

UNIVERSITY OF  
BIRMINGHAM

# Distinguished Alumni Scholarships

Application guidance notes

## Contents

About the Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Scheme.....	1
Eligibility criteria.....	1
Judging criteria .....	2
Application process.....	2
Selection process.....	3
Contact us.....	3

## About the Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Scheme

For 2017 entry the University has 50 new £2,000 scholarships available for Masters students who have previously studied at the University of Birmingham. The awards will be allocated on the basis of merit – simply meeting the criteria will not guarantee that an application is successful.

### Eligibility criteria:

The Distinguished Alumni Scholarships will be available to students who:

- **Gain admission to a taught Masters programme at Birmingham for 2017 entry**  
The following taught Masters programmes are offered at Birmingham: MA, MSc, LLM, MEd, MPH, MBA. Distance-learning programmes and MRes (combined taught and research) programmes are eligible for the awards.
- **Self-funded**  
You must be self-funding or applying for a postgraduate government loan to pay your fees and living expenses
- **Are an alumnus of the University**  
This includes current final-year students and any student who has completed an undergraduate degree, postgraduate degree, or exchange programme of at least one semester (60 credits), at the University of Birmingham. Students who attended Birmingham for at least 60 credits of a degree that was subsequently transferred to, and completed at, another institution are also eligible.
- **Are not already registered on a postgraduate programme**  
Applicants must not currently be enrolled on a postgraduate degree course.

### Judging criteria:

The awards will be made based on academic performance in the applicants' previous studies at the University of Birmingham.

*Candidates are expected to attain or have attained a First-class or Upper Second-class (2:1) Honours degree (or the equivalent) for their undergraduate qualification.*

Nominees will be selected by a cross-college panel at the University. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic excellence, however students from a group that is evidentially under represented among the institution's taught-Masters population will also be considered. See the 'Under-represented student criteria' section below.

Nomination will be based on the following criteria:

- **Weighted mean marks from their undergraduate study**  
The final percentage mark of a UK degree is based on an average of second- and third-year

module marks – with the differing credit totals of different modules taken into account – and weighted so that third-year marks count for more than second-year ones. Through consideration of module marks, credits and year of study, applicants with full degrees from the University of Birmingham will need to be considered alongside applicants who have studied at the University for one semester or one year as part of an exchange programme.

- **Ranking within their University of Birmingham cohort**  
The quality of the student's final grade in relation to the rest of the students who graduated in that year will be taken into account.
- **Professional qualifications and achievements**  
Qualifications and other notable achievements from relevant professional roles will be taken into account.
- **Strength of the personal statement**  
The personal statement is a chance to make the application stand out. It should, amongst other things: outline the student's interest in the subject, demonstrate that their background has sufficiently prepared them for the degree, mention any relevant experience and outline how the course will fit into their future plans.

*Note: Under-represented student criteria*

*Students that have previously participated in the University of Birmingham Access to Birmingham Scheme (A2B), Realising Opportunities or a similar outreach or widening participation programme at the University of Birmingham will be prioritised for awards.*

## **Application process**

**Deadline: 17:00 BST, 28 April 2017**

To be considered for an award, applicants must, by the 28 April deadline, have:

- Made an application to their intended Masters programme. Please apply through the relevant programme page on the Course finder section of the University of Birmingham website (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/courses/taught/listing.aspx>). This must include all of the relevant supporting documentation: references, transcripts, and English language certification if applicable.

AND

- Completed the Distinguished Alumni Scholarship application form (<https://uobasops.formstack.com/forms/alumnischolarship2017>). Applicants should enter the application ID number that they were given during the application to the Masters programme.

## **Selection process**

Successful candidates will be notified during May 2017, and all applicants will be informed by email whether they have been successful or not.

Candidates who are selected for the awards will be asked to accept/decline the award by a given deadline. If a successful candidate fails to respond by the given deadline or declines the offer, their award will automatically be transferred to a reserve candidate who is next in line for the award.

## **Contact us**

Postgraduate Recruitment team

[pg@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:pg@contacts.bham.ac.uk)

## **General enquiries**

Admissions Office

[admissions@bham.ac.uk](mailto:admissions@bham.ac.uk)

Postgraduate Enquiry Service

Web: <http://bham.hobsons.co.uk/ask.aspx?cid=1223&did=24>

Tel: +44 (0)121 414 5005

## **Website**

Information on the Distinguished Alumni Scholarship Scheme can be found at:

<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/funding/Distinguished-Alumni-Scholarship-scheme.aspx>