



DREAMERS COLLEGE FUND

Program Guide



TABLE OF CONTENT

• OVERVIEW	3
• PURPOSE & GOALS	4
• ABOUT THE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM	5
• ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA	7
• AWARD CRITERIA	8
• AWARD RESTRICTION	10
• SCHOLARSHIP SELECTION PROCESS	12
• SCHOLARSHIP PROCESSES & TIMELINES	18



DREAMERS COLLEGE FUND

Program Guide

OVERVIEW

The future of our world hinges on us equipping leaders of tomorrow with the tools necessary to prepare them for the world of greatness and opportunities that lie ahead. Young people are acclaimed future world leaders who sometimes arrive at their future without adequate preparation for the surprises it brings. As the future unfolds, the stakes are too high for us to remain idle before we prepare for it. We are collectively responsible for the future that is bestowed upon our world, and that responsibility includes providing the opportunity for future leaders to get the best education.

One of our missions at Dream Rite is to provide academic support to students, and the Dreamers College Fund scholarship program is one of the many ways we fulfill this mission. Young people should be able to dream of a better higher education without worrying about funding.



PURPOSE & GOALS

This scholarship program aims to give college funding opportunities to college-bound students who demonstrate astute academic prowess. Often, students who come from financially challenged families and have records of high academic performance are encumbered by the burden of paying for their higher education. These students are sometimes faced with the difficult choices of dropping out of school or abandoning their academic dreams. We believe that these students are potential future innovators, business leaders, and world-changers who are reaching out with an outcry for help. This program aims to prevent such a future leader from giving up on their dream of a better future.

Students with high academic potential should never have to give up on the pursuit of their educational dream or not for lack of funding. We believe that education refines the crucible of ideas in a man's mind with the potential to transform our world in ways yet imagined. This program allows our future leaders to educate their minds to dream and translate those dreams into realities that solves everyday problems.

Young people should not have to worry about paying their school fees but rather focus on educating their minds to generate ideas engineered to make the world a better place. There should be no excuse for young people in Africa not to fulfill their dream of a better higher education. Students who desire a higher education will have the financial opportunity to achieve their dreams as long as they can prove their worthiness through the highly competitive and rigorous process established for winning this scholarship. This scholarship program will provide full funding for a 4 or 5-year university program to a few qualifying students every year.



About the Scholarship Program

The **Dreamers College Fund** scholarship program will award scholarships to students who successfully reach the final stage of the rigorous scholarship selection process. This process consists of 5 stages beginning from application submission through final award selection.

The scholarship selection process identifies applicants with both **academic merits and demonstrated financial needs**. The program will evaluate these two factors closely to select final scholarship recipients. The five stages in the scholarship selection process are designed to specifically select applicants with the best profile that meets the program's overall goal.

Each Dreamers College Fund scholarship award attracts a total **one million Naira (NGN 1,000,000)**. At a minimum, the program will award six (6) scholarships per year and will increase the number of scholarship awards as more resources are available.

Using the a low ballpark exchange rate of NGN 1,250 per USD as at the time of this publication, NGN 1,000,000 equals \$800



About the Scholarship Program

The fund awarded under the scholarship program will be fully earmarked for the awardee's higher institution educational program. However, the fund may only be used to pay for educational-related expenses. Although the scholarship fund is awarded at the end of the scholarship selection process every year and earmarked for the awardees, the fund will not be disbursed in a lump sum.

The scholarship fund will be disbursed in batches as required to pay for the awardee's educational expenses. The fund will be primarily disbursed directly to the school unless the payment is required for expenses not directly payable to the school. More information about how the fund will be administered can be found in the Scholarship Administration Guide document, which will only be shared with applicants who have scaled past the 5th stage in the selection process.



Eligibility Criteria

As the name suggests, the Dreamers College Fund scholarship program is targeted toward college (higher) education funding. This program is only for people eligible for admission into higher institutions.

Those eligible to apply:

Below are the precise eligibility criteria for applying for this scholarship program:

- High school graduates or first-year university students.
- Must be a citizen of the country where the scholarship program is offered. Currently, the scholarship is only offered in Nigeria.
- Must be less than 25 years old at the time of the application. Applicants who are 25 years and older are **not** eligible.

Those NOT eligible to apply:

- Prospective applicants who are *currently* still in high school.
- Prospective applicants who have finished the first year and have moved on to the second year of their university education.
- Prospective applicants who are older than 25 years old. We will need a means of identification showing your date of birth as part of the application.
- Applicants who have graduated with a first undergraduate degree

IF you are in any of these categories, please do not apply, as your application will be rejected.

