



DREAMERS COLLEGE FUND

Program Guide



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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 lies ahead. Young people are the 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 wait idly 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 are fulfilling this mission. Young people should be able to dream of a better higher education without worrying about funding for their education.



PURPOSE & GOALS

This scholarship program aims to give college funding opportunities to college-bound students who demonstrate astute academic prowess. Oftentimes students who come from financially challenged families and have records of high academic performance are encumbered with the burden of paying for their higher education. These students are sometimes faced with 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 salvage such a future leader from giving up on their dream of a better future.

Students with high academic potentials 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 affords our future leaders with the opportunity 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 be afforded 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 that successfully reached 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 looks to identify applicants with both **academic merits and demonstrated financial needs**. The program will evaluate these two factors closely to select final scholarship recipients. The 5 stages in the scholarship selection process are designed to specifically select applicants with the best profile that meets the overall goal of the program.

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) slots of scholarship per year and will increase the number of scholarship awards as more resources are available.

Using the official exchange rate of NGN 380 per USD as at the time of this publication, NGN 1,000,000 equals \$2,631



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 scaled past the 5th stage in the selection process.



Eligibility Criteria

As the name suggests, the Dreamers College Fund scholarship program is targeted towards funding for college (higher) education. This program is only for people eligible for admission into higher institutions. The following are the precise eligibility criteria for applying for this scholarship program:

- Applicants may be in high school final year or they may be high school graduates who are yet to commence university education.
- Applicants who are already enrolled in a class at a higher institution are not eligible.
- Must be a citizen of the country where the scholarship program is offered.
- Applicants must be less than 25 years old at the time of the application. Applicants who are 25 years and older are not eligible.

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

To ensure fairness and prevent conflict of interest, applicants who are immediate children of any member of the National Scholarship Panel or governing board are not eligible to apply. Applications from direct children of any of the above listed group will automatically be invalidated. Other family members may apply.



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. To ensure equity and fairness in the evaluation of an applicant's high school grades, the program will adopt an internal grading structure. This structure will consider applicant's verifiable raw cumulative result 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, however, 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 who would be 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

In this section, we address certain restrictions that applicants need to 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 where practically unfeasible, in which case, the recipient may send a written request for an exception to the Scholarship Administrator. Contact details will be included in your scholarship award letter.
- *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 fund 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 have 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 5 stages between application and final award selection. Applicants are encouraged to familiarize themselves with what to expect at each stage of the application process. Update on the application will be provided directly on our website within 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 status of the application at any given time.

The following are detailed explanation of each of the 5 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 their application.

After the application is submitted, the program begins the validation of the applicant's responses to each of the sections on the application. 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. There are 2 main review levels (I & II) during the application review process. These 2 considerations are evaluated in the following exact order:

- **Review Level I:** Applicants' essays are scored at this stage. There will be 3 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 2 reviewers and the average of the 2 scores is entered as the final score for each essay while the aggregate of all 3 essay scores is entered as the applicant's final essay score. The highest aggregate score an applicant can receive on all 3 essays is 12 points. The table below shows the scoring rubric used to score each essay. Each essay must have a minimum of 500 words and a maximum of 750 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.

Applicant scoring at least 76% (out of a maximum of 12 points) in the aggregate of all the 3 essay scores will be moved to the next phase of the review and will be notified via email to provide additional documents for review. Applicants scoring between 51% and 75% will be backlogged in a pool until verification for all applicants scoring 76% and higher is successful. Applicants scoring below 51% will be removed from further consideration and the applicant's profile in 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.



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.

- Review Level II:** After the application is scaled through the first review stage, the program will request additional documents and upon receipt will begin the process to verify the authenticity of the documents received. The program will make good faith attempts to verify the academic information directly with the school during this process. If the program is unable to verify the applicant’s academic information directly with the school after 3 attempts over 7 business days, the application will be backlogged. Applicants in the backlogged pool who scored between 51% and 75% will be considered in the order of their percentage score; a request for an additional document will be sent to those applicants. The applicants in the backlogged pool are also subject to the same timeline for verification attempts.



Scholarship Selection Process

This verification process will continue until the end of the internally designated timeline for the verification process after which only applicants who scaled through both review stages will be moved to the next stage in the scholarship selection process. Applicants either remaining in the pool or those who scored between 51% and 75% or those who scored higher but failed verification attempts by the end of the internally designated timeline will be removed from further consideration and the applicant's profile in the application portal will be updated with the status "Failed Application Review - Level II". 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.

Stage 3 - Scholarship Testing: Applicants who reached 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 be 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 the test at the scheduled time and without any network disruption or issues.

Applicants scoring 76% or higher in 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".



Scholarship Selection Process

Stage 4 - Research Project: The goal of the program at this point is to identify applicants with a good *intellectual curiosity* to *brainstorm* on possible solutions (or ideas) to a given problem. Intellectual curiosity is a much-needed skill for success in a higher educational institution and other areas of life as well. 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 intended 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 of 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 loss of properties with many wounded staffs and students. This incident reveals your school's lack of incidence response plan or management. You have been saddled with the task to identify the root cause of the fire incidence and come up with a proposed incidence response plan that your school can follow to mitigate this incidence 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.

The research project report will be evaluated by qualified academic professionals. The top best projects which meets 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

Stage 5 - Final: A panel interview to determine applicants with the most intellectual acuity and demonstrated financial need. The panel consists of academic professionals that 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.



Scholarship Processes & Timelines

The scholarship application will be opened for 45 days. See Application FAQ & Instruction Guide for information and hint on how to complete the application successfully. The following timelines are to be expected throughout the scholarship selection process:

- **Stage 1: Submission & Validation**
 - Application submission period is 45 days
 - All application validations to be completed no later than 7 days after the application period ends
- **Stage 2: Application Review (Level I & II)**
 - To be completed no later than 30 days after application period ends
- **Stage 3: Scholarship Testing**
 - Scheduled date no later than 30 days after application review ends
 - Shortlisted applicants to be notified 14 days prior to scheduled testing date
- **Stage 4: Research Project**
 - Shortlisted applicants to be notified no later than 7 days after testing date
 - Project submission due 14 days after notification
- **Stage 5: Finals**
 - Award ceremony scheduled no later than 30 days after research project due date
 - Shortlisted finalist to be notified no later than 14 days after Research Project is completed.

The entire scholarship selection process from start (application close date) to finish (award date) will take approximately 116 days.

Actual dates for the above timelines will be published on the program overview page on our website along with the official announcement for the open application period every year.



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 in ensuring the success of the Dreamer College Fund scholarship program. Dream Rite's Board of Directors constitute this board.
- **National Scholarship Panel:** Consist of heads of each of the four working committee, a legal advisor, and the Executive Director. This is a maximum of a 6-member committee, and they are 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 members of the panel by proxy (represented by their leads). The panel appoints a chair to lead the efforts of the panel every year.