Who is MINDS?

The Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS) is a pan-African Think Tank established in 2010. MINDS seeks to address the short, medium and long-term development challenges in Africa. The Institute’s central hypothesis is that effective and sustainable development can only be achieved if development policies and practices are founded on the cultural heritage, value and knowledge systems and institutions of the people who are the subjects or beneficiaries of the development interventions.

What is the MINDS Scholarship Programme?

MINDS seeks to make a contribution towards improving social cohesion and economic integration on the continent performance through a leadership development Scholarship Programme. The MINDS Scholarship Programme provides opportunities for African students to study within Africa, but always outside their own country. The main aim of the scholarship program is to develop leaders who have a continental development mindset; leaders who will facilitate greater cooperation between African countries.

What support is provided through a MINDS Scholarship?

The MINDS Scholarship provides financial support to high caliber scholars who wish to pursue post graduate studies in an African country that is not their home country. The Scholarship will cover:
- Tuition
- Accommodation and meals
- One return ticket per year
- A fixed stipend (only where applicable)

During the course of their studies, MINDS Scholars will be taken through leadership development activities.

What can you study with a MINDS Scholarship?

MINDS Scholarships are applicable to full-time one-year taught Honors degree OR one or two-year full-time taught Master’s degree at one of the MINDS preferred tertiary institutions in Africa. MINDS does not prescribe the course to be studied.

Are you eligible to apply for a MINDS Scholarship?

Scholarships will be awarded to meritorious applicants following a rigorous selection process. To be considered for a MINDS Scholarship, you must:
- Be a national of an African country, resident in any African country;
- Be 30 years old or younger at the time of applying;
- Have been formally accepted by one or more MINDS preferred institution/s to pursue postgraduate studies within the following year;
- Have obtained at least 70% in each subject/course in the last two completed years of study;
- Produce evidence of demonstrated leadership abilities or potential guided by the questions/requirements set out in the application form;
- Submit a complete application form with the required supporting documentation as set on the application form.

MINDS reserves the right to change the eligibility and selection criteria at any stage.
“It is my hope that the Mandela institute for Development Studies (MINDS) will make a real difference in the resolution of the challenges that confront Africa through vibrant and robust debate, interrogating current paradigms and offering new approaches.”

- Nelson Mandela 2010 -

How to apply


For more information

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Mandela Institute for Development Studies

Committed to creating the Africa we want.