Applicants must meet all eligibility criteria **at the time of scholarship application.**

Note: Preference for the scholarship will be given to applicants in the following order:

- Applicants in their first semester (of the first) year of university education and who are seeking immediate funding for college education.
- Applicants with university admission but have yet to resume their university education.
- Applicants who have met university admission requirements and have a high chance of getting admission within 12 months of the scholarship award.



Award Criteria

All applicants are expected to familiarize themselves with the award criteria, as explained in this section.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT: Applicants must demonstrate good academic performance throughout the scholarship selection process. The scholarship is targeted towards helping students with astute academic performance. This program evaluates an applicant's academic performance from all of the following sources:

- **Verifiable academic grades from school:** Applicants will be required to provide their high school final year grades for further review as part of their application. This should include all available grades from all terms in their final year of high school education. Additionally, applicants may also submit their Jamb, WAEC, or NECO results as an added plus when their academic record is requested. This is, however, not a mandatory requirement. The program will adopt an internal grading structure to ensure equity and fairness in evaluating an applicant's high school grades. This structure will consider the applicant's verifiable raw cumulative results in each subject to compute their grades rather than utilize the school grading structure, which may differ for various school systems.
- **Scholarship Aptitude Test scores:** Grades obtained from the Scholarship Aptitude Test conducted by the program will be considered a fair evaluation of an applicant's academic performance. The result of this test will be compared with the applicant's verified academic grades from school. This score category may also include the applicant's performance from other stages in the scholarship selection process before the finals.
- **Final scores:** Although applicants who reached the final stage in the scholarship selection process are already guaranteed a slot in the available scholarship slots, a final evaluation will be conducted at the final stage to determine the winners in each category.



Award Criteria

LEADERSHIP & PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES: The applicant's leadership and personal attributes are evaluated throughout the scholarship selection process. Scholarship recipients (aka scholars) are envisioned to be world changers who possess characteristics that mirror such high expectations.

The following ten attributes are evaluated in this category:

1. Personal drive & Enthusiasm
2. Attention to detail
3. Creativity & Initiative
4. Teamwork
5. Leadership
6. Good interpersonal skill
7. Management & Organizational skills
8. Willingness to learn
9. Ability to handle pressure and meet deadlines
10. Flexibility

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT: As an organization that believes strongly in community service for the common good of humanity, we expect our scholarship recipients to demonstrate a good and palpable sense of community involvement. Applicants are encouraged to get involved in community service in their local community. This program seeks to identify applicants willing to give back to their community in the future should they be selected to receive this scholarship. This criterion is an added plus to the strength of the applicant's profile and is not a hard-core requirement for the scholarship selection.



Award Restrictions

This section addresses certain restrictions that applicants must be aware of before applying for this scholarship.

- *What the scholarship fund can be used for:* Scholars may use the fund for paying college tuition, accommodation (on-campus or off-campus), purchase of textbooks (including course handouts), school stationeries, feeding (while in school), payment for indirect school expense such as transportation (to/from school), and all other educational expenses not listed. There are caveats to using the scholarship fund for some of the listed expense categories. See the Scholarship Administration Guide for more details on disbursement requirements.
- *What the scholarship fund cannot be used for:* The use of the scholarship fund is restricted to only education-related expenses. Leftover scholarship funds after the completion of the recipient's academic program can be utilized for another degree program or another education-related program.
- *Direct disbursement:* The scholarship fund may not be disbursed directly to the recipient unless it is practically unfeasible, in which case, the recipient may send a written request for an exception to the Scholarship Administrator. More information is available in the Scholarship Administration Guide and will be shared with applicants at the penultimate stage in the selection process.
- *Non-renewable:* This scholarship is awarded once in a lifetime to the recipient and is non-renewable. Successful applicants who are awarded the scholarship will have the funds available to them throughout their college education and do not need to renew the scholarship. However, there are ongoing academic performance requirements in exchange for continuous disbursement of the available funds when requested. See the Scholarship Administration Guide for more details.



Award Restrictions

- *Areas of academic study:* There are no restrictions on the applicant's areas of study.
- *Educational programs:* The scholarship covers only degree or diploma programs (including OND, HND). The scholarship fund covers certificate programs only after the scholar has achieved their first degree or diploma through the scholarship program. After the scholar has completed either a degree or diploma academic program, leftover funds may be used for any certificate program.
- *Attendance requirements:* Covers full-time or part-time attendance.



