

THE BETTY AND DONALD KEATING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS OF HIGH ACADEMIC ABILITY

FROM INDIAN UNIVERSITIES
TO STUDY AS

VISITING STUDENTS

AT

ST CATHERINE'S COLLEGE, OXFORD

For October 2023

THE BETTY AND DONALD KEATING SCHOLARSHIP FUND

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1: Introduction and vision

Education in India is both expanding and changing rapidly, as demographic expansion and rising incomes create intense demand for education at all levels. For students able to reach the highly competitive top-level universities, a range of scholarships is available for overseas study in various forms. However, a clear gap exists in the provision of scholarships to enable an element of overseas undergraduate education for disadvantaged students of high academic ability at the Indian universities. The Fund is inviting Indian universities to sponsor applicants for Scholarships.

The Betty and Donald Keating Scholarship Fund helps fill this gap by providing funding (travel, academic fees, accommodation and subsistence) each year for a number of disadvantaged students of high academic ability to come to St Catherine's College, Oxford as Registered Visiting Students for one academic term. The Fund has three broad objectives:

- to give each Scholar the direct and signalling advantages of foreign education experience, to help them overcome the disadvantages that might otherwise inhibit their future career;
- to maximise the likelihood that Scholars remain in India to benefit the broader community (by offering funding as part of their India-based course rather than as a stand-alone study period abroad);

- to help build relationships between Oxford University and a network of Indian universities and individuals.

The scheme is open to students in all disciplines, although there must be a suitable Oxford course available. Given their disadvantaged background, some of the Scholars may face significant issues of cultural adjustment when coming to Oxford, and St Catherine's provides a high level of pastoral care from the academic and student body to help address the problems that might arise.

The scholarship is creating a community of current and past participating Scholars, as well as current and past full-time students from St Catherine's who have been closely associated with the programme. This group forms a permanent network able to provide support as participants' careers progress, as well as potentially taking part in aspects of the on-going governance and selection process for the Fund. It also provides a body committed to furthering the economic development of India and assisting other disadvantaged people.

2: Eligibility Requirements: Academic

Applicants for the Scholarships will need to meet a very high level of academic attainment and potential.

Full details are available from St Catherine's College. To give a summary idea, academic excellence will be measured in a variety of ways, including:

- Course gradings, which must be close to the top of the range.
- Letters of recommendation from academic faculty
- Samples of written work

Applicants will have COMPLETED at least TWO years of college or university at the time when they come to St Catherine's. Please note: No students in their first year of study at university are eligible to apply.

3: Eligibility Requirements: Disadvantage

Applicants for the Scholarships will have to demonstrate disadvantage, as well as meeting the strict academic criteria.

The Fund does not apply fixed measures of disadvantage. Instead, applicants are required at their discretion to provide evidence of disadvantage across one or more areas, which can include quantitative material. Award of a Scholarship by the Committee is conditional on the student also passing the academic entry procedure to St Catherine's College.

The following are examples of the areas in which applicants may demonstrate disadvantage. This list is indicative not exhaustive. The more severe the disadvantage, the stronger the evidence, and the more areas in which disadvantage is demonstrated, the more likely that a candidate will be successful:

- Financial disadvantage
- Illiteracy of one or both parents

- Caste
- Severe physical disability (not including mild disabilities such as dyslexia)
- Parents, siblings in low-skill occupations and/or with limited command of English
- Low-skill, demanding jobs done by Applicant before and during their current course.

In addition, all applicants should indicate how they intend to contribute to economic development of India after completing their degree, both in the short term (for example by direct personal involvement in the rural community with technological or trade projects) and in the longer term (for example by founding businesses).

4: Application Procedure and Timeline

The first eight groups of Scholars came to St Catherine's during Trinity Terms 2012 to 2019. The college welcomed one scholar in 2022 and two scholars in Trinity Term 2023.

The scholarship dates for Trinity 2024 are from Wednesday 17th April to Tuesday 18th June 2024. (Full term begins on 21st April and finishes 15th June).

The application process has two parts, both with a closing date of 15th November 2023:

Part 1: Application for the Scholarship, including full details demonstrating disadvantage together with a short summary outline of academic qualifications.

Part 2 (for those that qualify under stage 1): Application for admission to St Catherine's, including full details of academic qualifications.

For Part 1, each application should include:

- Basic information: the student's full name, home address, date of birth, the name of the University currently being attended and the number of years of study so far, the course being studied, and the relevant courses at Oxford to be followed (these must be taught during the Trinity Term 2024).
- Evidence of disadvantage. This should include a statement of up to 300 words from the Principal or from a senior Faculty member, describing the nature and severity of the disadvantage; plus a statement up to 300 words from the applicant describing their disadvantage in their own words and saying how they would use the benefits of the Scholarship to further their career and to benefit development in India both short and long term; plus documentary and/or other evidence (eg photographic) relating to the areas of disadvantage shown in Section 3 above, or other types of disadvantage.
- Outline summary of academic qualifications (this is simply a copy of summary details from the full academic application required under Part 2): Current academic rating (local equivalent of US GPA), details of results in university exams taken and any external exam results, letter of recommendation from Principal or senior Faculty member.

For Part 1, each participating University should gather together all applications from among its students and then send them all at the same time, one PDF file for each applicant but all attached to a single email, to visiting.students@stcatz.ox.ac.uk, to

arrive before 15 November 2023. (As a practical matter, if the attachments are too large, please send several emails one after another).

For Part 2, applicants should complete the formal academic application form available on-line from St Catherine's College. Please go to the page for Registered Visiting Students. The application deadline is 15th November 2023. Details required will include full name, home address, date of birth, and the number of years attended at university/college, as well as an equivalent evaluation to the US GPA rating (it is unlikely that a place will be offered to anyone with a current rating less than the equivalent of 3.7 on the GPA scale). Candidates will also be asked to include their current college transcript, two letters of recommendation, a sample of written work (not more than ten pages) and a statement, not exceeding 200 words, of their academic goals and reasons for wishing to study at St Catherine's College, Oxford. In addition, applicants should fill in a tutorial preference form on which they can indicate their proposed tutorial choices of study.

Based on the application forms, candidates may be offered an interview for the Scholarship. Candidates will be advised of this on Wednesday 22nd November. Any award of a Scholarship is conditional on obtaining an academic place at St Catherine's, and the College will at its own discretion make arrangements for interviews by Zoom or other means as appropriate.

5: Costs covered by the Scholarships

The Scholarships are intended to cover travel, academic fees, accommodation and subsistence.

The following is an outline of the current intention; the Fund and St Catherine's College reserve the right to modify, cap or reduce the benefits offered at their discretion. Payments will be administered by St Catherine's College Office.

Travel: The Scholarship will cover the actual cost of a return economy airfare from Mumbai to London. The College will arrange and purchase the return flights together with transport from London Heathrow airport to Oxford and the return journey.

Academic fees: The Scholarship will meet all academic fees.

Accommodation: The Scholarship will meet the cost of accommodation, which will normally be in rooms provided by the College.

Subsistence: The Scholarship will pay subsistence based on a standard daily rate.

KEY DATES:

Application Process is open from 1st October 2023.

Deadline for Applications is 15th November 2023.

Candidates will be informed of shortlisting on 22nd November 2023.

It is intended to interview shortlisted candidates shortly thereafter using Zoom.

It is intended to announce the successful candidates' names 1st December 2023.