

Master Scholarship Programme

Introduction

Danida Fellowship Centre (DFC) is launching a pilot programme that supports master studies for young Africans by granting scholarships to English-language master's programmes offered by universities in Denmark. The focus of the master's programmes relate to the green sector within the areas of climate, environment, energy, water, urban development, and food. The pilot programme is being implemented in collaboration with the Strategic Sector Cooperation (SSC) projects across Africa and candidates must be nominated by a Sector Counsellor.

It is important to note that DFC does not manage the application process for master's programmes at Danish Universities. This means that candidates must go through two application rounds separately, effectively applying twice. In essence,

1. Candidates must first apply for The Master Scholarship Programme via DFC's online application portal.
2. If DFC approves the candidate, the candidate must apply directly to the Danish university through their online portal on equal terms with all other applicants.

DFC has no influence over the university selection process or uptake, hence it is the sole responsibility of the candidate to apply in time and make sure he/she lives up to the academic requirements stated by the university.

What is an advance pledge of scholarship?

An advance pledge of scholarship is a proof of commitment from Danida Fellowship Centre to provide financial support for studies, if the candidate is fully admitted to university. An advance pledge of scholarship may be granted to candidates who live up to the eligibility requirements defined by DFC.

Please note that an advance pledge of scholarship granted by DFC does not constitute any guarantee that the candidate is admitted to University. Should the candidate be declined, the advance pledge of scholarship is withdrawn. DFC will only grant scholarships to fully admitted candidates, and will therefore not support "conditionally admitted" candidates.

DFC supports studies at Danish universities only (field work in home country can be partly supported, if relevant).

Please note, the advance pledge of scholarship is conditioned on the candidate receiving residence permit.

What does a DFC scholarship cover?

- Application fee (max. 1). The fee will be paid by the candidate and refunded by DFC.
- Mandatory Academic English language test (IELTS/TOEFL). The cost will be paid by the candidate and refunded by DFC (max. 1).
- Tuition fees.
- Accommodation in Denmark. Accommodation will be booked by DFC or the Danish University.
- Per diems (according to Danish Government regulations). The per diems will be paid directly by DFC.
- International air ticket (economy class) to and from Denmark for the Master's programme. Tickets will be booked by DFC and sent directly to the candidate.
- Residence permit. The fee will be paid directly by DFC.

IMPORTANT: As part of the application to a Master's programme, it is usually required to provide proof of academic English language proficiency through a TOEFL or IELTS test. Candidates granted an advance pledge of scholarship are encouraged to schedule a language test immediately after being

approved by DFC, as there may be potential delays in availability to book the test. The test result must be uploaded with the application to the university (please follow the criteria stipulated by the University). DFC allow candidates to take one language test only, and candidates must have passed the language test at least two months prior to their study start, and within the University's deadline.

Master study programme(s)

In collaboration with the Sector Counsellor at the Danish Embassy, candidates must explore which master's programme(s) are of interest for the candidate's work in relation to the SSC and what master's programme(s) might equip the candidate to address new areas or challenges in their organisation and sector. The Master Scholarship Programme allows candidates to choose a maximum of three master's programmes from the shortlist. The candidate must prioritise between the chosen master's programmes and will be asked to make a self-assessment of ones eligibility for the master's programme and to write a letter of motivation for each chosen master's programme. An advance pledge of scholarship is valid only for a master's programme from the shortlist of selected master's programmes. The candidate must be aware it can be very time-consuming to gather documentation and prepare the application(s) for the universities.

Eligibility requirements for candidates applying for an advance pledge of scholarship

➤ *Affiliated to the SSC project*

The candidates should be employed by a partner organisations to the SSC project. Candidates must be nominated by the relevant Sector Counsellor at the Danish Embassy, responsible for the Strategic Sector Cooperation, which the candidate's organisation is part of.

When at all possible, candidates must obtain a signed letter from their organisation authorising their absence throughout the entire duration of the studies (can be uploaded to the candidate's application to DFC).

➤ *Have a relevant Bachelor's degree with excellent grades and a good command of the English language*

It is very competitive to apply for admission to a master's programme at a Danish University. Therefore, candidates for this scholarship opportunity must be highly motivated, have a relevant Bachelor's degree with excellent grades and have a good command of academic English language. Further, candidates must live up to the academic requirements defined by the university in question (this is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure).

Diploma and academic record from the candidate's Bachelor degree must be uploaded to the application to DFC. If these documents are in another language than English, they must be translated to English by a certified translator.

Your Bachelor's degree must be no older than 10 years at the time of application to University.

➤ *The candidate must not already have obtained a Master's degree*

DFC will not consider candidates who have already obtained a Master's degree.

➤ *Below the age of 33*

This DFC Scholarship Programme targets young African women and men. DFC choses to use the African definition of 'youth' which is any person between the ages of 18 and 35 years. This implies that no person over the age of 33 (at the time of application to DFC) is eligible to apply for a scholarship.

