partner's income:

If you are under 25:

- If you live with or are financially dependent on at least one parent, your household income includes:
 - your parents' income, if you live with them or depend on them financially
 - the combined income of one of your parents and their partner, if you live with them or depend on them financially
- If you meet any of the following conditions, your household income does not include your parents' income:
 - you have supported yourself financially for at least 3 years
 - you are married or in a civil partnership
 - you received student finance as a care leaver
 - you have had no contact with your parents for over a year

If you are 25 or over:

- Your household income will not include your parents income
- Your household income will include your partner's income, if you live with them. A partner is defined as:
 - your husband, wife or civil partner
 - your opposite or same sex partner, if you live with your partner as though you were married or in a civil partnership

If you have any questions about this section of the form, or you are unsure of your circumstances, please contact us to discuss further.

Guidance for Question 3 (other needs-based bursaries or scholarships)

Please only include here 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 or awards based on your academic performance or extra-curricular activities.

You can also upload evidence of bursaries or scholarships mentioned here in Section 5, alongside any student finance letter(s) of entitlement.

Financial background assessments

In the event Martingale Foundation is unable to verify your financial circumstances using the information provided in your application, Martingale may request a financial background assessment to be carried out on our behalf by a third-party agency, Bursary Administration Ltd (BAL). This will only be done with your consent. Martingale may not be able to verify your financial circumstances if, for example, you did not receive means-tested undergraduate student finance or you graduated more than three years ago.

If you give explicit written consent, we will share with BAL your name and email address only, and they will then contact you directly with further information about the financial assessment process. If you then choose to respond, you may, at your sole discretion, share information requested by BAL. Following the assessment, BAL will share with Martingale a summary spreadsheet of your finances, so that we can verify the information you provided in your application. This spreadsheet will be retained by Martingale for our records, but will not be shared with any external party without your consent.

You have the right to deny consent for your name and email address to be shared with BAL, and you have the right to decline to take part in the financial background assessment should BAL contact you, or to withhold information requested by BAL, even if you have previously given consent for your details to be shared. However, denying consent, declining to take part in a financial background assessment if requested, or withholding information requested may mean Martingale will be unable to offer you funding, if we are unable to verify the information you provided at point of application.

Please tick the box in the form to provide your consent for Martingale to share your name and email address with Bursary Administration Ltd. (BAL), for the sole purpose of allowing BAL to contact you to conduct a financial background assessment on your behalf, and for the outcome of this assessment to be shared by BAL with Martingale.

If you have any questions about financial background assessments or BAL, please contact us at recruitment@martingale.foundation.

Part A, Section 5: References and Documents

References

Please provide details of two referees. Your referees should be able to attest to your academic achievements and ability to undertake postgraduate study. We will contact them for a reference if you are invited to an assessment centre, so please ask your referees' permission **before** entering their details here.

Martingale is unable to make an offer of a scholarship until two references have been received.

Document uploads

Acceptable file types are: PDF files, Word documents, Images

Please refer to Pages 4-5 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.

Student finance documentation

If you are uploading a student finance letter of entitlement, please ensure that it is for the same academic year as referred to in your response to Section 4, Questions 1(a)-1(d) otherwise we may not be able to assess your application correctly.

You should also upload evidence of any means-tested bursary/ies or scholarship/s that you referred to in Section 4, Question 3.

If your most recent year of undergraduate student finance was before 2022-23, we may additionally request further documentation or evidence of your current financial circumstances and/or run a financial background check to verify your circumstances.

Martingale is unable to make an offer of a scholarship until we have been able to assess your financial circumstances; if you are unable to provide relevant financial documentation, please contact us as soon as possible to discuss your circumstances.

Part A, Section 6: Assessment Centres, Additional Support or Requirements

Please include in this section anything you would like Martingale to be aware of about any requirements you may have as result of disability, a learning difficulty or neurodivergence. If you are selected for an interview, the team may get in touch with you by email to discuss your access and/or support requirements in more detail. Any information that you provide will be kept strictly confidential and will not affect the outcome of your application.

Application Part B: Scholarship Applications

You must complete at least one Scholarship application in Application Part B (B1-B6) for your application to be considered complete. You may apply to as many Scholarships as you like.

In the Portal, you will only be able to view and complete the application form(s) for the Scholarship(s) you selected on your sign-up form. If you cannot see an application for a Scholarship that you would like to apply for, please contact us on recruitment@martingale.foundation no later than 10am on Thursday 23 October 2025 to request an application be added.

Subject-related personal statement

For each Scholarship you are applying to, please complete the subject-related personal statement, using the guidance below. Please note that if you are applying to multiple Scholarships, personal statement questions will be reviewed independently for each Scholarship, so please make sure you include relevant information in all of your answers.

- For Masters Scholarships

Tell us about a general area of study you are interested in pursuing at postgraduate level, and why. How will doing a Masters in your chosen subject area support you in your goals? (max. 500 words)

Please describe the topics or areas that interest you. How have you engaged with them so far and how do you imagine pursuing them further as a Masters student? Explain your motivation to apply for a Masters. You may also wish to include your academic or career aspirations beyond your Masters, and your commitment to the subject beyond your course requirements, including interest in or experience of

carrying out research. If you are interested in pursuing further research beyond Masters level, for instance at PhD level, please also discuss this here.

- *For PhD Scholarships*

Tell us about a research area you are interested in pursuing at PhD, and why. How will doing a PhD in your chosen subject area support you in your goals? (max. 500 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 specific PhD research topic in mind, please outline it here. Explain your motivation to apply for a PhD. You may wish to include your academic or career aspirations, and your commitment to the subject beyond your course requirements, including interest in or experience of carrying out research.

University and subject area selection

You should also tell us which of our partner universities you are interested in applying for, for each Scholarship you are applying for. You can select as many universities as you like, and expressing interest in a university here does not commit you to submitting an application to that university, so you should tick all that you are interested in. Please note that not all Scholarships are available at all partner universities, so depending on which Scholarship(s) you are applying for, you may find that certain universities are available for some subjects and not others.

For some Scholarships, you will also be asked to specify which particular area(s) you are interested in pursuing. This is to help us match candidates to relevant interviewers, should you be shortlisted for a Martingale assessment centre.

Equality Monitoring Questions

Your answers in this part of the application 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.

You can continue to edit your responses in this part of the Portal even after you have submitted the main parts of the application.