Scholarship Selection Process

There are five stages between application and final award selection. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with what to expect at each stage of the application process. Updates on the application will be provided directly on our website and in the application portal. Applicants may return to the scholarship application portal from time to time to check the status of their application. The application portal will contain the most updated information about the application status at any given time.

The following are detailed explanations of each of the five stages of the application process:

Stage 1 - Submission & Validation: The moment an application is submitted, the application is automatically entered into this stage. No further action is required from the applicant at this point. Once the application is submitted, applicants are not able to edit it.

After submitting the application, the program begins validating the applicant's responses to each application section. At this stage, applications not thoroughly completed or missing any of the required responses will be removed from consideration, and the applicant's profile in the application portal will be updated with the status "Failed Validation Check." Applications that pass all validation requirements will be automatically moved to the next stage in the process.



Scholarship Selection Process

Stage 2 - Application Review: Validated applications are queued for review by the appropriate Scholarship Committee.

Applicants' essays are scored at this stage. There will be two required essays as part of the application. The program uses a scoring rubric to grade each essay. The highest obtainable number for each essay is 4. Each essay is read and scored by two reviewers, and the average of the 2 scores is entered as the final score for each essay, while the aggregate of all 2 essay scores is entered as the applicant's final essay score. The highest aggregate score an applicant can receive on all 2 essays is 8 points. Each essay must have a minimum of 250 words and a maximum of 500 words. Essay responses below or above this word count requirement attract a penalty of 0.1 points for every 50 words that the total word count is outside of this range.

Applicants scoring at least 76% (out of a maximum of 8 points) in the aggregate of all the 2 essay scores will be moved to the next phase of the review. They will be notified via email to provide additional documents for review. Applicants scoring below 76% will be removed from further consideration, and the applicant's profile in the application the portal will be updated with the status "Failed Application Review - Level I". The program will not disclose the applicant's final score in their application profile, and applicants will not be able to get this information from the program.

The table below shows the scoring rubric used to score each essay.



Scholarship Selection Process

Score	Quality of Ideas	Organization	Writing Style	Grammar & Usage
4	Presents a position with great insight, compelling and persuasive references. Clearly addresses the topic.	Clear logical progression and organization of ideas with supporting points from start to finish.	Uses a variety of superior control and choice of words, presents a clear and concise writing style.	Impeccable grammar, usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling. Little or no repeated errors.
3	Presents a position with relevant examples and general understanding of the topic.	Good logical progression of ideas with some supporting points and consistency.	Shows a good choice of words with adequate control of choice of words and length	Good control of grammar, usage, and English mechanics, contains a few minor errors.
2	Presents a vague position with few examples that may or may not be adequately relevant to the topic.	Ideas not well organized, provides a few supporting points but not clearly correlated.	Little control of words, imprecise use of words, inconsistent writing style.	Fair use of grammar, occasional usage flaws and multiple punctuation, spelling, and other grammatical error.
1	Little understanding of the topic and argument is either unclear or grossly limited	Difficult to grasp presentation of ideas, disorganized or irrelevant line of thoughts.	Contains serious poor sentence structures, several persistent errors, wordy writing style.	Poor control of grammar, usage, spelling, and punctuation, several repeated grammatical errors,

Figure 1: Dreamers College Fund scholarship application essay grading rubric.

Tips for Successful Review

- Dedicate a reasonable amount of time to prepare.
- Read and understand what is required in the essay prompt.
- Write your response to the essay prompt as it comes to you.
- Review your response to ensure it meets the requirements stated in the essay prompt.
- Review the grading rubric to ensure you followed the required elements for a perfect score.
- Organize your essay with a title, introduction, body, and conclusion. You do not necessarily need to label these sections.
- Check for grammatical errors.



Scholarship Selection Process

Stage 3 - Scholarship Testing: Applicants who reach this stage will be scheduled for a Scholarship Aptitude Test and will be notified of the date and time of the test. The test will be conducted online within the scholarship application portal. The test will last approximately 60 minutes. Applicants in this stage are strongly encouraged to utilize a stable internet connection during the test to ensure they can complete it at the scheduled time and without any network disruption or issues.

Applicants scoring 76% or higher on the test will be moved to the next stage in the scholarship selection process. Applicants scoring 75% and lower will be removed from further consideration, and the applicant's profile in the application portal will be updated with the status "Failed Scholarship Testing".

Tips for Successful Testing

- A stable internet connection.
- A web browser (Google Chrome or Firefox).
- We recommend that you take the test on a computer (desktop or laptop) and not a mobile phone.
- Avoid any form of interference while taking the test.



