THE VISION

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program is open to both graduate and undergraduate students. The vision of the program is to offer education opportunities to very bright yet economically disadvantaged young people in Africa who have a demonstrated “give-back” ethos and who will contribute to the social transformation of the continent. This program covers the costs of higher education opportunities for qualified girls and boys. It will transition promising young people from beneficiaries to benefactors, preparing them with the values, knowledge and skills, to lead economic and social progress across Africa.

The Foundation is creating a network of non-governmental organizations and educational institutions that are deeply committed to serving youth. Our partners believe that education is a catalyst for social and economic betterment. They were selected for their shared values, academic excellence, nurturing environments, and programs relevant to growth sectors in Africa.

Together with our partners, we are focused on augmenting core academic programs with experiential learning opportunities for students. These will take the form of volunteerism, community service, internships and social entrepreneurship to expose students to diverse populations, viewpoints and problems, while developing the experience and competencies critical to leadership and civic engagement. These competencies include: adaptability, critical thinking, and problem solving; facility with technology, ability to access and evaluate information; and to work collaboratively across diverse groups.

HOLISTIC PROGRAM DESIGN

The program is designed to provide holistic support, including:

- Comprehensive scholarships (school fees, living expenses, books, stipends, transportation).
- Mentoring and counseling for emotional and academic support.
- Service and experiential learning.
- Transition support into higher education and/or meaningful employment in Africa.
- Alumni network of next-generation leaders committed to equitable and participatory social and economic transformation in sub-Saharan Africa.

The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program is anticipated to benefit thousands of young people. At an institutional level, it will develop best practices to educate and mentor students of this profile and transition them to work opportunities that best employ their new knowledge and skills. These talented students will become part of an alumni network of leaders who will serve as role models, mentors, and problem solvers in their countries and communities.

To date, the network consists of 10 partners including the University of California at Berkeley. Other MA programs, such as Public Policy, Journalism and Public Health, Social Welfare, Architecture (M.Arch), Education (DMS, EMST, or MUSE), Art (MFA), and Social Welfare (MSW) are also eligible. We invite you to explore these and other graduate programs on the UC Berkeley website. Please note that no PhD or doctoral programs will be accepted for this program.

MASTER DEGREE PROGRAMS

University of California, Berkeley offers a number of professional Master of Arts and Sciences programs that prepare students to be leaders in key growth industries globally. These programs prepare students to become critical thinkers, innovators and highly skilled professionals in their respective fields. Each discipline provides expert faculty, mentorship, research opportunities, and possibilities for internships and experiential learning abroad. Below is a list of the five terminal degrees highlighted for The MasterCard Foundation Scholars Program:

- Information Management & Systems (MiMS): ischool.berkeley.edu/programs
- City & Regional Planning (MCP): dcrp.ced.berkeley.edu
- Development Practice (MDP): mdp.berkeley.edu
- Energy & Resources (ERG): erg.berkeley.edu
- Engineering (M.Eng): coe.berkeley.edu bit.ly/funginstitute

Other MA programs, such as Public Policy, Journalism and Public Health, Social Welfare, Architecture (M.Arch), Education (DMS, EMST, or MUSE), Art (MFA), and Social Welfare (MSW) are also eligible. We invite you to explore these and other graduate programs on the UC Berkeley website. Please note that no PhD or doctoral programs will be accepted for this program.