Guide to the DFC Online Application System – SurveyMonkey Apply (SMA)

Registering in the online Application System

If you are eligible to apply, you will have received a link to the application system from the Sector Counsellor at the Danish Embassy in your country.

Once you click on the link <https://dfcentre.smapply.io/>, you will get access to the application site, where you are required to create an account by entering your name, email and a password. If you already have a user, please log in with this email and password.

If this is your first time logging in to the site, please answer the eligibility questions.

If you are eligible, you will then be able to see and start your application for the programme “DFC Master Scholarship Programme 2025 (September intake 2025)”.

The application system will take you through the following seven tasks

- Information Sheet: *Here you fill out all basic information about you and your motivation for applying*
- Selection of Master's Programme(s): *Here you indicate which master's programmes you wish to apply to, make a self-assessment of your eligibility and write your letter of motivation.*
- Passport Copy Upload: *Here you upload the data page of your passport (first page)*
- Diploma Upload: *Here you upload your Bachelor's diploma (in English)*
- Transcript Upload: *Here you upload your Bachelor's academic record (in English)*
- Supporting Letter: *Here you upload a supporting letter from your supervisor. The letter must state whether you have been granted leave of absence during your study period in Denmark.*
- Declaration and Signature: *Here you sign and submit your application*

TASK #1: INFORMATION SHEET

Which country are you applying from? Please select the country in which you live and work.

Which thematic area is the Strategic Sector Cooperation focusing on? Please choose the thematic focus area of the Strategic Sector Cooperation, which your organisation is part of. If you are uncertain, please contact the relevant Sector Counsellor in your country.

Applicant Information:

Given Name(s): *Your first name(s) as stated in your passport.*

Surname(s): *Your last name(s) as stated in your passport.*

Nationality: *Your nationality as stated in your passport.*

Sex: *Please select male or female.*

Date of Birth: *Your birthdate as stated in your passport.*

Age: *Please indicate your age at time of applying.*

Contact Information:

Alternative e-mail Address: *Please write an email that you can use and check regularly.*

Private Mobile Phone Number: *Please write your phone number including the country code.*

Emergency Contact Information:

Please type in information on someone to contact in case of an emergency during your fellowship.

Given Name(s): *His/her first name(s)*

Surname Name(s): *His/her last name(s)*

Relationship to applicant: *Please state how you are related to this person.*

Phone Number: *Please write his/her phone number including the country code.*

Email: *Please write an email that he/she use and check regularly.*

Workplace Information:

Organisation name: *Please write the name of the organisation you work in.*

Street Address: *Please write the street address of the organisation you work in.*

City: *Please write the city of the organisation you work in.*

State/Province: *Please write the state/province (if any) of the organisation you work in.*

Country: *Please write the country of the organisation you work in.*

Phone Number: *Please write the phone number of the organisation you work in.*

Title/Role: *Please write the title or role you have in the organisation.*

Responsibilities: *Please write the main responsibilities you have in the organisation.*

Educational Record:

Please list degrees obtained as well as colleges and universities attended (most recent one first) including

the following information:

- Name of Institution
- Start Date (year)
- End Date (year)
- Degree obtained
- Specialisation (if applicable)

Please indicate whether it has been more than 10 years since you obtained your Bachelor's degree (at time of applying to university).

Proficiency in English

Speaking English: *Please indicate your level of English speaking.*

Reading English: *Please indicate your level of English reading.*

Writing English: *Please indicate your level of English writing.*

Certificate of proficiency in English may be required by Universities.

Airport

Please identify the International airport in your home country you wish to travel from and return to.

Have you visited the Schengen area within the last 6 months? *If yes, type in the date for when you last entered the Schengen area and the amount of days you have been in the Schengen area in the last 6 months.*

Have you previously attended a DFC course? *If yes, type in the course name and the year you attended the DFC course(s).*

TASK #2: SELECTION OF MASTER'S PROGRAMMES

Please select and prioritise the master's programmes you wish to apply for admission to.

Please provide a self-assessment of your eligibility for the selected master's programme.

Please provide a letter of motivation for the selected master's programme.

TASK #3: PASSPORT COPY UPLOAD

Please upload a copy of the first data page of your passport (the page with names and date of birth).

TASK #4: DIPLOMA UPLOAD

Please upload your Bachelor's degree. If it is not in English, it must be translated by a certified translator.

TASK #5: TRANSCRIPT UPLOAD

Please upload your Bachelor's academic record. If it is not in English, it must be translated by a certified translator.

TASK #6: SUPPORTING LETTER UPLOAD

Please upload a signed supporting letter from your supervisor. The letter must state whether you have been granted leave of absence from your organisation during the study period.

TASK #7: DECLARATION AND SIGNATURE

Read the declaration carefully – including the DFC policy for processing personal data – and sign the declaration with your mouse (using a computer) or finger (using a tablet or phone). Register the signature by clicking on record now.

When the signature is made and recorded, you can submit the application. You can also choose to save it and review it before submitting.