Scholarship Selection Process

Stage 4 - Research Project: The program's goal at this point is to identify applicants with a good *intellectual curiosity* to *brainstorm* possible solutions (or ideas) to a given problem. Intellectual curiosity is a much-needed skill for success in higher education institutions and other areas of life. Applicants will be provided with a research project scenario and will have 14 calendar days to submit their project reports.

The research project is not intended to be an advanced-level research project done by professionals but a simple brainstorming exercise designed to identify applicants who can think outside of the box when solving a given problem. The format of the project work may be similar to essay writing but must comprise the needed components to solve the given problem and propose a pathway for the proposed solution. A typical example project scenario is as follows:

"Your high school recently experienced a fire outbreak, which resulted in severe property loss, with many wounded staff and students. This incident reveals your school's lack of an incident response plan or management. You have been saddled with the task of identifying the root cause of the fire incident and coming up with a proposed incident response plan that your school can follow to mitigate this incident in the future. Keep it simple and realistic."

The example scenario provided here will not be given to applicants at this stage. This is for informational purposes only to guide successful applicants on the program's expectations for this stage in the scholarship selection process.

Qualified academic professionals will evaluate the research project report. The best projects that meet a defined benchmark will be selected and moved to the final stage in the scholarship selection process. All other applications will be removed from further consideration, and the applicant's profile in the application portal will be updated with the status "Failed Research Project."



Scholarship Selection Process

Tips for Successful Research Project

- Understand the scope and requirements of the provided topic.
- Identify the key questions or issues that your research needs to address.
- Create a structured outline by organizing your main points and sections.
- Use tables, graphs, and charts to present your data clearly and effectively.
- Carefully revise and proofread for grammar, spelling, and formatting errors.

Stage 5 - Final Interview: A panel interview to determine applicants with the most intellectual acuity and demonstrated financial need. The panel consists of academic professionals who will vote on the final determination of the applicant's scholarship application. The interview panel may take cues from the applicant's entire scholarship application records to evaluate the authenticity of the application.

Tips for Successful Final Interview

- Choose a quiet, well-lit location where you will not be interrupted.
- Test your computer camera, microphone, and internet connection beforehand to avoid technical issues during the interview.
- Look directly at the camera to maintain eye contact with the interviewer and avoid distracting movements.
- Be sure to keep your mobile device in landscape mode.
- Answer questions directly and stay focused on the main points.
- Stay calm and confident during the interview.



Scholarship Processes & Timelines

The scholarship application will be open for 45 days. See the Application FAQ & Instruction Guide for information and hints on how to complete the Application successfully. The following are estimated timelines, which are subject to change without notification during the selection period.

- **Stage 1: Submission & Validation.**
 - Application submission period is 45 days: June 1 - July 15.
 - Validation: July 16 - 31.

- **Stage 2: Application Review.**
 - Reviewers are engaged to review applications per rubric: August 1 - 31.

- **Stage 3: Scholarship Testing.**
 - Shortlisted applicants will be notified by September 7.
 - The test is to be held on a date in September.

- **Stage 4: Research Project.**
 - Shortlisted applicants will be notified by September 30.
 - Project submission is due 14 days after notification.
 - The research project review will be completed by November 15.

- **Stage 5: Final Interview.**
 - Shortlisted finalists will be notified of the final interview schedule by November 16.
 - Interviews are to be held between November 23 and December 7.
 - The award ceremony will be held on the second Saturday in December or any other date determined by the program.

Actual dates for the above timelines will be relative to the calendar dates for each year and as determined by the program.



Scholarship Panel Structure

There are 2-panel levels involved in the scholarship process - the Global Scholarship Review Board and the National Scholarship Panel. This section explains the role of each panel.

- **Global Scholarship Review Board:** This board oversees the entire administration of the scholarship process in all countries where this scholarship program is offered and administered. This board sets strategic goals and visions for the program and leverages its influence to ensure the success of the Dreamer College Fund scholarship program. Dream Rite's Board of Directors constitutes this board.
- **National Scholarship Panel:** This committee comprises heads of various working committees, a legal advisor, and the Executive Director. This group is responsible for the administration of the scholarship selection process within the country where the scholarship is offered and administered. The panel is responsible for the final determination of scholarship award recipients in the country and reports to the Global Scholarship Review Board. The panel has professionals who constitute the working committees and are panel members by proxy (represented by their leads). The panel appoints a chair to lead the panel's efforts every year.